

Martlesham Monthly

FEBRUARY 2026 • Produced and Distributed by Volunteers

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Martlesham Monthly

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The copy deadline for issues is the 12th of the previous month.

Contributors are requested to limit their articles to approximately 250 words.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in the Martlesham Monthly are those of the contributors and are not necessarily supported by the editor or the editorial team.

Front Cover Photo: Your Community Needs You

The Future of Martlesham Monthly, Your Community Magazine

If there is no one come forward to fill the following positions, sadly The Martlesham Monthly will finish and the last edition will be in June 2026

The Martlesham Monthly Editorial Team feel that the time is fast approaching for them to hand over the running of the magazine to a much younger group of people to take it forward into the future.

We are a group of five residents who have all been involved with Martlesham Monthly for many, many years and all have specific jobs to ensure the production each month

We are now looking for volunteers to fill the following posts:

1. An Editor who receives all the articles to go into the magazine each month and produces the final copy to be sent to the printers.
2. A Distribution Manager who is responsible for arranging for the 5 Team Leaders and 55 deliverers to be available each month. This person also produces all the labels to go on the bundles of magazines.
3. A Collator who receives 2800 magazines each month from the printers (in the Martlesham Heath Pavilion) and divides them into individual bundles, and then into 5 bundles for collection by the Team Leaders.
4. A person who is responsible for all the adverts in the magazine. The printers do all the graphics.
5. A person who is overall in charges of the group and is also the financial member ensuring all accounts are up to date.

Some of the jobs can be doubled up or divided. Full training and support will be given

There is no financial implication involved just a commitment to do your appointed task and keep to the specific time frame. However, all expenses will be reimbursed.

We are more than happy to give anyone more information, please contact us via email email: martleshamadverts@gmail.com or call 07801954101

GIRLGUIDING

Currently we have 1 Rainbow Unit (ages 4 – 7), 1 Brownie Unit (ages 7-10) & 1 Guide Unit (ages 10-14) meeting on the Heath.

If you are interested in joining as a young member, or helping as a volunteer, please contact www.girlguidingsuffolk.org.uk & select the "join" or "volunteer" buttons on the home page.

Come & join the fun & start your guiding adventure today!"

1st MARTLESHAM SCOUTS

We have Beavers (6-8) who meet each Tuesday, Cubs (8-10.5) each Monday, Scouts (10.5-14) each Thursday and Explorers (14-18) who meet the first Monday of each month

For all enquiries regarding joining the groups please contact membership@martleshamscouts.org.uk

For becoming a helper or hiring the Scout HQ, please contact Lindsay lindsayfw@msn.com

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

Tuesdays (Route 10)

Angela Close: 1.30-1.45pm

Bridge Farm Day Nursery 1.50-2.20pm

Falcon Mobile Home Park: 2.30-2.55pm

Douglas Bader: 3.00-4.15pm

Tue 10 Feb 2026

Tue 10 Mar 2026

Thursdays (Route 3)

Play2Day Nursery Gloster Road 10.10 - 10.40,

Douglas Bader: 10.50 - 11.50

Thu 26 Feb 2026

Thu 26 Mar 2026

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobiles-home/using-the-mobile-library-service/>

COMMUNITY RESPONDERS

Martlesham Community Responders are a group of volunteers funded entirely by donations who are trained to provide first aid and resuscitation skills.

We provide a first response to many 999 calls received by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust within Martlesham, Martlesham Heath, Waldringfield, Newbourne and Brightwell, in support of and until the arrival of an emergency ambulance.

For further details contact johnny.dixon@btinternet.com

POLICE

In case of emergencies please always call 999. In non-emergency situations call the new number 101

Email the Safer Neighbourhood Team woodbridge.snt@suffolk.police.uk

Martlesham Council

Welcome!

We would like to welcome Laura Sheridan to the Team. Laura was co-opted as a member of the Parish Council during the full Council Meeting in January. We look forward to working alongside Laura.

If you would like to join us as a Parish Councillor or volunteer in any capacity, please contact the office or see our website for further information.

Projects Update for 2026

Moving into 2026, we will be continuing our work to push forward with the following projects:-

- Resurfacing of the carpark at Walk Farm Wood, Felixstowe Road
- Remodel of the Diamond Jubilee Bike Track
- Repurposing of the Pétanque Piste at the Recreation Ground

A pre planning application has also been submitted for a potential new pedestrian access to the Recreation Ground and resurfacing of the carpark.

We are looking forward to sharing positive updates on the above projects in the coming months. Please do contact the Parish Council Office if you have any ideas for future projects within our community.

Parish Precept 2026/27

At the January Parish Council meeting, Councillors agreed the budget and precept for the 2026/27 financial year.

This year's precept has been set at £250,000.00. Which equates to approximately £110/year or £2.11/week. For an average Band D property.

Speed Watch

Martlesham Parish Council Speedwatch volunteers undertook three sessions during November 2025.

(December statistics are not available yet).

4th November 2025 at location 1 (Manor Road)

Two vehicles were travelling 35 miles per hour and above of which one received a letter. From the 257 vehicles in the 1-hour session, 5% were travelling between 31 and 34 miles per hour in the 30 zone.

21st November 2025 at location 3 (Eagle Way)

No vehicles were travelling 35 miles per hour and above.

From the 74 vehicles in the 1-hour session 8% were traveling between 31 and 34 miles per hour in the 30 zone.

