

# DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

75p

June 2025



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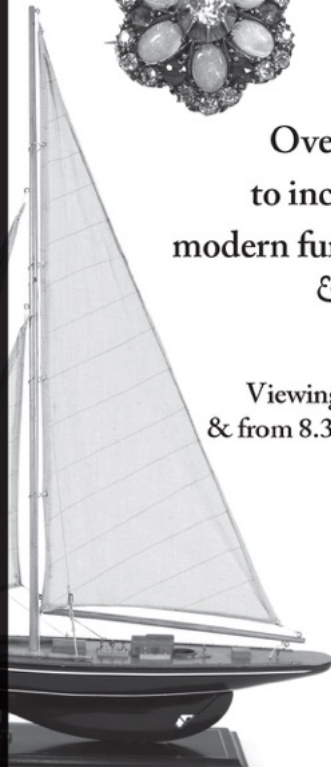


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## FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover features the field by the foot/bridal path between the Hoppit Wood and Kenton Road, now much more accessible due to the newly laid path at the top of Hoppit Wood where the pinch point was previously a mud bath. It is lovely to see such a colourful display of flowers providing a much needed benefit to the insects. Continuing on the subject of insects, don't forget to complete the feedback form on the biodiversity plans, these are on p.36/37, or in colour in last month's magazine.

Some time ago I was asked to send all the copies of the Parish Magazines I have saved to the Debenham Archive. I have now sent them, after a prod or two, and they can be found at: <https://thedebenhamarchive.uk/periodicals/periodicals.php>  
Thank you Giles and Tony!

Thanks also this month to Claudine and to Geoffrey for sharing their memories with us.

Anyone on the village Facebook page may already be keeping up with the swifts through Richard's regular posts. There is one egg in a nest so far, hopefully more will be laid soon!

There are lots of events coming up in the village and the surrounding area: Winston Fete on 14th June (draw tickets are available from Sandra); the Art Exhibition starts on 20th June, for the weekend; the Alfie Carpenter Charity for Creative Arts are holding an evening of music and poetry on 6th June at the URC; and BeWell Barn are raising money for Motor Neurone Disease on 28th June -just to highlight a few. Plans are also underway for Debenham Day on 12th July. Finally, our beautiful church is in dire need of a replacement heating system, details on how you can help are on p.61.

*Jan*

### **DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE**

#### **Editor & Business Advertising:**

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Please send copy to: [debenhammagazine@btinternet.com](mailto:debenhammagazine@btinternet.com)

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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 July Magazine**  
**Tuesday June 24th**  
**(Tuesday 17th June for Business Advertising)**

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Hosted by the Monday Meet Up Team.

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## Lofty and Dave by Min Marshall



### DEBENHAM AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

We look forward to welcoming you to the next meeting  
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Fernatix Ferns Nursery  
Near Eye

Chelsea Gold Medal Winners  
Wednesday 18 June 2025 at 6pm

Numbers attending will be required. Please  
contact Fiona Reid on 07799768037 or Ann  
Evans on 07857680877 to confirm attendance.

There will be a small charge  
None members very welcome

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 £5.00 per meeting – includes refreshments  
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# Debenham Shed



On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August from 9-11am we will be collaborating with the Debenham Green Team on their stall outside the Lion pub to promote Repair and Reuse, giving advice on repairs of all sorts and maybe undertaking repairs if feasible. This may be a more regular thing in the future. There are many Repair Cafés in UK, including Stowmarket and Hollesley. There are no plans to set up a Repair Café in Debenham, but do come along on 2<sup>nd</sup> August (with your item for repair if you can, or photos if you can't) and we'll chat about the possibilities.

We also partner with a Mobile Shed, which takes equipment and projects to care homes and village halls in Suffolk.

We now have a small shed for painting and spray painting, away from the dust in other areas. We hope soon to have a separate area for welding and other hot work, e.g. angle grinding, which will require some additional funding, and a concrete pad outside for some repairs on cars and motorbikes.

Our next Workshops (10am-2pm) are:-

- Friday 13 June: Decoupage with John Ellam
- Saturday 12 July Sewing (provisionally)
- Friday 12 September tbc
- Saturday 8 November Christmas crafts and cards

If you are interested in attending please contact [crafts@debenhamshed.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.debenhamshed.org.uk) (sign up to newsletters on the Contact page) Email [info@debenhamshed.org.uk](mailto:info@debenhamshed.org.uk) . Like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed](http://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.*

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Tuesday	6am -1pm	Closed pm
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Thursday	6am -1pm	2pm - 5pm
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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 every Sunday

at 9am and 11am - Kids and Youth work at 11am only

### June 2025: Who do you think you are?

When you know who you are, you'll know what to do. But who do you see in the mirror? A masterpiece or a mess? A struggler or a survivor? Find out what God says about you in our new series, Who Do You Think You Are?



Week 1 – Masterpiece

Week 2 – Ambassador (inc Baptisms)

Week 3 – Salt and Light

Week 4 – Disciple

Week 5 – Citizens of heaven

Online at [www.live.forgechurch.com](http://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 only  
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](mailto:tim.warnock@forgechurch.com)

Encounter: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June - 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!



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This project has been produced by Cohere Arts in partnership with Orchestras Live, supported by Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils



ORCHESTRAS Live



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Working Together

## Debenham History Society - Lecture Season 2024/2025



**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  
DEBENHAM HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS PLEASE SIGN UP VIA  
<https://thedenhamarchive.uk>**



Funded and Supported by

Signs have appeared at various locations for Suffolk Taxi Bus. A quick search led to a website:  
[www.suffolktaxibus.com](http://www.suffolktaxibus.com)

The routes to be covered are listed and include two circular routes from Debenham to Stowmarket (including Pettaugh and Winston Green) and a circular route to Eye (including Mickfield and Wetheringsett) at a cost of £4 each way. It seems prepayment and prebooking will be possible, but I can't find times as the service that includes Debenham is not yet running. Watch This Space!

