

Martlesham Monthly

JANUARY 2026 • Produced and Distributed by Volunteers

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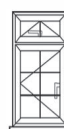


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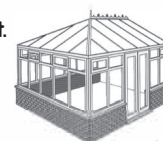


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Martlesham Monthly

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Please email contributions to

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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.

The Future of Martlesham Monthly

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 all have specific jobs to ensure the production of the magazine each month.

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 MH 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 Paul Firman on 07801 954101

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 13 Jan 2026

Thursdays (Route 3)

Play2Day Nursery Gloster Road 10.10 - 10.40,

Douglas Bader: 10.50 - 11.50

Thu 29 Jan 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

Happy New Year to the residents & businesses of Martlesham

2025 was another busy year for the Parish Council, with a full complement of Council Officers staffing the Parish Council Office, we have managed to complete and commence some interesting projects. These include:- implementation of an Emergency Plan which will be activated in response to a request from the Local Authority or Emergency Services; drafting & approval of our Biodiversity Policy; completion of the first phase of the Nature for us All Project at Kronji's piece (Recreation Ground) ; setting up of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and plans are in place and being actioned for refurbishment of the Diamond Jubilee Bike Trails, resurfacing of Walk Farm Woods Carpark and to installation of a purpose built ball play Muga at the Recreation Ground.

Become a Councillor

Join Martlesham Parish Council!

Martlesham is a growing community, and we need passionate people to represent the interests of our residents. You don't need any special qualifications, just a passion for your community and a willingness to listen, learn and contribute.

A councillor is expected to commit a minimum of 2 hours per month, but there are plenty of opportunities to get more involved if you are able to.

Local councils give communities a voice, and we need you to help shape change for the benefit of our local area.

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.

Project update

Speed Watch & SID Groups

We have an extremely successful group of volunteers who spend their valuable time, come rain or shine, bringing speed awareness to the streets of Martlesham. We have 1 x moveable SID (Speed indicator detector) which is strategically placed in certain locations throughout Martlesham by our SID Team and 2 x fixed SID currently on Main Road. Together with our Speedwatch Team who manage strategic locations set by the Norfolk & Suffolk Community Speedwatch Team. The aim of all this is to encourage drivers to reduce their speed. The information extracted from these activities is sent to Norfolk & Suffolk Community Speedwatch Team who act upon the information provided to them.

Neighbourhood Watch

Join us for coffee and biscuits at the Pavilion on the 22nd January between 11am and 12pm, as we warmly welcome new members to our scheme, and enjoy a special presentation from the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our community to connect, discuss local issues and share ideas for what you would like our scheme to achieve.

Neighbourhood Plan

Help Shape Martlesham's Future!
Your voice. Your village. Your say.

Martlesham's Neighbourhood Plan is being updated to help our community stay in control of how our area grows.

Why it matters:

- Have an input as to where new homes go.
- Influence housing type and design.
- Ensure roads, green spaces, and local facilities grow with our community and continue to meet our needs.

Neighbourhood planning is a proactive, community-led approach. It doesn't block development, but it ensures that future development reflects the wants and needs of local people.

If you are interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you. Anyone can take part, but we are especially keen to hear from local business owners and those with technical expertise — including urban planners, architects, transport and infrastructure specialists, and legal or policy advisors.

Shape Martlesham's future — get in touch.

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Our first meetings in the New Year are: -
Full Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 7th January

Recreation & Amenities Committee – Wednesday 14th January

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.

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).

Pop Up Shop

**St Michael & All Angels Church
The Green, Martlesham Heath**

**Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
11.30am- 12pm**

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Come and fill one of our carrier bags for £2

Jan 11 & 25 2026

February 8 & 22

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



Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

The directors and volunteers of MHHL wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. With the various village greens, the woods and the heathlands, Martlesham Heath is a beautiful place to live. A big thank you to all MHHL residents for your support without which the ongoing maintenance could not be completed.