25th November 2025 at location 4 (Main Road)

Nine vehicles were travelling 35 miles per hour and above of which seven received a letter. From the 180 vehicles in the 1-hour session, 16% of vehicles were travelling between 31 and 34 miles per hour in the 30 zone.

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Meetings scheduled over the next couple of months include:-

Full Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 4th February

DETC – Wednesday 11th February

Finance & General Purpose Committee – Wednesday 25th February

Full Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 4th March

Recreation & Amenities Committee – Wednesday 11th March

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 25th March

Meetings are held in the Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, IP12 4PB. All Council meetings start at 19:30 and are open to the public, who are welcome to ask questions or make comments to the Council during a public forum. Before attending we recommend that you check our website and Notice Boards.

Contacting the Council

Councillors and staff can be contacted at the Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, Woodbridge, IP12 4BP.

Telephone 01473 612632. Please leave a message if no reply and we will get back to you as necessary. The office is open to the public between 10:00 until 15:00 (Monday – Friday, excluding public holidays)

Email: enquires@martleshamcouncil.org.uk or clerk@martleshamcouncil.org.uk.

Website: - www.martleshamparishcouncil.org.uk

Please also follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn).

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**February 8 & 22nd
March 8 & 22nd**

All are welcome to join us for our
church service at 10am and/or tea and
coffee at 11am



Celebration Trees within the Parish

**Copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica* Atropurpurea Group
& Two Crab Apples *Malus* "Golden Hornet"**

These trees can be seen to the north of The Richards Room and Parish Room.

They were planted by Martlesham in Bloom helped by volunteers and members of Martlesham WI in February 2002 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the accession of Queen Elizabeth 2nd to the throne.

Beech is native to the UK; the purple leafed cultivar has been grown since the 17th century. Autumn leaves may stay on beech trees and hedges during the winter which is known as marcescence.

The Crab apples are planted either side of the beech. Their flowers are excellent for pollinators, and the fruit are eaten by birds and mammals.

Both of these species of trees support a good variety of wildlife.

MARTLESHAM HEATH HOUSEHOLDERS LTD

MHHL Website

If you have a query about Martlesham Heath Householders Limited, please go to our website at <http://www.mhhl.co.uk/> > www.mhhl.co.uk

Dog Waste

It is disappointing that we must again ask dog owners to be responsible & clear up after their pets throughout Martlesham Heath. This includes the SSSI heathland. Recently I have witnessed people clearing up after other dog owners where dog mess has been left by very busy footpaths. One instance was yards from a waste bin on the SSSI & the other next to the footpath on The Green & Birchwood school. Many of us will have experienced cleaning our shoes of mess at some time in our lives and this anti-social behaviour affects everyone including parents with prams & buggies & those who use a wheelchair or mobility scooter who end up with it on their wheels. So please be responsible, clear up after your dog & dispose of it in any bin. At times, the waste bins can be over full. If you leave waste on the ground, it can be damaged leaving a mess. So please use an alternate bin.

In addition, please note that the Environmental Protection Team at East Suffolk Council are the body that enforces this and persistent problems can be reported on-line. MHHL has used them in the past on prevention strategies across the village.

New Trees on the Jubilee Green

We will shortly be placing water bags around the two new trees that have been planted on the Jubilee (North) Green. These bags have been very successful in establishing new trees, but they need filling. We are therefore looking for some volunteers to top up these bags with water. If you can help, please leave a voicemail on 01473 612207 or send an email to martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com

Ongoing Work in the Woods

The directors and volunteers of MHHL wish all readers a happy New Year. Haydens have completed another survey/review to identify dead or dangerous trees. These trees will then be cut down or trimmed to ensure the woods are kept safe. It is perhaps appropriate to remind all those who make use of the woods, to be mindful that during & indeed after storms or inclement weather, trees or parts of trees can fall, so please take care. Please report any trees that you believe require attention. Your help is very much appreciated.

Garden Waste

A reminder that dumping garden waste onto MHHL land is a criminal offence and constitutes fly tipping. We have had several incidents recently and as a result are conducting boundary checks. We have a lovely village and ask that your garden waste is put into your green waste bins. Alternatively, you can dispose of your garden waste at the Foxhall Recycling Depot which is close by on Foxhall Road.

Firebreak Cutting Season

Just a gentle reminder that we are now in Firebreak cutting season until the end of February 2026 for those it applies to. As above, please ensure all waste is disposed of in green bins or at the local waste centre on Foxhall Road.

Volunteers

This is a call to any residents who would like to volunteer a bit of time. It is important that a good base of volunteers is maintained. For anyone interested it is a good opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes and have your say on a variety of issues that arise from time to time. Should you be interested please leave a voicemail on 01473 612207 or send an email to martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com

Contact and further Information

If there are any issues that you feel that need attention please do not hesitate to contact Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd by leaving a voicemail on 01473 612207 or by email to martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com or by post to Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd, PO Box 897, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 9PB.



Martlesham in Bloom

Foliage, flowers & a new Project!

During the winter months, when deciduous plants have bare stems and many herbaceous plants have died back leaving dry stems above ground, evergreens, those plants with leaves that stay on all year, have a chance to shine and take their turn in the spotlight.

Evergreen shrubs in particular provide year-round structure in outdoor spaces. It makes winter the ideal time to think about whether your garden or containers would benefit from an additional evergreen or two such as a conifer, holly, skimmia, camellia, pyracantha, cotoneaster, or aucuba. Some feature attractive flowers, coloured or interesting shaped leaves, and/or berries.