The service is supported by Mid Suffolk District Council and run by Swift Taxi Service. 01449 866866 email: [taxibus@swifttaxicabs.com](mailto:taxibus@swifttaxicabs.com)

Jan

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Waveney **foodbank**

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## Friends of Debenham Library



The **Reading Quest** returns for this summer with some changes following feedback from last year. We are grateful to our volunteers who help with this. If you can help with registering children and their progress through the scheme, please speak to our library staff.

Two events are planned for families and children later in the year, both free:

Saturday 30 August: a talk on marine biology for children, by local resident Andrew Donnelly. Adults may enjoy it too!

Saturday 13 September: a storytelling event with Gerry Donlan (Bards Aloud). Tea and cakes will be available, and certificates for the Reading Quest will be given out to children.

The **Dungeons and Dragons** adult group continue to meet monthly (Saturday evenings) to enjoy an evening of role play story telling. While this is an activity that can and is played online, the group was set up because folk wanted to play in person rather than virtually. The junior group is currently looking for a new Dungeon Master.

**Sip and Stitch** social group meets on Thursday evenings 7-9pm, every two weeks. It was borne out of the Festive Yarn Bombing group where a need for an evening session was highlighted for those who work. The social aspect is the most important part of the evening, with the stitching being secondary. The evening is provided free of charge as not everyone is able to afford even a minimum fee to attend such events. In addition to the conversation there is often cake! It is an opportunity to share ideas and try something new if one wishes to, and share progress on a project (or receive encouragement to finish one). It has also recently become an informal "book club" as being in a library the conversation often turns to books with author recommendations being shared and books discussed. Everyone is welcome.

Please note our new telephone number **01728 587102**. All phone numbers for Suffolk Libraries have recently been changed.

*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 587102** Email: [debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk)  
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## ST MARY'S ART EXHIBITION – VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We need help to:-

- put up display boards on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 6.30pm
- steward the exhibition on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> between 10.30am and 8.00pm and on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> between 10.30am and 6.00pm and on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



**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!**

**[www.stmarysartex.org.uk](http://www.stmarysartex.org.uk)**

**Ploughman's Lunches**



During the Art Exhibition, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ploughman's Lunches will be available in Dove Cottage between 12.00pm and 2.00pm. Pate Ploughman's and Cheese Ploughman's will be available and dessert for the bargain price of £10. This will be in addition to the usual refreshments that are available.

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## Major fundraiser festival launched to aid sufferers of a rare disease

A health and fitness centre has launched a major fundraiser in aid of a charity supporting those with Motor Neurone Disease in the county after learning about the devastating impact on a Suffolk family.

The Be Well Barn wellbeing centre at Redlingfield near Eye is arranging a day of activities this summer - Be Well Fest - to raise thousands of pounds for sufferers of the rare disease.

On June 28th from noon to 10pm there will be live music from local Suffolk talented musicians, family fun with activities including yoga and kung fu yoga, pilates, ballet lessons, face painting, spin, kettlebells, penalty shoot outs, a fitness bootcamp, sauna, ice baths and massage, and a host of Porsche cars on display at the festival at the Be Well Barn. There will also be food including gourmet burgers, pizzas, Thai food and ice creams. Drinks will be widely available including views of the stage from the Be Well Barn roof top bar terrace. Local businesses are generously supporting the Be Well Fest either through offering services for free, sponsorship, or donations from their takings on the day making this a real community event.

There is currently no known cure for MND - which scientist Stephen Hawking had - and this has been brought home for 62-year-old Adam Reason who is the brother-in-law of one of the centre's members, Sue Bates. Adam is a car enthusiast who runs an independent Porsche service centre with his wife Jill from a garage in Crowfield, near Ipswich. He worked for BMW and Jaguar franchises in the 1980's and then opened his first garage in Bury St Edmunds in 1990. But now the grandfather says he is facing an early death after contracting the disease in 2024.

"It was in January that year, I was in the Porsche workshop helping the boys with a pneumatic chisel.

"A week or so later I started trying to write and my writing was poor. I thought what was going on, perhaps I had not written enough recently, but the more I tried the worse I got. I thought I had trapped a nerve in my arm through using the chisel. I had tests and then I was told I had a degenerative disease which kind of freaked me and Jill out. So we waited until July for some more tests - and the day before our son's wedding I was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. It was really hard and we decided not to say anything to anyone because we did not want to spoil their wedding. We told them when they came back from their honeymoon," said Mr Reason. He added: "Being positive I thought I might get a lot more years than I have been dealt. As it happens I have had quite a rapid onset, so it is going through me quite quickly. 'Staying positive and appreciating what is good is very important. Coming here to Be Well Barn is a good day for me. But at the moment I am almost trapped in my body. My mind is the same, but my arms don't work and my legs haven't got long left. I am not really afraid of dying, I am more afraid of being alive in a vegetative state. It's likely that I will catch pneumonia and I will probably end up going that way, so I will just have to let nature take its course and not have any regrets."

He paid tribute to MNDA Suffolk, saying the charity had been an amazing help. There has been financial support for a riser recliner chair and a wheelchair, with frequent contact by a supportive volunteer who addresses the family's concerns of coping with the disease.

Adam has met with former Ipswich Town footballer Marcus Stewart, who also has MND, and they share their experiences about the disease.

His mother-in-law, Jenny Gibbs, in her early 80s from Pettaugh near Stowmarket, raised about £2,500 for MNDA by walking 100 miles in January.

Be Well Barn is run by Will and Sarah Edwards and Will said: "Health and well being is our ethos with one of our original Be Well Barn aims being to support our local community.

"MND is as saddening a diagnosis as anyone could receive. Life expectancy Cont. P.25

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Is usually only two to four years as it is a fast and progressive condition with no effective treatments or cure. Fundraising events like ours are so important to raise awareness and provide support to those affected."

Sarah said: "Since starting this charity festival journey, we are hearing so many more stories of families that have encountered this condition locally. With the blessing of Adam and his family we are pleased to be able to host this fun event where we can promote wellness, enjoy a day of community fun and raise money for a great cause."

Ellie Miller, the MND Association's Relationship Fundraiser East said: "We are so grateful for the team at Be Well Barn for choosing to support people living with and affected by MND in this way. Every penny raised at Be Well Fest will allow the MND Association's Suffolk Branch to reach many more people affected by this devastating disease, ensuring they continue to have the information and support they need."