Tree Survey by Haydens

In compliance with the NTSG guidance, MHHL inspects all the trees that it owns or has maintenance responsibility for on a cyclical and systematic basis. Competent and qualified arboriculturalists undertake the systematic inspections and report their findings to MHHL, including the specification

and priority of any works required. Haydens are busy finalising their recent survey and then any suspect/dangerous trees will be trimmed or where necessary cut down. It is critical that this work is continued to ensure that the woods remain safe for all concerned. A lot of the trees in the woods are now getting old and it is essential that everyone reports any tree damage to our email address or voicemail address or with a whatthree words location so that appropriate action can be taken. If you spot any trees that look dangerous, please leave your telephone number and we will ring you back. MHHL contact information is available below and on public signs.

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 as this is becoming ridiculous. 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.

Car Parking Spaces

MHHL has numerous car parking spaces in the village. Unfortunately, some cars are being parked outside the marked areas which causes obstruction. This is needless and we ask that thought and consideration is given when parking in these areas. Conditions on using the spaces are on our website at www.mhhl.co.uk <http://www.mhhl.co.uk>.

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 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 martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com or by post to Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd, PO Box 897, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 9PB.



Martlesham in Bloom

Colours outside in January

Some shrubs will be flowering now in winter and early bulbs coming up, such as snowdrops and, probably near the end of the month, winter aconites. These provide enjoyment for us and food for any early insects that are out and about.

If you have any spring flowering bulbs that you have not yet planted, and are not soft and squishy (which means they have rotted), pot them up or get them in the ground now because they will probably still flower, just later than they would have done.

Do you have an empty outdoor container that you have used for summer bedding? If so, you can use it to add cheerful colour to your garden or outdoor space now. You can buy some spring flowering bulbs and a variety of plants already potted and growing in small pots which are ideal for arranging and planting in containers. Some small perennial plants and shrubs could stay in your container even after the spring flowers have gone over and have annual bedding put around them in the summer. If they get too big for a container they can be planted out in the autumn in the garden.

After any pots of bulbs have finished flowering this spring, such as daffodils, scilla and crocus, whether you have had them in the house, conservatory or outside, leave them in their pots and give them a feed of fertilizer to build up the bulbs. You can then either leave them in the pots outside or plant them in the garden, either way you should get some flowers next year.

Looking forward to a good gardening year.

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



Celebration Trees within the Parish

Pedunculate (English) Oak - *Quercus robur*

This oak is located between Martlesham Parish Room and Felixstowe Road and was planted in memoriam of Peter Izzard, Martlesham Parish Councillor 1999 -2001 and 2006 – 2007.

Peter was instrumental in helping to save Portal Woodlands from development and establishing the Portal Woodlands Conservation Group which is still flourishing today.

This species of oak is one of two native oaks found in the UK and can support more than 2000 different species of wildlife.

According to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, it's hardwood timber has been prized for thousands of years to make ships, buildings, furniture and floors and is still used today.



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 Michaels 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. Before Christmas the activity sheets, included decorations to make, and were about the Christmas story following Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the birth of 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.

Happy New Year to you all from Bright Stars.

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

COUNTY MUSIC GROUPS NEWS

Do you know a young musician who would like to join a European tour in summer 2026, with a top-class county youth orchestra or wind band? The opportunity is here!

Places are currently available in Suffolk Youth Orchestra (SYO), the premier county music group in Suffolk; who will tour to stunning Sweden, and also Suffolk Youth Wind Band (SYWB), who are off to Palencia in sunny Spain! With a high level, bespoke programme, SYO & SYWB membership offers rehearsals and exciting performance opportunities throughout the year, performing at prestigious venues including in Europe and coaching by SCMS's professional team of tutors.

If you'd like to be a part of this exciting musical adventure and join SYO or SYWB, you can sign up on our website: <https://suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part/county-music-groups/>



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Martlesham Brass - 'Making Music Fun in East Anglia'

Martlesham Brass would like to wish you all a Happy & Healthy New Year.

We hope that you were able to hear Martlesham Brass over the Christmas period - our players were raising funds for our nominated charities, which were Ipswich Outreach, Just 42 and FIND (Families in Need Ipswich). We will report the amount raised next month.

Looking forward into next month, 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 available at 07544 962205 or at www.martleshambrass.co.uk. Make sure you get your tickets early!

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 –

January 2026

Happy New Year. Why not make your new year's resolution to join the library? All you need is some ID with your name and address, and we can set up a library card while you wait! We have a wide selection of books and can also order in, free of charge, any titles you would like, which we don't currently have on our shelves. This includes newly published titles.