Wildlife also benefits from them by provide roosting spots for birds, offering some protection from the elements in winter, and nesting opportunities in spring. Many have berries appreciated by birds - imagine how much extra food there would be for our feathered friends if many of us added an additional plant with berries to our outdoor space!

It is also a month to enjoy bulbs in flower, such as crocus, snowdrops and winter aconites. A pot of these will brighten up a doorstep or patio plus provide sustenance for any early flying bees.

Martlesham in Bloom will be celebrating its 30th anniversary next year and we are going to put together a record of events, activities, groups and pictures of the parish during the year leading up to it, to celebrate the Parish of Martlesham. This document will provide a record of Martlesham for the Parish. Let us know if you have any ideas of what to include, such as events you are involved with, views or locations that you would like included.

For further information about Martlesham in Bloom please contact: martleshaminbloom@gmail.com or J Maureen Burrows (Secretary) on Tel. 01473 625196.

Bus update

The 800 Bus Service now runs between Rendlesham, Woodbridge, Martlesham P&R, Ipswich and the London Road P&R, Ipswich and back.

This service is available Monday to Friday (except public holidays with stops at Martlesham Park & Ride, Martlesham Heath, BT and Martlesham Black Tiles. On Saturdays the service stops at Martlesham Black Tiles and the Park & Ride.

The 64 Bus Service runs between Ipswich and Aldeburgh, Monday to Friday and can be accessed from the following stops in Martlesham/ Martlesham Heath:- Martlesham Police Headquarters, Black Tiles, Crown Point, Water Bridge, Martlesham Nursery.

Timetables are available on line at www.suffolkonboard.com.

If you do not have access to the internet, we will be happy to assist you in the Parish Council Office.



Bright Stars Activities sheets for preschool aged children.

Would you like to receive them?

At the moment we are sending out free activity sheets by email and/or post on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month during term time, for the children to enjoy doing with their family and/or carers, instead of meeting in St Michael's Church Centre, Martlesham Heath.

The activity sheets usually include a story, song and a craft or game about a theme or a story from the Bible. In January the activity sheets continued the Christmas story with the visit of the Wise Men to see Jesus.

If you have or look after a child/children of pre-school age, or slightly older and would like to receive our activity sheets, please give us a call on the telephone number below; we look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like further information, please contact: Sonya & Maureen Burrows
Tel.01473 625196



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Martlesham Brass - 'Making Music Fun in East Anglia'

Martlesham Brass would like to thank all those who contributed to our carolling collections over the Christmas period. In total we raised just over £1300 which will be shared amongst our nominated charities Ipswich Outreach, Just 42 and FIND (Families in Need Ipswich).

Our Main band have a concert on Saturday 7th February 2026 at 7.00pm in St Michael's Church Centre Martlesham Heath. This concert will include the full Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out film - accompanied live! Tickets are £5.00 (primary school age children free) and are available by calling 07544 962205 or at www.martleshambrass.co.uk. Make sure you get your tickets early, as we are expecting this concert to be a sell-out.

Looking forward into next month, our Intermediate band have a concert on Sunday 1st March at 2.00pm. Tickets are £5.00 (primary school age children free) and are available by calling 07544 962205 or at www.martleshambrass.co.uk.

If you feel you would like to learn to play a brass instrument, or if you already play and would be interested in joining us, please email join@martleshambrass.co.uk - please note we operate a waiting list for our beginners' band.

If you wish to hire the band to perform at an event, please contact our booking secretary by emailing booking@martleshambrass.co.uk

KESGRAVE LIBRARY NEWS

Sunday Crafts 10.00 – 12.00pm. – during

February, we will be making the following crafts:
Sunday 1st – Make an umbrella picture. What design will you create on yours?

Sunday 8th – On the 14th of February it is Valentine's Day. Make a Valentine's Day card for someone special.

Sunday 15th - The 17th of February is the Lunar New Year – the year of the horse. This week we are making lanterns to celebrate.

Sunday 22nd – Make a tractor picture. What colour will you choose for your tractor?

Activities are free. Parents must stay with under eights.

Word Play Sessions. Every Thursday Morning.

Trained staff run these free sessions.

Tot Rock – 9.45 – 10.15 a.m. – active songs and rhymes for pre-school children.

Baby Bounce – 10.45 – 11.15 a.m. – Gentle songs for you and your baby to enjoy.

No need to book. Please just pop along. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Friday Fun Time. Every Friday 9.45-10.15am.

Fun stories, rhymes, songs, and toys – this is a free activity. We hope to see you soon.

Lego Club. Every Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm. Free play with each child given a basket of Lego bricks to create designs of their choice. We hope to see you soon.

Stay and Play. Every Tuesday 10.00-11.00am.

Bring your little ones to our Stay & Play group for a relaxed and informal opportunity to meet other parents and carers, share experiences and chat. This session will be stopping over the summer whilst the Reading Quest is running. Our Stay & Play groups are a chance for parents to socialise and give their babies and young children a fun, interactive play session that engages their senses and helps their development. These sessions are suitable for under 5s.

This event is part of our Me, Myself and Baby perinatal support service. The aim of the project is to help reduce isolation and improve emotional wellbeing for new parent.

Morning Book Group – Tuesday 3rd February 10.00am. at the library. The group are discussing A Whole Life by Robert Seethaler.

Afternoon Book Group – Thursday 5th

February 2.45pm. The group are discussing this month, Disobedient by Elizabeth Freemantle.

Evening Book Group – Thursday 26th

February 7.00 -8.00pm. The group are currently reading Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin.