Tickets for the charity fundraiser, with all activities free once at the festival and food and drink available to purchase, are £25 for adults, £10 for children aged 5-16 with a £60 for a family group ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children aged 5-16 with 5 year olds free). Tickets are on sale via Be Well Barn website [bewellbarn.co.uk](http://bewellbarn.co.uk) and app or call 01379 831565, email [events@bewellbarn.co.uk](mailto:events@bewellbarn.co.uk) or pop in and find out more from the team at Be Well Barn near Eye. All the net proceeds will be going to MNDA Suffolk.



**Armed Forces Veterans and their Families**

**We are delighted to share some exciting news with you.**

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk has been awarded funding from the Veterans' Foundation to launch *Veteran Connect* – a brand-new initiative supporting Armed Forces veterans and their families across Mid Suffolk. This project, initially funded for one year, will deliver accessible, impartial, and non-judgmental support, with a particular focus on veterans living in rural communities. Many of these individuals face significant challenges in accessing vital services such as healthcare, housing, and employment. *Veteran Connect* will help bridge these gaps by offering personalised, localised support and improved access to existing services. At the heart of this project is a dedicated Veteran Connect Adviser, who will work closely with individuals and partner organisations to ensure that no veteran or family member is left behind. We will be working collaboratively with local organisations to:

- Improve access to services for veterans and their families
- Reduce duplication across the support landscape

Enhance the quality of advice and guidance provided in our community

As the only Advice Quality Standard-accredited organisation in Mid Suffolk for benefits, debt, and disability advice, Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk is well-positioned to deliver high-quality, trusted support to those who need it most. You will find more information on our website <https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/> under 'Veteran Connect'. Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](http://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.



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be well barn

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JustGiving  
bewellfest2025

be well in the community



To mark the 80th anniversary of VE day, Geoffrey Weston (born July 11, 1934) decided to conjure up his own memories of the war years



I left my house in south London with my mother for a shopping trip one fine September day, when we met our neighbour at the gate. She was most alarmed. “Isn’t it terrible,” she burst out.

“We are at war with Germany from today.” My mother took the news more calmly, but it meant little to me at the time. My reaction soon changed.

Before long, a group of men arrived to construct an Anderson shelter at the bottom of our garden. It was a fairly simple design in corrugated iron sunk about four feet into the ground—a vertical wall at either end with a low entrance at one end and a domed roof covered in soil. The floor and walls below ground were finished in concrete. My father protected the entrance with a wall of wooden boxes filled with soil with just enough space to squeeze past them to enter the shelter during air raids. During the Blitz we all had to sleep there on bunk beds. I had four, much older sisters, and so all seven of us had to squeeze into the limited space. One night I turned over in the top bunk and fell out on to my elder sister, who was sleeping on the floor. She immediately thought it must be a bomb. I didn’t wake up, and she had to lift me back into my bed, still slumbering.

When an air raid warning sounded, there was little time to reach the shelter and my parents devised a fixed strategy for the whole family. If it was a mealtime, my mother ran first perhaps carrying a saucepan of mashed potato. One sister might carry a pan of sausages, another a pile of plates, a third the cutlery. My father would bring up the rear to make sure no one was left behind. Meals were simple. Food was rationed. Adults had buff-coloured ration books, children under five had green ones, which entitled them to certain extras, and those over five had blue ones. When I was unwell, my mother pleaded with the greengrocer to sell her some oranges for me, but I just failed to qualify for a green book and so I had to go without. We were allowed one egg a week each and a finger of cheddar cheese about as long as a man’s middle finger and not much thicker.

One day, the air raids went on for hours without a stop. I was in the shelter with my mother and youngest sister. It was the only time I saw my mother looking frightened during the war, but I wasn’t frightened because my mother had decided that, because we couldn’t go to the house for food, we would have to resort to an emergency packet of biscuits that she had kept in the shelter. They were pre-war Peek Freans custard creams—vastly superior to wartime biscuits and a great treat in the circumstances. I could not understand why, when a bomb dropped, the impact sent a shock wave through the ground that sounded like something hitting the floor of our shelter. “Why does that big giant keep hitting the floor with his big hammer?” I asked my mother. It was the only explanation that a five-year-old could come up with.

The Evening Standard used to publish a daily map of London showing where the bombs had been dropped the previous day. I lived in Forest Hill, which was shown as the most vulnerable target of all. Amazingly, although houses were demolished 50

yards away on either side, all we suffered was broken window glass. Less fortunate was an aunt who lived in Lee, not far away. One night a massive bomb landed on the house opposite and blew the couple living there right out of the window. They were little hurt but the blast blew off all their night clothes and they were found by the firemen in the middle of the road shaken but stark naked. My aunt, whose husband had died of tuberculosis a year before, sat up in bed at the explosion as the walls either side of her bed fell inwards. She was not hurt but the walls met above her head trapping her hair at the same time. Her elderly father, who slept below, rushed up the stairs in bare feet to try to help, cutting his feet on all the broken glass around. Firemen quickly arrived to free my aunt and take her to hospital but in her trauma she pleaded with them first to rescue her husband, whom she thought was still in their bed.

My most vivid memory dated from the days leading up to VE-Day, when Winston Churchill vowed to tour London as a thank-you to people for bearing up so well during the war years. I had forgotten his promise as I walked along the South Circular with my much older brother-in-law, a flying officer in the RAF in uniform. Round the bend in front of us came a slow moving police escort on motorbikes followed by an open-top Rolls Royce. Churchill stood in the back smoking a cigar. I was a very shy little boy, but I was so excited that I jumped up and down shouting "Hooray!" Churchill turned to me with an impish grin and gave me his famous victory salute all to myself. My brother-in-law saluted.

I have few vivid memories of VE-Day itself. I went up to central London with my sisters, and we saw thousands of people dancing and singing in the streets, but the crowds were too thick to reach Buckingham Palace, and we celebrated by going into one of Charles Forte's milk bars in Fleet Street before he became rich with his hotel chain.