Sunday Crafts 10.00 – 12.00 p.m. – during January, we will be making the following crafts:

Sunday 4th – This week we are making spiral snowmen – let's hope we see some snow soon!

Sunday 11th – Create a snow globe. What scene will you depict in your globe?

Sunday 18th – The 20th of January is National Penguin Day – make your own penguin, to celebrate.

Sunday 25th – Design your own bobble hat. What colour will you choose?

Activities are free. Parents must stay with under eights.

Word Play Sessions – Every Thursday

Morning. Trained staff run these free sessions.

No session on Thursday 1st January.

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 – 10.15

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

Lego Club – Every Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 p.m.

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.

New Tuesday Book Group beginning Tuesday 13th January 10.00 a.m. This group are currently reading *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz.

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

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

Menopause and Me Support Group – Thursday 8th January 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. This peer led support group is run by staff and Jen Evans, who is a menopause advisor. All sessions will comply with both NHS and NICE guidelines; and are for anyone who is affected by the menopause and its symptoms. This month's session is a general support group – why not pop along for a chat and support from those attending? Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be provided.

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges – Did you know that Kesgrave Library is a drop off point for printer ink cartridges, whether used or out of date (apart from laser printer cartridges). Every donation of a used cartridge helps the library to raise funds.

Printing and Photocopying – You can print and photocopy at your local library. We can print A4 colour and black and white, as well as 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

Many thanks to all those who came along to our AGM on Thursday 27th November on Zoom.

The Chairman reviewed the activities of the group over the last year and expressed his concerns about the proposed new development from Bloor Homes and its potential impact on the Martlesham Heath SSSI.

The treasurer reviewed the finances of the group, which are in a good position. An especial thanks goes to Martlesham Scouts for their generous donation resulting from the Open Gardens event (so also our thanks to all those who opened their gardens and those who came along and donated).

The existing committee was re-elected for the forthcoming year and subscriptions were held at the current level.

After the formal business had taken place, some of the wildlife surveys that had been undertaken by the group were discussed in more detail, including butterflies, and birds in the wood to the south of the green, and on the SSSI.

In 2025 the number of Silver Studded Blue butterflies that were recorded on the Martlesham Heath SSSI was still very low but slightly increased over the previous year.. Hopefully our practical efforts and those from Greenways over the last few years will help to raise the numbers next year. Our thanks go again to Martlesham Parish Council for continuing to support our work and to all those

who have supported us over the year, particularly our band of enthusiastic volunteers. However we really could do with more volunteers on the ground. Please contact me if you feel you may be able to help.

Maybe you feel unable to provide practical help but would be willing to support us through membership or by providing a donation to the Group ? Please contact us for more details. We have a modest set of subscriptions of £2.50 per individual membership and £3 per family membership, which are now due for the current year.

Our first work party of the new year will take place on Sunday January 4th at 10am on the Martlesham Heath SSSI. Our work area is likely to be located not far from the interpretive signboard between Heathfield and The Oaks. Please contact me directly for the exact location (the weather may well have an influence). We are likely to be removing gorse, birch and oak scrub from an area of heather

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

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 to start the New Year.

Phil Smith 01473 625630
martleshamconservationgrp84@gmail.com

PORTAL WOODLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP

In November we surveyed our bird boxes and were pleased to find that over 70% had been used for nesting. We also cleared leaves from the path by the fuel tanks.

We wish all our Volunteers, supporters and visitors a happy, healthy and nature-filled 2026!

Our next work morning is Saturday, 17th January, 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

MARTLESHAM WILDS

The Martlesham Wilds team would like to thank all our dedicated volunteers and supporters for everything they have done over the last few years – the community that has been created is incredible and there is no way that we would have achieved as much as we have done, without all of your help. Thank you!

If you would like to come and find out about everything that has been going on at the new nature reserve, we would love to see you, either at any of our volunteer led walks, or at our talk on Wednesday 11 February, at St Michael and All Angels Church, where the Martlesham Wilds Warden and Wilder Community Officer, along with Volunteers, will be sharing stories and pictures of all the exciting things going on, and exploring the ideas of Wildlife Corridors around Martlesham Wilds.