New Tuesday Book Group beginning Tuesday

10th February 10.00am. This group are currently reading The Word is Murder by Anthony Horowitz.

If you are interested in joining any of the above book groups, please contact library staff on 01473 851374. The library supplies copies of the titles being read.

Knit and Natter – From 2.30 p.m. This month there are sessions on Thursday 12th and 26th. You don't need to be able to knit, crochet or embroider to attend – just pop along for a natter. Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided.

New Baby Weighing Station – this facility will be available during our Word Play sessions every Thursday only:

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges – Did you know that Kesgrave Library is a drop off point for printer ink cartridges.

Printing and Photocopying – You can print and photocopy at your local library. We can print A4 colour and black and white, and photocopy in A4 and A3. We are also able to scan to email and enlarge and reduce documents.

Home Library Service – If you would like to access the library but are unable to visit us, Kesgrave runs three home library routes, where volunteers come out with a selection of books to your homes. To access this service, whether you are house bound, recovering from an operation, receiving treatment for an illness, or enquiring for a relative/friend or someone you care for, please ring the library 01473 851374 or log onto the Suffolk Community Libraries website and complete the online form.

Opening Hours -

Monday 9.00–12.00 noon

Tuesday 9.00–12.00 noon/2.30–5.00 pm

Wednesday 2.30 – 6.00 pm

Thursday 2.30 – 8.00 pm

Friday 9.00–12.00 noon/2.30–6.00 pm

Saturday 10.00-5.00 pm

Sunday 10.00-3.00 pm

Martlesham Conservation Group

Our next regular work party will take place on Sunday February 1st at 10am on the Martlesham Heath SSSI.

Our work area is likely to be at the northern end of the SSSI near the Megabash bonfire site used in previous years, opposite the end of the path that leads from the gate on Eagle Way. Please contact me directly for the exact location (the weather may well have a strong influence). We are likely to be removing gorse, broom, birch and oak scrub from an area of heather and grass. We are intending to hold a Megabash on the Martlesham Heath SSSI with the Greenways project team on Saturday 21st February from 10am to 3.30pm. Please consider joining us for scrub clearance (hopefully with a bonfire) and help conserve this important wildlife reserve.



View from Platform on Coastal path

MARTLESHAM WILDS UPDATE

We would like to thank all our incredible volunteers, who have worked so hard in 2025. We couldn't achieve half of what we do without their tireless work, and we are incredibly inspired and grateful.

We are really excited with the works which are progressing at Martlesham Wilds. With 2 viewing platforms now in place along the King Charles III Coastal Path, it is a fantastic time to go for a walk and take a moment to see if there are any resident wading birds on the new scrape water features. The path across the grassy marsh is still a little muddier than normal! We are raising this path, but it still needs to settle, and the grass needs to grow over, so please bear with us and continue to use the slight diversion to the side.

On Wednesday 11 February, 7-9pm, the Martlesham Wilds team will be hosting a talk 'Martlesham Wilds – Two years on', at St Michael and All Angels Church, Martlesham Heath. We hope to talk you through all the changes that have taken place over the last few years, share some of the survey results that we have collected so far and answer any questions you may have. We would absolutely love to see you there to hear our stories.

Wed 11 February 7-9pm St Michael and All Angels Church £5 per ticket

Wed 18 March 10am-12pm Walk: Be inspired by Martlesham Wilds

Tues 14 April 10am-12pm – Walk: Discover the Magic of Spring

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Booking for all walks and talks:
www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events
Enquiries:
martlesham.engagement@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Meet on the Heath - follow the path that leads from the gate opposite the windsock on Eagle Way.

February usually involves a big push in practical work as it will be the last opportunity to clear scrub before the bird nesting season begins in earnest in March and before reptiles emerge from winter refuges to become much more active..

As we have a good variety of bird species on the Heath SSSI and a good population of reptiles particularly adders, it is important to minimise disturbance during breeding periods (March to September).

Wildlife activity can increase during February. The chorus of birdsong will begin to increase through February firstly from species that we may consider to be native, and later into the

spring from migrant birds that arrive from more southerly regions including Africa.

On warmer days later in February reptiles such as adders can begin to emerge and bask in the stronger rays of sunshine. Our heathland is important for these animals. Please continue to provide water and food for birds in your garden. Your garden could make a real difference for the survival of some wildlife, don't be too tidy, you could have a hedgehog under a pile of leaves and branches.

Please get in touch with your wildlife observations or if you are interested in our work parties or surveys, via the phone number below or via our e-mail We could really do with some extra active members for this year so please let us know if you are willing to help.

Phil Smith 01473 625630
martleshamconservationgrp84@gmail.com

PORTAL WOODLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP

At our Christmas work morning we planted new saplings to build up the woodland boundary hedge, replace wind-blown trees, and continue our "Avenue of Oaks" ambition along the perimeter track.

We ended the session with festive music, food, and refreshments to celebrate our hard work during 2025.

Our next work morning is Sunday, 15th February, from 10:00 to noon, meeting at the Education Area.

New volunteers of all ages and abilities are always welcome; no experience is needed.

For further information, please contact us at pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com, phone 01473 612632, visit our website:

www.martleshamparishcouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/portal-woodlands-working-group,

or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging *Duncan Sweeting*.