My school was a little private one attached to a church. It was bombed, and so lessons continued in the window-less church crypt. In 1945 it was time to leave my primary school for Colfes Grammar School, which, in view of complete victory in Japan had just returned from evacuation in Somerset. That school too had been destroyed by German bombs, and so we spent the next five years in temporary accommodation. It was a tribute to the education system that despite these setbacks my schooling did not appear to suffer, and I went on to St Catherine's College, Oxford, but that's another story.

The author dressed in a siren suit in 1941. These one-piece garments were intended to be donned quickly over night clothes in order to reach air raid shelters quickly and safely, Churchill wore one. Children's versions had a fur-lined hood to keep their heads warm in cold weather.



## DEBENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### BREAKING NEWS:

The Parochial Church Council were awarded £14,500 by Debenham Parish Council at their meeting on 19 May 2025 towards the new heating system for the church. This brings the total awarded by the parish council to £15,000 which is hugely appreciated and goes a significant way towards the total required. We congratulate the parish council for their forward thinking and proactive approach to this sizable community project. Their support is crucial to the other fund-raising grant applications we are making. Thank you Debenham Parish Council.



**Read more about this vital fundraiser on  
page 61**

<p><b>Debenham Green Team Monthly Recycling stall</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div> <p>Outside the 'Lion' High St 9am -11am</p> <p><b>First Saturday of the Month</b></p> <p><b>Collecting all your:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tetra Paks - washed and squashed</li> <li>Dental toothbrushes</li> <li>Corks            <b>Brita</b> water filters</li> <li>Make up containers</li> <li>Contact lenses and packaging</li> <li>Coffee pods</li> <li>Plant pots- clean and dry</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> </div> <p>Enquiries to <a href="mailto:Debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com">Debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com</a></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>'Start the Week Cycling'</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Meet outside Dove Cottage for a social ride of approximately 1 hour and then return for refreshments at 'Meet Up Monday' in Dove Cottage.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p><b>9-10am</b></p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month</p> <p>March 17th</p> <p>May 19th</p> <p>June 16th</p> <p>July 21st</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">The rides are planned by Debenham Green Team but individuals are responsible for their own safety</p>
---	---



# Winston Fete

**FREE ENTRY!**

**FREE PARKING!**

**Saturday 14th June**

**2.00-4.00 pm**

**Old School Room, Winston**



**CASH ONLY**  
**(no card machines)**

Draw tickets now available!

# The Secret Gardens of Kenton

**June 8th**  
**2-6pm**

Teas, Cakes,  
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Tickets £5  
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# Debenham Day PARTY

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**Family Fun Day - Free Entry For All!**  
Live Music. BBQ. Free kids bouncy castle . Free kids facepainting. Bring a chair and a picnic!

**Saturday 12th July 2025 - 2pm until 8pm**  
Debenham Recreation Ground -  
Aspall Road IP14

**Saturday 7th June**  
**Green Team Stall**  
Outside the 'Lion'  
9am-11am

Debenham Community Nature Reserve

How to support the swifts & all birds and insects in our gardens.

Biodiversity ideas for the village

Master Composter

Natural pest control ideas

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PLEASE BRING A PICNIC BLANKET & CHAIRS

THE BENEFICE OF  
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# An Evening of Music, Song & Poetry

In aid of the

## Alfie Carpenter Charity for Creative Arts

Featuring

Gina Cristallino



Kimberley Moore



Charlie Iaw



Chloe Barnes



**URC Debenham**  
**FRI JUNE 6th**  
**7pm**

Tickets on door for a donation

Drinks on sale for donations.

Raffle

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The best of East Anglian singer-songwriters, from ragtime influenced acoustic guitar, quirky lyrical songs and some favourite contemporary and classical tunes.



**BTA** 

# Festival of Villages Summer '75



## DEBENHAM

Is a Suffolk village of charm and character, and has been chosen to represent East Anglia in a Festival of English Villages to celebrate Architectural Heritage Year



It is situated midway between Stowmarket and Framlingham. Some 13 miles north of Ipswich and 30 miles south of Norwich on the B.1077 Road.  
o0o

----- 19th to 22nd JUNE -----

19th	Clearing the Houses of Rats FASHION SHOW	3.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.
20th	Arrival of the Stage Coach F O L K E V E N I N G English and Suffolk folk music.	Mid-day 8.00 p.m. Tickets 75p
21st	S T R E E T F A Y R E Stalls, Fayre Organ, Bell Ringing, Procession, Dwile Flonking, Egg Throwing, Morris Dancers, Events with traditional Flavour, etc.	2.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
22nd	COMMUNITY CENTRE COMPLETION CEREMONY Sports, Tag of War, Beer Race, Kiting, etc.	2.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
	CLOSING COMMUNITY SERVICE AT THE PARISH CHURCH	7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\* o0o \*\*\*\*\*

DEMONSTRATIONS OF RURAL SKILLS AND CRAFTS - (some in original premises)  
Rush Weaving, Basket Making, Blacksmith, Stone Masonry,  
Clay Pipe Making, Potting, Spinning, Harness Making,  
Leatherwork, etc.

OPEN HOUSES - A number of houses and businesses will be open to the public, including local Fire Station.

EXHIBITIONS - DEBENHAM'S History, Architecture and Development and Bygones.

ALSO OPEN - 21st & 22nd  
ASPALL CYDER HOUSE 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
FRAMSDEN WINDMILL }  
HELMINGHAM HALL (Grove) 2.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Further information:-  
East Anglian Tourist Board,  
Ipswich. Tel. No. 214211

### Festival of Villages

The 19th June 2025 sees the fiftieth anniversary of Debenham being selected to represent East Anglia in the Festival of English Villages, which celebrated Architectural Heritage Year. A three day festival was held in the village, which as the programme shows, offered a multitude of fun events and also showcased the heritage of Debenham. Should you be wondering, Dwile flonking is a British pub game played by two teams, with one dancing around in a circle, while a player from the other team attempts to hit them by throwing a beer-soaked cloth. The game is associated with the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

The Debenham Archive is fortunate to hold many photos and artefacts from this festival, including an article from The Sunday Times – “Debenham - Luckiest village in the land?” with interviews of local residents. The copy of the June 2017 Parish Magazine also in the Archive, has an excellent write up by Sue Hollifield.