Thursday 1 January 10.30am-12.30pm

Walk: Be Inspired by Martlesham Wilds on New Year's Day!

Wed 11 February 7-9pm St Michael and All Angels Church

Talk: Martlesham Wilds – Two years on

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

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

You can go for a walk at Martlesham Wilds at any time, all our nature reserves are free to enter. If you do, you may notice the path across the grassy marsh is a little muddier than normal! We are raising this path, but it needs to settle, and the grass needs to grow over, so please bear with us use the slight diversion to the side. We are also excited to announce that our new viewing platform is in place along the King Charles III Coastal Path. We would love to encourage walkers to explore this and enjoy the views across the marshes and the new scrapes and water features for the wading birds. They won't disappoint.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Woodbridge Wildlife Group

We have several talks coming up.

"Wildlife in East Anglia" by Barbara Meyer, Wildlife Photographer

Thursday 15th January at 7.30pm
in Woodbridge Community Hall
Admission £4 per person. Free for under 25s.

"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.



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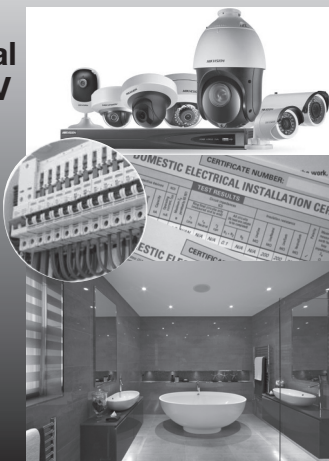
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MARTLESHAM CLIMATE ACTION

Smart meters – they are your friend!

Energy costs on your mind? Some thoughts on smart meters, solar and home batteries...

If you don't have a smart meter, you could be missing out on savings. Smart meters record imported and exported energy at 30-minute intervals and automatically transmit this information to the energy supplier. This enables suppliers to offer a variety of "smart" time of day and dynamic tariffs to suit different needs, including for electric car charging and heat pump users. Suppliers also declare cheap or free periods at various times to encourage load-shifting. Suppliers' websites and apps make it easy to keep track of consumption and costs.

If you have a solar PV system installed after April 2019, are you earning credit for surplus solar you export to the grid? We have spoken to people who were giving away energy for free! You may be exporting 50% or more of solar generation that you can't immediately consume, especially if you don't have a battery to store and use the surplus. To receive export credit, you must set up a Smart Energy Generation (SEG) tariff with an energy supplier. You'll need a smart meter, from which export data is used by the supplier to calculate your credit. Export tariffs range from a few pence per unit (kWh) to 15p, or more, depending on supplier. You don't have to have import and export tariffs with the same supplier, but the export rate is usually better if you do. Solar generation reduces your grid energy use and costs, but the credit from export can also offset some or all the daily standing charges.

Do you have a solar PV system with a battery? Is it set up to charge from the grid during an off-peak period (if your system supports this)? In winter, solar generation is much reduced compared with the summer, so topping up the battery with some off-peak grid energy minimises peak-rate consumption. In November 2025, off-peak grid energy via the battery provided 55% of our house consumption, all of which would otherwise have been at peak-rate. Our off-peak energy cost per kWh using an EV tariff is reduced by 68% compared with a standard-rate tariff. Economy7 off-peak would save 50%. Our battery has sufficient power output and storage capacity to cope with most daily house demand, but a smaller battery will still give useful savings, especially if it can supply some or all the tea-time/ early evening demand. Any shortfall in output compared with house demand will be supplemented by some grid consumption. Note that multi-rate tariffs have a slightly higher peak-rate unit cost and possibly higher daily charge than a standard single-rate tariff.

For more information, visit our website:
<https://martleshamclimateaction.onesuffolk.net/> or
email us at:
martleshamclimateaction@btinternet.com

Phil Bull

A sobering assessment of the UK's (unreadiness) for the effects of climate change

If you are in any doubt about the seriousness of the multiple threats we face in this country as climate change worsens, please look at the following YouTube clip from the 'Just Have a Think' channel on the recent UK National Emergency Briefing. If you feel able, sign the open letter too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8sa7uh192r0>

Martlesham Repair and Climate Advice Hub

The next Repair Hub is 10-12, on Saturday February 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://suffolkrepairshed.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 tackle an increasingly scary climate crisis.