Stephen Corley, Chairman

planting-oaks - Photo S Corley





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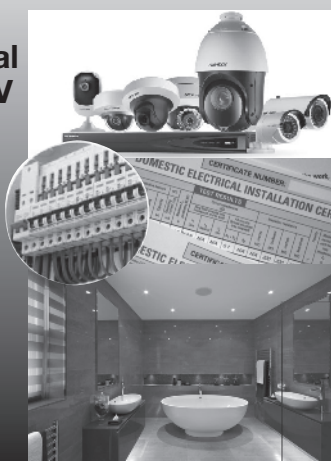
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MARTLESHAM CLIMATE ACTION

Running a Heat Pump – what I have learnt

Three years on and what have I learnt about running my central heating off a heat pump rather than a gas boiler?

Firstly, it is more than capable of supplying enough heat for my home despite all the misconceptions out there that you need underfloor heating or it won't work in freezing conditions (it does). What I would have liked is proper advice from my installer on how to run it most efficiently to minimise electricity consumption.

I was advised to just leave it running at a flow temperature of 45C (which is too high for most weather conditions) and use my room thermostat and thermostatic radiator valves as normal. This is the opposite of what I now know courtesy of YouTube videos from @HeatGeek and @RenewableHeatingHub on YouTube.

The advice for maximum efficiency is to run the system as 'open loop' using a 'weather compensation' curve rather than a thermostat and thermostatic radiator valves. I now have my room thermostat turned right up so it never shuts off the heat pump, and the radiator valves are all fully open creating the 'open loop system'.

The heating system now relies on an adjustable weather compensation curve to put the right amount of heat into my home. Heat pump systems are most efficient run constantly rather than on/off and with lower flow temperatures. I can tweak the curve up or down, but it basically adjusts the flow temperature around my heating system depending on the outside temperature. For example, today at an outside temperature of 1C, the current flow temperature is 40C. It will be lower when the outside temperature increases.

If you are thinking of helping to reduce your carbon footprint by switching from a fossil fuel

boiler to a heat pump (that you can think of as just an outside boiler running off electricity), one of the questions I would ask any installer I got a quote from is to explain to me how to run it most efficiently. If they don't mention weather compensation curves, then be wary. If you have questions or want to know more, get in touch!

Martlesham Repair and Climate Advice Hub

The next Repair Hubs are 10-12, on Saturday February 14th and Saturday March 14th in the Parish Room (old Felixstowe Rd near big Tescos) as usual. If you have items to repair, you can also take them to the Repair Shed off Sandy Lane. See <https://suffolkrepaired.org> I should also be there with information and leaflets on insulation, warm home grants, solar PV, heat pumps and other advice on how we can all do our bit to tackle an increasingly scary climate crisis.

Dave Green, co-chair Martlesham Climate Action (a Parish Council working group)

Website:

www.martleshamclimateaction.onesuffolk.net

E-mail:

martleshamclimateaction@btinternet.com

Bluesky: @martleshamca.bsky.social

BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

The new year season at the Block kicks off with a fund raising quiz on Friday 13th March (lucky for some!). This time we will be at Newbourne Village Hall. Tables for teams of up to 6 people can be booked in advance, via info@bawdseyradar.org.uk. Entry is £7 per person, payable on the night. More details are available on the website.

The Museum itself re-opens on Thursday 2nd April ready for Easter.

The Museum will then be open every Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until the end of October.

Further details are on our website:

www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

For more information contact

info@bawdseyradar.org.uk

or phone 07821 162879.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Woodbridge Wildlife Group

We have several talks coming up.

"Creating Resilient Landscapes on the Suffolk Coast" by Harry Tucker

Thursday 26th February at 7.30pm

in Woodbridge Community Hall

Admission £4 per person. Free for under 25s.

"Climate Change, Gardening and Us " by Clive Boase from Climate Change Gardening

Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm

in Woodbridge Community Hall

Admission £4 per person. Free for under 25s.

"BOSS - The future of Barn Owls " by Sally Nelson and Dave Pearsons from Barn Owl Support Suffolk

Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm

in Woodbridge Community Hall

Admission £4 per person. Free for under 25s.

St Valentine's Day Recital

On 14th February (St Valentine's Day) Woodbridge Methodist Church is privileged to host a recital entitled Romantic Piano Music.

The pianist is the renowned concert maestro Andrew Leach who will also explain the context of each piece.

The recital begins at 6.30pm, followed by light refreshments, to allow guests to enjoy the rest of the evening at their leisure.

There is no admission charge. Donations are requested for the refurbishments of the church's guest facilities.

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MARTLESHAM HEATH AVIATION SOCIETY

Chris Turland came along on the January 2nd chilly night to help the Martlesham Heath Aviation Society celebrate the New Year.

His talk "Women of the Air" was specially created for our evening – being (Chris said) the latest one in his long stream of well over 30 talks.

His talks are never short on detail – he enjoys digging out fascinating details and stories. For this one he identified about 120 possible lady candidates, going from the dawn of Aviation with balloonists and those flying very primitive machines to today's aircraft.

At the start the women found it very difficult to find anyone to teach them, with those who managed to do so often teaching other women.

They were engaged in the Great War – French woman, Marie Marvingt, was intending setting up a simple Air Ambulance service to transport French combatants to field hospitals. However the Deperdussin aircraft company she was going to use went bust. Later she actually flew in combat for the French – going on a bombing raid and having other adventures – being awarded the Croix De Guerre with Palm. Just one of 35 decorations she was awarded in her lifetime.

In early WW2 she recruited 500 nurses with piloting experience. If this was not enough – later in World War 2 she was involved with the French Resistance.