Head on over to the Archive and have a look!

[https://thedebenhamarchive.uk/search.php?search\\_text=festival](https://thedebenhamarchive.uk/search.php?search_text=festival)

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



On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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

See p.36&37

**Please give us your views on these ideas for improving biodiversity in Debentham.**  
 Feedback forms will be on the village website

**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

**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

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

**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

**Andrews close**  
 Fruit trees and cut grass

**Lock Close**  
 Wildflower islands

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

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

**Bonny Blooms**  
 Recently viewed

**Henry St**  
 Gracechurch St

**Mencap**

**High St**  
 SULLERS Mt

**River Green**  
 Cafe and De

**Aspall Rd**  
 Priory Ln

**Backville St**

**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-

**Moores 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

**Vets along Ipswich road**  
Cherry trees  
Wildflowers

**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.

The map shows an aerial view of Debenham with several callout boxes pointing to specific locations. The callout boxes contain text describing proposed biodiversity improvements. The map includes labels for 'Gardeners Rd', 'Sackville St', 'Debenham Veterinary Practice', 'Suffolk Animal Rescue', 'Screen Rescue', 'Balloon Boutique', 'Ipswich Road', and 'B1077'. A 'Layers' button is visible in the bottom right corner of the map area.

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## **DEBENHAM BOWLS CLUB**

Want a bit of gentle outdoor sports activity from April to October? If so, the village bowls club is always looking for new members. Whether you have played previously or a first-time participant it doesn't matter because you will be welcome to come up and have a go. Interestingly, we have just had a few people join who played indoor bowls over the winter at the Leisure Centre.

If you fancy trying your hand, we hold Friday afternoon "roll-ups" from 2.00 to 5.00 pm when experienced members will guide you through the basics. Dress code for this is informal but we do require flat bottomed shoes to be worn to protect the excellent grass playing surface. A nominal fee of £1 per session is the only charge for these roll-ups, which includes tea and biscuits plus a natter putting the world to rights!

The club is found through the gate behind the car park at the Leisure Centre. For further information or if you want to know more about the club, please contact Audrey Hart on 07913282746 or Stuart Reid on 07799768027. Be good to see you.



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### **Wraparound Care**

We are pleased to announce that our Wraparound Care is now up and running every day during term time! Wraparound care is available for children in Reception to Year 6 for the following times:

Before School Club: 7.50am to 8.45am;

Early session wraparound care: 3.15pm to 4.30pm;

Late session wraparound care: 4.30pm to 5.30pm; and

Full session wraparound care: 3.15pm to 5.30pm.

The full details are available on the school's website or from the School Office.

### **Year 6**

Well done to our Year 6 pupils who have recently completed their SATs tests. All the class have worked exceptionally hard over the past year and during their time at Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School. We are so proud of how all the children have followed our Rainbow Pledge *'to strive to be the best they can be'*.

Year 6 will be away on a residential trip the week before the half term holiday. The whole class has the opportunity to visit Basecamp, CYM Ipswich (Christian Youth Ministries) at Great Wenham. Basecamp is a unique adventure based residential activity programme nestled in the heart of rural Suffolk. It is meticulously designed to strengthen confidence, teamwork and a build wider understanding of the world around us whilst meeting key national curriculum learning objectives. The theme of the residential will be Values and during the week the various activities will unpack different values.

### **VE Day Celebrations**

On Friday 9 May the staff and pupils celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. The children worked in mixed-year groups throughout the day learning about VE Day and why it is celebrated. The children came to school dressed in red, white and blue and enjoyed a street-party style lunch on the playground.





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### Amazon Wish List

Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School has recently set up a wish list on Amazon for items that the school would like. Anyone that would like to make a purchase for the school can log into <https://amzn.eu/6LAu3SV> and buy an item from the Wish List, which will be sent direct to the school. Alternatively, you can search for SRH's Wish List when accessing Amazon. Thank you for your support.

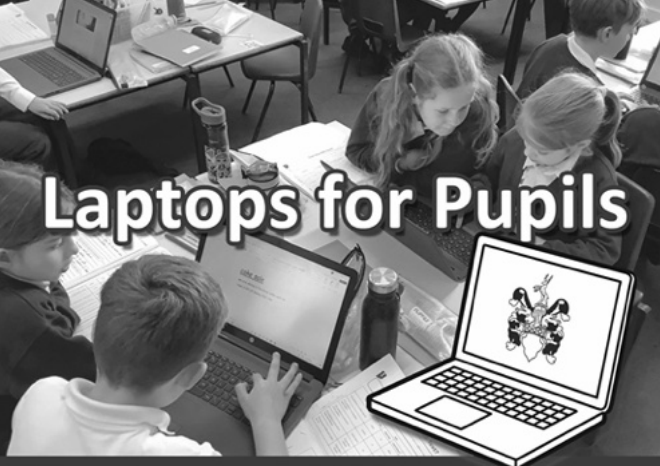


### Author Visit

Last half term we welcomed children's author, C S Clifford, to school and all the children thoroughly enjoyed meeting him and taking part in a writing workshop experience.

If you would like to find out more about C S Clifford, please visit his website at [www.csclifford.co.uk](http://www.csclifford.co.uk).

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!




## Laptops for Pupils

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>

The complex block is a promotional poster for a laptop appeal. It features a black and white photograph of several children sitting at desks in a classroom, each with a laptop open in front of them. The text is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, there is a QR code and a URL to a fundraising page.



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long!



## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June Zillionaires

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## Business as Usual; Extraordinary Celebrations



### The Business of the School....

#### SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards

Debenham High School have been awarded two SSAT Educational Outcomes awards – one for progress and one for attainment. These awards are given for being in the top 10% of state schools nationally.

SSAT stands for the Schools, Students and Teacher's Network. SSAT state that they "*...are committed to recognising the successes of schools in improving the lives of children, and the Educational Outcomes Awards are one way that we do this. SSAT's unique Educational Outcomes tool brings together all publicly available data on all schools nationally. Educational Outcomes Awards recognise the highest performing schools nationally against a range of measures. Receiving an Educational Outcomes Award is a significant achievement and a testament to the work of all your team.*"

We are very proud to be recipients of these awards; our staff, students, governing body and parent/carer body all work together to ensure our successes academically from year to year.