Calling tenors and basses! Come and Sing Away from the Roll of the Sea.

Bring your own lunch and learn a song in a day. The event is open to all including experienced singers and those who simply love to sing. Away from the Roll of the Sea is a beautiful song by Alister MacGillivray and has been skilfully arranged by Diane Loomer. It will be the focus of the day. Materials will be supplied on booking. There's no need to prepare in advance; just bring your passion for music..

Date Saturday 7th March from 10am to 3pm

Workshop tickets are £20 including booking fee, sheet music and tea/coffee

Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/comeandsing-away-from-the-roll-of-the-sea

Location is Bucklesham Village Hall, Ipswich, IP10 0DR

Car parking is on-site and available on the road

Please bring a packed lunch

Musical Director : Carolyn Goates
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MARTLESHAM HEATH AVIATION SOCIETY

Readers may recall that, in the November issue, on the front cover, The Editors offered to display a picture of a painting of St Francis – painted on the front of a Kesgrave (Sinks Pit) Pump House. This was painted by an American Airman based at RAF Martlesham Heath towards the end of World War 2. The painting badly needs renovating..... I am pleased to report that we definitely have 2 sign writers who have expressed an interest in doing the work, with another possible candidate in the wings. I suppose I should say – watch this space!

The Martlesham Heath Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November, organised again by the Society, went off very smoothly, with good public attendance in reasonable weather.

This year the Parade Marshall and Organiser was our Society Treasurer, Pat Lisseman. This is not an easy task – but Pat, supported by her husband Ian, and Martyn Cook, carried out the task with aplomb.

Pat thanks others who helped in some way. They are Tesco – Flowers, Redwood – with their Annual donation towards costs. Andy Hunt - who always helps us with electrics etc, Allan Stimson - for setting up and running the sound system. Martlesham Brass for their impeccable music. Tom Penso and the Suffolk Army Cadet force - Kesgrave Parachute Regiment. Local Scouts, with a special mention to Reverend Rob Allinson and of course our Piper.

Some of the Flowers mentioned above were reused when the Pupils and Staff at Gorseland School walked to the front of the Control Tower, for a shortened Service on the morning of Tuesday 11th November.

Onto the Society itself..... Martyn Cook, Society Chairman for many years, has handed the baton over to Maggie Aggis – who also has a wealth of experience. She had previously led the Wattisham Airfield Museum – we are certainly in good hands. Martlesham resident Terry Wright is another new Trustee, taking on the role of Control Tower Museum Manager.

At our 5th December meeting, the Trustees presented Martyn Cook with an engraved Tankard - in recognition of his hard work over the decades since the late 1970's. Aptly the tankard was engraved with a Spitfire – so – we also gave him some Spitfire Ale – so he could properly christen the tankard. Well done and Thanks Martyn.

At our 5th December Meeting we were entertained (that is the only way to describe the talk) by Richard Mann, who came all the way from Lowestoft with his wife Jill. The highly illustrated talk was called "Up in the Air" – looking at strange happenings and even stranger aircraft that have been built since the first powered flight by the Wright brothers in 1903. Richard and Jill do these talks to raise money for The Mission Aviation Fellowship – flying relief to countries abroad that are in conditions far worse than ours.

So what is now ahead in 2026?

On Friday 2nd January, we welcome Chris Turland – with another new talk "Women In The Air Through The 20th Century" - Women's roles in Aviation.

Another date for your new diary - on Friday February 6th Kara Neave comes along and tells us all about "Flying Nightingales" – more about this next month.

Lastly, we have now booked the Community Hall for the afternoon of Saturday 11th April for another film

afternoon. More details as we near that date.

Website: www.mhas.org.uk

Tickets: No need to book - just turn up and pay at the door, by Cash or Card.

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DEBEN ROTARY NEWS

The Rotary Club of Woodbridge Deben has donated over 150 Dictionaries 4Life to four schools in Martlesham, Martlesham Heath, Kesgrave and Waldringfield. The D4Ls are well illustrated encyclopedia dictionaries which will be used in classroom settings to help with Key Stage2 literacy skills. The head teacher of Cedarwood Primary School, Mrs.Tina Shute, said " The dictionaries have been gratefully received. We are looking forward to them being well used in the classrooms" The photo shows some grateful Cedarwood pupils with Rotarian Monty Guest and the head teacher.