American Born Harriet Quimby was the first woman to gain a flying licence in America, being the first to fly solo across the Channel in 1912 in a borrowed Blurt monoplane

In the 20's and 30's women really did take to the sky. Bessie Coleman became the first black American Woman to be awarded a flying certificate on 15th June 1921 – a ¼ dollar coin was later struck recalling her achievements.

Many learned on ex-Service Aircraft – many making record breaking flights – often beating their male counterparts. These included Amelia Earhart, Amy Johnson, and others including New

Zealand born Jean Batten. All were trying to find ways to make their mark in the evolving air scene. Amelia was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932, setting up a fledgling Air Ambulance service in Britain.

Sadly, breaking records was often extremely risky. In 1937, Amelia tried to fly around the world in a Lockheed Model 10-E Electra, she and navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared over the Pacific Ocean near Howland Island.

English woman Amy Johnson was the first to fly solo from London to Australia and also achieved the London to Cape Town Record. She was another who could not sit still. In 1939 she flew as a civilian in a military training role, helping train Anti-Aircraft Gunners and Searchlight operators.

Jean Batten tried to break other records, gaining her "A" Flying licence in the 1930's. Like others she needed funds – even visiting Footmans in Ipswich in the 1930's to promote her deeds, and sign autographs.

The Hon Mrs Victor Bruce had a charmed life. Her initial thrills were racing Motorbikes, Cars (when she repeatedly was stopped and fined for speeding) and Speedboats – She learnt to fly very quickly, surviving crashes and forced landings – gaining the women's solo Round the World Record. Her attempt to claim the longest continuous airborne flight was the first to employ air-to-air inflight refuelling using a smaller biplane to feed her larger aircraft – this took place over Ipswich, using a garden hose to fill up Jerry cans in her larger 3 engined aircraft.

The Air Transport Auxiliary was created in World War 2, using civilian pilots to ferry aircraft from Factories and Maintenance Units to operational airfields. This organisation blossomed to have 1152 male pilots and 168 female, all delivering 309,000 planes through the war – all unarmed and often without radios.

The women were excellent – none experiencing crashes due to pilot errors. However fatalities did happen – the most famous was ATA pilot Amy Johnson, who disappeared over the Thames Estuary after running out of fuel after flying into thick fog.

Chris finished by mentioning current RAF women pilots. Julie Ann Gibson, became the first –

eventually flying HC 130 Hercules Transport, and Joe Salter who, in 2001 flew Panavia Tornado bomber on operations.

Chris ended the talk by saying that all the women he mentioned were amazing in one way or another – all proved that they had to excel themselves to be accepted in what was originally seen as "a man's world".

Dates for your 2026 diaries:

Friday 6th February. "The Flying Nightingales" by Kara Neave. The little-known story of the flying RAF Nurses of The Royal Air Force. Who they were and their key role after D-Day in 1944.

Friday March 6th Donald Mobley presents a two topic talk evening:

1) The History and Future of Drones

Drone technology has undergone a dramatic evolution from rudimentary pilotless aircraft to sophisticated autonomous systems transforming both civilian and military aviation. Once limited to basic surveillance, modern Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) now play critical roles in warfare, commerce, emergency response, and infrastructure. Donald looks back to the past (there were primitive drones in WW1) and what are they used for today..... and what is likely to be coming in the future – perhaps more interplanetary exploration!

2) "Reaching for the Stars" The Early days of N.A.S.A. (The National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

Many will think they recall or know about those days – but you may have remembered wrongly or missed bits! Come along and find out more.

All Meetings at The Martlesham Heath Community Centre, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham IP12 4PB starting at 7:30p.m.

Admission is £3 for members, £5 for non-members. Pay using Cash or Card on arrival.

For more information call 034 234 047 04 e-mail publicity@mhas.org.uk website: www.mhas.org.uk



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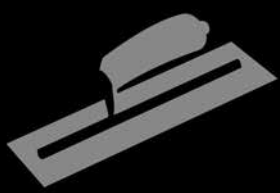


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How do you know what's right for you? You may enjoy a sense of discipline, pushing yourself hard, feeling good afterwards and seeing the benefits of your body changing. What if the time comes when you feel you need a change, though?

Yoga offers a pathway to wellbeing at whatever stage of life you are and whether you are a seasoned yogi or just thinking about getting started. By encouraging your body to move in a different way, a good yoga practice can complement your existing activities and give your body a chance to recover and release tension from the muscles you have been working. Yoga is a balance between achieving strength and mobility and sometimes it's more about letting go. Learning how to sense your body and release tension as you practise is the key. This is different from many of the other activities we do in our lives!

If you are looking for a change in 2026 or looking for something new to add to your fitness portfolio, maybe give yoga a try? I offer weekly classes in Melton and Martlesham Heath where you will feel supported and encouraged to get the most from your yoga practice. I also offer one to one yoga sessions at the Woodbridge Complementary Health Centre in Sandy Lane, Martlesham where I plan a yoga practice tailored to meet your needs. I'm also available for yoga one to one sessions online.

I'd love to meet you and find out how yoga can become part of your wellbeing plan! For more information please visit my website at www.izzyyoga.co.uk.

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MUSIC AT RUSHMERE

Thanks to the amazing generosity of those of you who attended the autumn season of concerts, we were able to send £2,500 to St Elizabeth Hospice! This year's programme of Sunday afternoon Spring Concerts at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere will be held in support of SMART (Suffolk Music & Arts Alumni Trust), and we hope that you will be just as generous. SMART exists to provide funding to help Suffolk's young people to access music and arts opportunities which are so vital in their lives in so many ways.