#### Exams, Exams and More Exams

And now it's that time of year again when Year 11, the Class of 2025, begin their GCSE exams. With Language Speaking Exams, Art and PE moderation complete, the students are embarking on their written examinations. Through the determination of the students, along with the dedication of our staff, we have every confidence in our current Year 11 cohort. We certainly wish them every success

#### Welcoming Year 6

Our Liaison Day in April was, as ever, a real success. The Year 6 students had a great day getting to know the school and some of its ways in their time with us. Talking to a parent of a Year 7 about our transition programme, they couldn't be more effusive in the way it supported students to start at Debenham confidently and made the possible worry over the Summer break minimal. We now look forward to the final Induction Day in July where the Year 6s find out their Form Groups for September.

**We are the Champions!!!** Winners of the Norfolk and Suffolk Young Enterprise

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April our Young Enterprise team won the Norfolk and Suffolk competition for the Young Enterprise Award. The quality of their presentation and the work that underpinned the development of their business have been exceptional. The large team representing the school did themselves and us proud - they all interacted well and supported each other. Even more impressive is the fact that they won against teams that are mainly from Sixth Forms.

The Young Enterprise Team then represented Norfolk and Suffolk in the East of England Regional Final in Hertfordshire on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May where they were Runner's Up to a Year 12 team.

The dedication of the whole student team has been excellent as has the leadership of Mrs Wilson and Miss Hunter. We greatly appreciate their time and effort.



**Female Football - Five Times Champions!**

The Girls Under 16 football team won the County Cup for the fifth year running, which is a fantastic achievement! Winning 6-2 was impressive enough but the team spirit amongst the girls was phenomenal; all the girls supported, encouraged

and celebrated each other with a genuine care. The camaraderie during the game and when receiving the trophy was palpable. The school extends a huge thanks to Neil Mitchell for his stewardship of this team; but for a small PE Faculty, we are grateful to all the staff who give students the opportunities to participate and compete in such a wide range of sports.

**Literary Genius!**

Archie Phaup, a student in Year 7, competed well in the Book Mastermind competition coming runner up. He answered questions on his book of choice as well as those on general knowledge – being only one mark off the winner who was a Year 9 achievement was a brilliant result.

**Mathematically Challenged and Chemically Bonded**

Congratulations to the Maths Challenge Team who finished a very creditable fourth in the most recent Maths Challenge held at Framlingham College.

**Musical Prowess – From Concert to Commemoration**

The Spring Concert held in April was outstanding – the range of music was vast, including classical pieces, pop and a healthy dose of musical theatre. The quality of performances was very high, including students from all year groups. Our Head of Music, Steve Rinaldi, along with his team of peripatetic teachers provide a first class musical experience for our students.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May it was wonderful that Elliott Filby-Gray and Tabitha Marston were able to perform in the VE day celebrations at St Mary's Church. They played and sung beautifully in what must have been a very nerve racking occasion for them, playing in front of a church full of people they didn't know. It was a really important way for us to be part of the local community and represent the school so well. Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition is a Success Our Year 11 students successfully completed their three day Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition in April.





## Greetings

I expect many of you have at some time moved house. Well we have just moved from a house to a flat. Quite a change!

And yes, as everybody says, it seems that moving house is one of the most stressful things we do during our lifetime – upheaval, boxes, waiting, ‘losing’ things, ‘finding’ things, more boxes.

Finally it’s time to move. Hurray!

We find ourselves in a ‘new’ place, new neighbours, furniture in new places – altogether somewhere different and an exciting **NEW START**.

Aren’t people lucky that they can have a **NEW START** from time to time? We get ourselves into all sorts of muddles and struggles as we go through life but we can always find our way to a **NEW START** if we try. The ‘boxes’ in our way are moveable.

If we look in the Bible we can find many stories where a **NEW START** showed the way forward – from Noah and Abraham in the Old Testament to Jesus’ healing miracles and his parables in the New Testament. All great stories of people getting a **NEW START** in life culminating in Jesus’ death and resurrection – a real **NEW START**!

There are many more and they all make good bedtime reading. One of my favourites is the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1 – 10) who regularly charges his customers too much - but on meeting Jesus he changes his ways and returns all the money he has falsely taken. A **NEW START** for everyone.

I wonder what **NEW STARTS** we will each have this year and how we will make the most of them.

Mary Durrant Stowmarket URC Elder

## **URC Services**

Sunday 1st June	Rev. Norman Tharby Series in Ephesians (Communion service)	10:45 am
Sunday 8th June	Rev. Norman Tharby Series in Ephesians	10:45 am
Sunday 15th June	Rev. Norman Tharby Series in Ephesians	10:45 am
Sunday 22nd June	Rev. Norman Tharby Series in Ephesians	10:45 am
Sunday 29th June	Rev. Richard Edwards	10:45 am

All services followed by refreshments and chat

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**Coffee Morning every Tuesday 10-11:30**

**PLEASE NOTE: This month only, 1st Tuesday 3rd June Special CAKE and PLANT SALE 10:00—11:30**

**Friends & Neighbours 2:00pm 1st Thursday of the month with Steve Fenning**

**Cakes & Choruses 3:00pm last Sunday of the month  
Bring your friends to this really popular cake and praise celebration!**

## **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

### **Starting at the beginning. By Claudine**

It was 1939, I was about three years old when my father brought home a Wire Fox Terrier. My brother was born the end of March. I was too young to know that the world was not in a good place. The anticipation of the 2nd World War was changing the lives of everyone.

My father had previously had an Airedale, called Beouf, the French for beef. With a young family, a smaller terrier was preferable.

Every morning it became increasingly worrying for my mother when my father left for his business in London. Mother was finding it difficult caring for two young children, with all that entails, the worry of air raids occurring more often, and also making sure that our terrier was exercised. Therefore they decided Dinkie had to be found a good home. I do not really remember much about her, but she was the first of many to come who had more interesting stories.