By the time you read this the festive season will be nearly over and the club's annual sleigh runs and candle lit carol concert will have taken place. Once again we thank the people of Woodbridge and the surrounding area for their support of these events.



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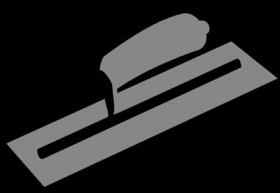


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U3A EAST SUFFOLK: Make a great start to 2026

The New Year has arrived, but with the days short and weather often gloomy, keeping active can be a real boost

U3a East Suffolk suggests a New Year tonic for older, retired or semi-retired folks. This active membership group offers the chance to broaden horizons, meet new people, have interesting conversations and challenge body and mind!

Members enjoy walks, quizzes, dining out, visiting gardens, discussing architecture, the arts or current affairs. Others 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 January 8th at 10.30, there's a talk about Horatio Nelson, High Steward of Ipswich, from maritime historian, Cathy Shelbourne, at the Salvation Army Hall in Felixstowe. On February 5th the speaker is Mike Kwasniak, theatre photographer for more than 40 years.

On the 19th January at Woodbridge Football Club at 10.30 there's a light-hearted look at the life of Winston Churchill.

On the 8th January at 2.00 at Saxmundham's Fromus Centre, a talk about one woman's creative journey, and on 12th February, one entitled "Target Lowestoft 1942-5".

Or visit Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre at 2pm on 26th January to hear from Robert Nurden about his cowboy/hobo/pastor grandfather, Rev. Stanley P James.

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.

Martlesham Brass are looking for secure storage for a trailer, which fits in a standard sized domestic garage.

Ideally the storage will be in Martlesham or Martlesham Heath. Access to the trailer will be needed at any time, particularly every Friday evening and at weekends.

If you think you could help, please contact
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MARTLESHAM LADIES CLUB



I wish you a Happy New Year and trust you all had a peaceful Christmas with friends and relations.

At our well attended November meetings, we enjoyed the fashions from "Cake and Catwalk". Members went home with new ideas, if not purchases!

Our "East End Gangs" talk was by a forensic scientist. He was attached to the police force in the East End of London during the "reign" of the Kray brothers. We heard about all sorts of ghastly finds and experiences, quite horrifying - but there was a good sense of humour in the telling of the tales.

December began with Jenny showing us how to make a Christmas Fairy and our last meeting this year was the "Signing Choir" who entertained us with Christmas songs. We collected handbags filled with toiletries, etc. as well as children's toys, for the Ipswich Lighthouse organisation, which we will deliver before Christmas.

We start again on 12th January 2026 with a demonstration of CPR by the Air Ambulance. Hopefully we will present them with a cheque at this meeting - the results of our charity collections through 2025. We have a varied programme running fortnightly until June 18th, including Medical Detection Dogs, Typewriter History, and the Ipswich Sculptor, Sean Hedges Quinn, will be with us in May.

Our thanks to Sharyn for her efforts in organising the programme

More details from myself. June 07867525422

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.

Rehearsals for our next concert start in January and 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.

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, his 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.



Thought for the month –

As this lands on your doormat we will all be celebrating the New Year. Christmas trees and other decorations will be coming down as we prepare to head into another year and all that it will bring. For some that means excitement, dreams they hope to fulfil and adventures to undertake. For others it means difficulties and even dread, as they are faced with challenges that seem overwhelming.

Sometimes, as we approach a new year, I find it helpful to choose a bible passage that I will carry through the year with me. Can I suggest a passage from Matthew's gospel, chapter 6, as a good one. There is both comfort and challenge within it.

The comfort is a reminder that whatever happens we don't need to worry. Look at the way God cares for the flowers of the field, decked out in all their glory. How much more does God care about each of us than he does for the flowers, says Jesus. Our Heavenly Father knows us and knows the things we need.

And at the same time there is a challenge. Seek God, and His ways of doing things as your number one priority and God will take care of everything else. Or, as the Message Bible puts it, "Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met."