There is no charge for admission to these concerts, which begin at 3pm at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere, and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided and we invite voluntary contributions after each event.

MARTLESHAM LADIES CLUB

By the time you read this we will be well into 2026 and the festive season will be but a distant memory! I delivered all the gifts of toiletries and children's toys to the Lighthouse Organisation in Ipswich before Christmas, and they were delighted to receive them, so a big THANK YOU for your generosity.

Hopefully we were able to present the Air Ambulance volunteers with the money from our collections over the last year, at our first meeting in January (it is only January 3rd as I write this). We are looking forward to some interesting afternoons during February.

On February 12th we will hear all about The Bevan Boys from Barbara McElroy.

Two weeks later on 26th February Eric Punaks will entertain us with his Songs and Poems. Eric has been to us before and is always interesting. I do hope you will all come along to listen.

We are a friendly group and although we have reached capacity for membership you are more than welcome to visit to see if you like us!

For more information you can ring me, June Peck 07867525422

U3A EAST SUFFOLK: Walks, talks and so much more

A few weeks into the New Year, older people looking for new interests and to make new friends might like to look at what u3a East Suffolk offers.

By joining this lively and active membership group there's the chance to broaden horizons, meet new people, have interesting conversations and challenge body and mind!

Members enjoy walks, quizzes, dining out, visiting gardens or churches, discussing architecture, the arts or current affairs. Other groups focus on geology, photography, playing ukulele and speaking other European languages. There is also a varied programme of talks at venues in East Suffolk.

On February 5th at 10.30 at the Salvation Army Hall in Felixstowe the speaker is Mike Kwasniak, a theatre photographer for more than 40 years. On 5th March, it's the turn of Sally Sibley, talking about the Enigma of Sutton Hoo.

On 16th February at Woodbridge Football Club at 10.30 Paul Constantine tells the story of Suffolk estuaries. On 16th March, an ex-firefighter tells the story of his highly acclaimed published book about dealing with his personal grief at the loss of his wife to cancer.

On 12th February at 2.00 at Saxmundham's Fromus Centre, a talk entitled "Target Lowestoft 1942-5" and on 12th March "The A-Z of Curious Suffolk".

Visit Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre at 2pm on 23rd February to hear Rob Neal talk about the old songs of East Anglia, with a performance by The Harbour Lights Trio.

New members are welcome, with the expectation that they will contribute to the success of the group. Membership is on an annual basis and gives members access to all the u3a's many activities, subject to availability and at a very modest cost.

Full up to date information is available on the u3a website: www.u3aeastsuffolk.org.uk. For more information, please see the website or call the secretary on 0300 123 3913.

Flagship Hearing Care Practice to Launch in Kesgrave

All About Hearing, a leading provider of hearing care and earwax removal services in Suffolk, is delighted to announce the opening of a new flagship practice in Kesgrave. The purpose-built clinic, opening in January 2026, represents a major milestone for the independent, family-run business.

Founded in December 2022, All About Hearing is owned by award-winning audiologist Karen Finch and her son Matthew Coward. Karen brings over 20 years of experience to the role, having previously owned and run a highly successful hearing care company in the region.

Many local residents may already be familiar with All About Hearing through its established satellite clinics in Ipswich, Woodbridge, Framlingham and Woolpit, where the team provides hearing assessments, hearing aid fittings and specialist earwax removal.

Until now, however, the business has not had a permanent base of its own.

The new Kesgrave practice, located on Mead Drive near Kesgrave Library, will change that. Fully dedicated to hearing care, the clinic will allow the team to expand appointment availability, invest in advanced diagnostic equipment and offer care in a calm, purpose-designed environment.

Half-price opening offer

To celebrate the launch, All About Hearing is offering half-price hearing assessments and earwax removal appointments at the Kesgrave clinic for bookings made before 31 March 2026. The offer is ideal for anyone noticing changes in their hearing, struggling in noisy conversations or experiencing blocked or muffled ears.

To book, call 01473 946444 or visit www.allabouthearing.co.uk.

Thought for the month –

I guess, for many, the most important day in February is February 14, St Valentine's day - well, it is for the card manufacturers. No sooner is Christmas out of the way than the valentine cards appear and shops are decorated in red hearts and soppy clichés.

Although 14 February is the date of Valentine's death, it is also thought that it was an appropriate date for the celebration of love as mediaeval culture believed it was the date when birds mated! Could this be linked to the fact that he is also the patron saint of beekeepers? Whatever the reason it is a time to remember that, for Christians, we can acknowledge our all-loving God. Jesus reminds us of the importance of love and when he said 'I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you.'

He commissions us to respect and love one another, whatever our differences. What a difference it would make to the world in which we live if we took those words to heart.

Rev Margaret Rittman

Martlesham with Brightwell.



Neighbours from the avenue, and woodside Falcon park, seeing the new year in, hosted by Viv & David.

GIPPESWYK SINGERS

Gippeswyk Singers rehearse and give concerts at St Michael's Church, Martlesham Heath. We are a friendly chamber choir that enjoys singing in a variety of choral music genres including madrigals, carols, folksongs and spirituals, under the direction of Janette Ruocco accompanied by Sabine Sutton.

Our next concert, An Evening with Gabriel Fauré takes place on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm at St. Michael's Church, Martlesham Heath.