As I grew older I kept on to my father could we have a dog. My idea was to have an Alsatian as they were called during the war. My father was adamant that they were a one man dog and would not contemplate one. I would be forever beseeching him could we please have a dog. Promising to stop biting my nails.

One day he arrived home with a puppy in his arms. A vet friend of his had asked him whether we would like to have this Smooth Fox Terrier. The mother had died and he had been fostered by a Dalmation bitch. It was love at first sight. He was a lovely example of a Smoothie in tan and white. We named him Trigger after the horse of the popular American cowboy film star Roy Rogers. Such a lovely-tempered gentle dog, he adored us all, especially my mother, who was with him most. Feeding him and exercising him when we were at school. He would follow her up to the bedroom every morning when we had all left, Father to London, Barry and I to school. He would climb on her bed, turn around three times and settle under her eiderdown peacefully whilst she had her breakfast in bed as was her custom.

When my mother or any of us went to a local parade of shops we had to buy something for Trigger to carry home. He would proudly carry my father's army swagger stick. People would stop and talk and admire him. My father would often walk him around to the local hostelry where they always gave Trigger an arrowroot biscuit.

My best friend at school was Diana. She had a dalmation called Lucky. After school and at weekends Trigger and Lucky went everywhere with us. Our favourite walk was over Hilly Fields and Crews Hill Golf Course. We were out for hours with the dogs, happy as the day was long.

Barnet Fair which was held every year had a dog show. Diana and I decided that we would enter Lucky and Trigger. The class was 'Dog best handled by under 13 year old.' It was exciting and there was a large array of all breeds of dog. We had to walk them around the ring and then the judge would call out various handlers.

Amazingly, Diana and I were called out along with 4 other children with their dogs. The judge then inspected each dog and asked questions. I was complimented on the way I showed Trigger and made his tail stand erect. It was even more surprising when I was called out with Trigger, then incredibly Diana with Lucky, after that was a girl with a Borzoi. 1st prize, a huge supply of dog food. But more than that the excitement of coming first, and Diana 2nd. The first of quite a few shows in many years to come, about that much later. On Bank Holiday weekend we would go to a large park near us that had a Fete, also athletics. With Guide Dogs for the Blind boxes strapped to our dogs backs we would collect a considerable amount of money to send off to this charity.

Diana and I also used to groom and exercise neighbours' dogs and then money we were given would go to Guide Dogs, an excellent charity. Lucky had a litter and one puppy was kept. Lucinda joined our walks at weekends and long evenings in the summer. It was a truly idyllic time, and times I shall never forget. Sadly Trigger developed stomach cancer when he was about 10. Always awful, it never gets easier to make the final decision, which my father had to make. He was known as The Gentleman of Winchmore Hill, and was sadly missed. All good things come to an end—for a while. But dogs were to become an important part of my life in years to come.





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Hi everyone,

## Volunteers and Trustees

They do say “be careful what you wish for – It may come true”. Well, 16 years ago we wished for a project that could “make a difference” for the increasing numbers of those in our village and the surrounding area that were struggling to cope with caring for someone with dementia. And that wish came true. Today, I continue to be amazed at how much has been achieved and how much it is appreciated by those who participate in the wide range of support services we offer. But it has been, and continues to be, a major effort for a village community. I am so very grateful to all our 60+ volunteers for their generosity, kindness, empathy, understanding, and time, not only in our regular activities and groups but also in all the other tasks involved in creating and running a community project.

However, I especially want to thank our trustees - Mike, Roger, Carol, Paddy, Richard and Tammy. The Charity Commission places a legal duty upon them personally to oversee all aspects of the Project, and ensuring that the organization functions safely, smoothly and ethically. This entails a myriad of responsibilities beyond the direct care we provide - policy formulation, administrative tasks, data protection, safeguarding, financial governance, legal compliance, etc. Their role often goes unrecognised but takes a great deal of their time – It’s not just attending the odd meeting or two!!

And finally, at the end of this month we will welcome all our Debenham Project family – Carers and those they care for, Past carers, Donors, Volunteers, Trustees, and other Participants - to our Annual Garden Party for an afternoon of music and song, wine and beautiful canapes, and especially, friendship and laughter. All hosted so generously by Mike and Lyn. It has always been a very special occasion for us all.

Wishing you all a lovely June filled with sunshine and roses, and my very best wishes,

Lynden

[Lynden.jackson@the-debenham-project.org.uk](mailto:Lynden.jackson@the-debenham-project.org.uk) ; 01728 862003

**Debenham Parish Council**  
c/o Dove Cottage  
39 High Street  
Debenham  
IP14 6QN



**Monthly Highlights from Debenham Parish Council:**

It has been a busy month with two meetings hosted at Dove Cottage.

The Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May 2025 showcased a variety of village/ community institutions and reports were presented to attendees. All Reports are listed on our website and more will be added over time, so please check back. The Parish Council AGM was held on 19th May 2025 where Cllr Frankie Winrow-Giffin was re-elected Chair and Cllr John Sweet taking over the Vice Chair role.

Funding approved from Grants/Donations budget 2025-26:  
£500 Summer Sizzler (Friends of Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School)  
£500 Be Well Fest (in aid of MND A Suffolk)  
Additional Funding approved from the Parish CIL reserves for:  
£14,500 Debenham PCC (Church Heating System upgrades)  
£1,050 Debenham Sports & Leisure (Pothole Repairs at Exit)

Cllr Barlow is busy planning Debenham Day 2025 – the event will be held at the Recreation Ground on Saturday 12th July 2025 (2pm to 8pm). Further details will be available via the Notice Board/Website/Facebook.

**APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/02091 Proposal: Full Planning Application - Construction of a flood attenuation embankment and three new permanent water bodies. Location: Field to the South of Poplar Hall, Off Bakers Lane, Winston Green, IP14 6BT. Consultation Deadline 29-May-2025**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 16th June 2025 at 7pm (Dove Cottage).  
Brian Mansfield, Parish Clerk, Debenham Parish Council  
Email: [parish.clerk@debenhamparishcouncil.org](mailto:parish.clerk@debenhamparishcouncil.org)  
Website: <https://debenham.onesuffolk.net/>

**District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – Feb 2025**

**Serving Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Aspell, Bedingfield, Debenham, Kenton & Winston Cllr Teresa Davis [teresa.davis@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.davis@midsuffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07928 512588**

**Community Information:**

There is a Local Listed Building Consent Order consultation that is open from our Planning Officers in respect of upgrading of windows in Grade 2 listed Buildings. They are aiming to gain feedback from owners of these buildings to form a Local Listed Building Consent Order so those owners would not need to apply for listed building consent. <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/lbco> – this is the link to complete the consultation online or contact me if you need a paper copy. The more people respond the better.

As mentioned previously The Deben Climate Centre presented their talk on river recovery on 16th May. It was good to see over 100 people in attendance. On 17th June, hopefully at the Debenham Leisure Centre, we will have a further talk from Helen Dangerfield from the Suffolk and Essex Rivers Trust, along with Helen George from the Environment Agency, speaking about what is happening for Debenham in the way of flood prevention (some may have seen the planning application for attenuation ponds in Winston) and details on Natural Flood Management that landowners can do. This will take place hopefully in the late afternoon and more details will follow.

We have recently partnered with West Suffolk Council to offer Solar panels for Businesses to decrease the cost of their energy bills. To be eligible, businesses must be within West Suffolk, Babergh or Mid Suffolk's district boundaries, and must have a minimum electricity consumption of 5,000kWh per year. For a firm paying 25p/kWh this would mean electricity bills of around £1250 per year. To find out more about the scheme, email: [environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk), call 01284 757631 or visit: [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/solarforbusiness](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/solarforbusiness)  
For all residents, COSY HOMES is still running if you want to insulate your home.

Licensing – I have had a few questions on licensing recently and wanted to let people know that when an alcohol license for a premises is applied for at Mid Suffolk a 28 day consultation is given for members of the public to respond. A notice of this is put in the premise, online on the Mid Suffolk website, in the local press and district and parish councillors are notified among other bodies. As a neighbour to the premises you will not get direct notification. Alternatively to this a person without a premise license can ask the police for a TEN (Temporary Event Notice) which allows them to sell alcohol at a set time and date. The police will not consult any member of the public about this.

**Drop In/Cabinet and Council Dates:**

**Mid Suffolk in June**

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

The next full council meeting will be on 26th June and the Cabinet meeting will be on 10th June. You can view them live. Do let me know if you have a question or concern you want to put to the council or cabinet.

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](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk).

## Benefice Church Services

June 2025

<b>1st June</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Aspall</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Debenham</b>	<b>family@church</b>
<b>8th June</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Kenton</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Debenham</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Winston</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Helmingham</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>15th June</b>		<b>Framsden</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Aspall</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Debenham</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Framsden</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Pettaugh</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Kenton</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>22nd June</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Winston</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Debenham</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Winston</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Pettaugh</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>29th June</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Winston</b>	<b>Benefice Communion</b>



THE BENEFICE OF  
DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM



THE BENEFICE OF  
DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM

## CHURCH HEATING APPEAL



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We have advanced plans to fit more environmentally-friendly  
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If you are able to support us by donating however much  
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Donations can be made in cash or cheque (payable to Debenham PCC) to:  
2 Clover Court, Debenham, IP14 6SG, or you can donate by using the QR code.



Thank you so much.

## June Reflection by Rev Susan Taylor

Flaming June is the season of Strawberry Teas, Fetes, open gardens and wonderful art in St Mary Magdalene church. It is also the season of hay fever and exams! The primary school sat their SATS at the end of May, but GCSEs, A levels and university exams are in full flight for much of June.

Along with exams often comes stress and anxiety. No matter what stage in education or in life we are at, sitting an exam is not really what we would describe as a pleasant experience. Even if you are confident in your knowledge and ability, it is still a time of butterflies leading up to the start and of intense concentration. So, why do we feel this way when confronted with a test or exam? Well, it's personal. The result of the exam will be seen as an indicator of something about us – rightly or wrongly, people tend to assess intelligence and ability according to the results. And, on the whole, we care about what people think of us. On the whole, we want to 'do well' in life – and one of the measures of success in our culture, is qualifications. So, taking exams can feel like a pivotal moment in life: success will lead us in one direction, failure in another direction. No wonder they are scary!

Yet, of course, exams are not the 'be all and end all' in life. Simon Martin the Head of Debenham High School in a letter received by year 11 student's families at the end of May expresses this beautifully.

*"At this stage all students can do is work hard and try their best and remember that this is a snapshot of their academic ability, at one point in time, not a measure of them as young people.*

*I am sure the students will go onto succeed and move onto the next stage of their education but please do remember and remind them that this isn't the defining moment for the rest of their lives; it is a stepping stone and all we can ask is that the students have done their best to fulfil their potential.*

*As I always say at this point, students must remember to keep a balance and still do the other things in their lives which help them to relax. As I am sure you will agree it is important to work hard and prepare as well as possible but maintaining a good balance and approach is equally important.*

*GCSE's obviously measure academic progress but the young people sitting examinations this Summer have so much more to them than just academia. We have been privileged to see them develop in so many ways in their time with us. They have developed compassion, understanding of others, kindness, maturity and many other important attributes which will serve them for the rest of their lives and make them the amazing young people they undoubtedly are'.*

Mr Martin's comments relate to all the exams and tests we face in life. They are but a 'snapshot' of a moment in time, they are not indicators of who we are, but of what we did during a phase or a moment of our life. The 'who' we are is immeasurable... but it is seen and felt in our kindness, our integrity, our compassion, our courage, our love and care for the world and the people around us. These things are not measured in exams or in snapshots, they are measured over time – over a lifetime.





### **Ministry Team**

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**Chaplain Debenham High School**

**Associate Priest Debenham & Helmingham Benefice**

**Rev'd Keith Rengert [revdkeith@gmail.com](mailto:revdkeith@gmail.com)**

**Reader Veda Berriman [r.berriman111@btinternet.com](mailto:r.berriman111@btinternet.com)**

**01728 861363**

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Stowmarket  
IP14 6QT

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

[debenhamvets.co.uk](http://debenhamvets.co.uk)

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