So, as we begin this new year can I, on behalf of the church in Martlesham, wish you a peaceful New Year, with the peace of Jesus that passes all understanding.

Revd Christine Pinder
Benefice of Martlesham with Brightwell

A HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed to the shoebox collection in the Runway coffee shop this Christmas and the wonderful generosity you've shown.

We collected a grand total of 122 shoeboxes, which have been sent, together with others from our area to places where they are needed.

I think this is a record for Martlesham, so thank you so much to individuals, to groups, and to schools for all your donations.

It's heart-warming to think of all those children opening their boxes, knowing that they are not forgotten, but that people across the world are thinking about them at Christmas time. Thank you.

Revd Christine Pinder

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 already 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>.

USED STAMPS APPEAL FOR ST ELIZABETH HOSPICE, IPSWICH

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who saved their used stamps over Christmas and posted them through my letter box. I've now got several carrier bags full of stamps ready to take to the hospice in Foxhall Road, Ipswich.

The stamps will be sorted by volunteers and sold online to help raise valuable funds.

Please continue to collect stamps throughout the coming year (please leave 1cm of paper around the stamps to prevent damage to the perforations) and drop them through my letterbox. Other drop-off points are the hospice shop on Gloster Road, Martlesham Heath, any of the other local hospice shops, or the library in Kesgrave if that's easier.

The hospice also collects old British and foreign coins and notes, so if you're having a sort-out and find some unwanted pesetas, cents or farthings perhaps consider popping them through my door too.

Thank you all for your continued support and please keep up the great work!

Bev Read
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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

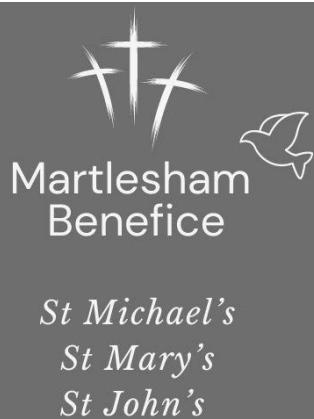
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MARTLESHAM VILLAGE HALL TOP STREET

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

The hall is ideal for small groups who need to meet at a reasonable cost, discount for residents of Martlesham.

For any queries or bookings please contact 01473 623655



THE CHURCH IN MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

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 07837587340
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)
Liz Welham 23 Deben Avenue, Martlesham Heath 01473 622709
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'
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Sunday 4th January	St Michael's 9.30am Coffee and pastries 10am Breakfast Church St Mary's 11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 11th January	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion St John's 3pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 18th January	St Michael's 10am Morning Worship St Mary's 11am Holy Communion	10am Morning Worship 7pm Zoom Reflecting with God
Sunday 25th January	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion St John's 3pm BCP Evensong	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 14th and 28th January: 10am Holy Communion at St Michael's
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Prayer Diary Please include the following as an addition to your daily prayers:

January

- 5 for all returning to work today
- 6 The Epiphany: give thanks that Jesus came for all
- 7 the residents of Denham Court
- 8 volunteers and guests at the Runway today
- 9 those who volunteer at FIND
- 10 those reading the Bible in a year
- 11 give thanks for the Baptism of Jesus**
- 12 for all our home group members
- 13 for the work of Tools with a Mission
- 14 the residents of Digby Close
- 15 for those at Toddler Group this morning
- 16 for time to pause and be still today
- 17 for the recently bereaved
- 18 for all people of faith**
- 19 those at Morning Prayer at St Mary's today
- 20 Home Start volunteers and the families they help
- 21 the residents of Dukes Meadow

- 22 those in a caring role for relatives
- 23 all at Friends on Friday today
- 24 for teachers and educators
- 25 that we may follow Jesus more closely**
- 26 for good times at Women Together
- 27 for all victims of hate and oppression
- 28 the residents of Dukes Park
- 29 those being cared for by St Elizabeth Hospice
- 30 those who suffer from destructive addiction
- 31 for protection for emergency workers

February

- 1 that we may be a light to others**
- 2 give thanks for the diversity of creation
- 3 all researching treatments for cancer
- 4 the residents of Elm Close

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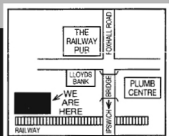
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