Music will include two of Fauré's popular and well-known works; Requiem in D minor and the Cantique de Jean Racine, both accompanied by The Dargason Ensemble. Tickets, £15 on the door, or £12 in advance are available from ticketsource.co.uk/gippeswyk-singers or by phoning 07510 612672. There is no admission charge to concerts for accompanied under-16s.

Choir rehearsals take place at St Michael's Church on Monday evenings. Whilst there is a membership fee for 26 year olds and above, there is no membership fee for singers aged 18 to 25.

Whatever your age, why not come along to a couple of rehearsals to try us out and find out about how we work? Please phone 07949 803594 for further information

BADMINTON IN KESGRAVE

Woodbridge Badminton Club is playing at Kesgrave High School for the winter season (September-April).

Adult club nights are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm, league matches are on Thursday evenings for those feeling competitive, and Junior club is on Monday nights.

The good news for the club, but not-so-good-news for prospective joiners is that at the time of writing the Junior club is full and the Adult club is also getting very busy. So, if you are interested in joining it is important to contact us via email jim.cavanagh955@gmail.com or ring Jim Cavanagh on 0780 323 2892 before you come along.

You may be able to come and try us out for a £6 guest fee, refundable against the annual membership if you join for the season.

We welcome a range of abilities but unfortunately not adult beginners. For latest details check out our website at <https://www.woodbridgebadminton.co.uk>.

MARTLESHAM COMMUNITY HALL AND RICHARDS ROOM

You can find out about our venues at our website - mchall.org.uk

You can check hire rates, if they're available and make an online booking request

Alternatively you can call our Booking Secretary on 01473 623 203. (Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 20:00).

If leaving a message, please speak slowly and repeat your telephone number.

THE MARTLESHAM HEATH PAVILION

Martlesham Heath Pavilion is a great location for children's parties at the weekend.

You can check availability and book the Pavilion online at:

martlesham.org.uk/pavilion

Alternatively please contact the booking secretary:

Email: bookingsecmhp@gmail.com

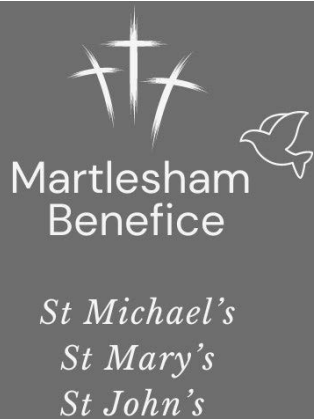
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MARTLESHAM VILLAGE HALL TOP STREET

Although we have regular bookings for evenings throughout the year, morning and afternoon sessions are available.

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For any queries or bookings please contact 01473 623655



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RECTOR: The Revd Toby Tate The Rectory, 17 Lark Rise, Martlesham Heath
Church phone 01473 612659 (rest day Friday)

CURATE: The Revd Rob Allinson rob@martleshamcofe.org.uk
07359 463312 (rest day Friday)

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Revd Christine Pinder 3 Mayfields, Martlesham Heath
07555 748345 (working days: Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday)

READERS: Marga Gibbs van Dijk 16 Deben Avenue, Martlesham 07837 587340
Carolyn Smith 74 Heathfield, Martlesham Heath

CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTER: Emma Allinson emma@martleshamcofe.org.uk
07359 339452

ELDERS: Simon Smith 11 Squires Lane, Martlesham Heath 01473 612410 (eve only)
Lynn Wilder Kenton, Nr Debenham 01728 860627

Services for the Month	Martlesham Heath St Michael's Martlesham St Mary's Brightwell St John's	Online on Facebook and YouTube. Search for 'Martlesham Benefice'
Sunday 1st February	St Michael's 9.30am Coffee and pastries 10am Breakfast Church St Mary's 11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 8th February	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion St John's 3pm BCP Evening Prayer	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 15th February	St Michael's 10am Morning Worship St Mary's 11am Holy Communion	10am Morning Worship 7pm Zoom Reflecting with God
Wednesday 18th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion	
Sunday 22nd February	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion St John's 3pm BCP Evening Prayer	10am Holy Communion
A warm welcome awaits you at all our services in our church buildings and online. It would be helpful if you could contact Toby by the Saturday before for Zoom codes.		
Midweek Services	Every Monday: 8.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Wednesday 11th and 25th February: 10am Holy Communion at St Michael's	

Prayer Diary Please include the following as an addition to your daily prayers:

February

- 5 for midwives and paediatric nurses
- 6 for all who are lonely
- 7 give thanks for moments of joy in busy times
- 8 that we may worship God wholeheartedly today
- 9 for pupils not coping well at school
- 10 for young people's safety on the internet
- 11 for the residents of Farriers Close
- 12 for staff at our GP surgery
- 13 for those living in fear of violence
- 14 give thanks for all those we love
- 15 give thanks for God's love for everyone
- 16 for school staff and pupils during half term week
- 17 Shrove Tuesday: for our Lent preparations
- 18 Ash Wednesday: thank God for his forgiveness
- 19 for the residents of Felixstowe Road

- 20 for those struggling with anxiety and depression
- 21 for our ministry team
- 22 may we come closer to God in Lent
- 23 for the work of Christian Aid
- 24 for businesses and charities in The Square
- 25 for the residents of Forest Lane
- 26 for foster parents and their families
- 27 those waiting for results of medical tests
- 28 for our district councillors

March

- 1 thank God for his saving work in Christ
- 2 those making difficult decisions this week
- 3 for those working to protect the world's wildlife
- 4 for the residents of Fynn Road

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