

Martlesham Monthly

MAY 2026 • Produced and Distributed by Volunteers

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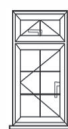
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MOT TESTING STATION

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-5.30PM

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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

Martlesham Monthly The Future

We are so pleased to tell you that a new team of volunteers have come forward and saved Martlesham Monthly from closure. The present editorial team are so pleased to see a new enthusiastic team take the magazine into a new era. THANK YOU all for coming forward.

There will be more news in the coming months about the new Editorial Team.

Martlesham Monthly

Suffolk County Council Elections

Suffolk County Council elections are taking place on Thursday, 7 May 2026.

Candidates are:

James Harding - Local Conservatives

Patti Mulcahy - Reform UK

Eamonn O'Nolan - Green Party

Mark Packard - Liberal Democrat

Simon Whitney - Labour Party

The poll will be taken on Thursday, 7th May 2026 between the hours of 7am and 10pm

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 5 May 2026

Tue 2 Jun 2026

Tue 30 Jun 2026

Thursdays (Route 3)

Play2Day Nursery Gloster Road 10.10 - 10.40,

Douglas Bader: 10.50 - 11.50

Thu 21 May 2026

Thu 18 Jun 2026

Thu 16 Jul 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

Pending Sale of Portal Woodlands, Martlesham Heath

The Parish Council would like to thank members of the community for their support in respect of the pending sale of Portal Woodlands, Martlesham.

There was a large attendance at the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st April in the Richards Room where attendees were supportive and updated on action taken to date by the Parish Council.

We can confirm that we have submitted a nomination for Portal Woodlands to be listed as an Asset of Community Value.

If successful this will amount to Portal Woodlands being withdrawn from sale for a period of 6 months, allowing time for the Parish Council to undertake further investigation into the potential purchase of the land for continued use by the Community.

We are hoping that this listing will be determined before the Auction which is scheduled for the 23rd April 2026. I

f you would like to receive further updates in respect of this please contact enquiries@martleshamcouncil.org.uk and we will add you to our mailing list (this will be used solely for the purpose of updates with regards to Portal Woodlands).

Photo - spring scene Portal Woods - S Corley



Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

DETC – Wednesday 15th April

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Wednesday 6th May

Recreation & Amenities Committee – Wednesday 13th May

Finance & General-Purpose Committee – Wednesday 27th May

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 3rd June

All meetings are held in the Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, IP12 4PB and are open to the Public (please check our website/noticeboards before attending).

Contacting the Parish Council

Telephone 01473 612632, Email - enquiries@martleshamcouncil.org.uk, Social Media Platforms -Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn. Web enquiries - www.martleshamcouncil.org.uk



Small-leaved Lime

Tilia cordata

Located between Martlesham Parish Room and the edge of Martlesham Common is this Small-leaved Lime, planted in February 2012 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. It was sponsored by Martlesham in Bloom and supporters, whose names are listed on the plaque under the tree.

The Small-leaved lime is a tree native to Great Britain. It was known as the 'tree of a thousand uses' in Roman times. Over the centuries its uses have included wood turning, carving, making piano and organ keys, and woven rope made from the inner bark. Lime honey is also highly prized (Trees of Britain and Ireland by Jon Stokes, The Tree Council).

Martlesham Heath Control Tower Museum

**opens
Every Sunday Afternoon**

**from 2:00p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
until 25th October.**

**Entry is FREE. It is behind
Parkers Place, off Eagle Way,
Martlesham Heath, IP5 3UZ**

**All enquiries and pre-booked visits
at other times,
please call 07 7077 11104**

Martlesham Heath Householders Limited

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

Household Waste Disposal

MHHL does conduct boundary checks to ensure that waste or household items are not placed or left on MHHL land. We would ask all householders to check the bottom of their gardens and if any such items are outside your boundary to please remove them as soon as possible. This will save us time having to write and take any further action. Thank you in anticipation.

Tree Policy

Martlesham Heath Householders Limited (MHHL) has four primary aims with regards to the management and maintenance of its tree stock as follows: 1. Reduce, and maintain at as lower level as reasonably possible, the risk from the existing tree stock to persons and property 2. Preserve the existing tree stock 3. Enhance the existing tree stock 4. Comply with legal obligations. Intervention will only be undertaken when there is a genuine and justifiable benefit to be gained from an arboricultural perspective that complies with one or more of these four primary aims.

Gorse Management

Our gorse management programme has entered a further phase on the area next to The Oaks off Eagle Way. Large amounts of gorse were recently scrapped off of this site. Other areas will be targeted but this is a costly exercise and takes time as it can only be removed in the winter months outside of the nesting season.

Annual General Meeting

The Martlesham Heath Householders Limited AGM will take place on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at the Martlesham Heath Pavilion starting at 8.00pm. All members/owners will receive the notice. Please take time to read the notice and attend the meeting. It is an ideal time to ask questions and learn more about what is happening on Martlesham Heath.

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 <mailto: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 <mailto: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

Moving from Spring into Summer

Late spring flowers will be blooming during May. With March being a notably warm month according to the Met Office, especially in East Anglia, many were well in flower earlier, like bluebells in early April. However, there are still lots to enjoy.

Many wildflowers look lovely this month and can be appreciated on roadsides, in the countryside, in our gardens and outdoor spaces. If you have some popping up, why not try thinking of them not as weeds but plants for you and wildlife to enjoy, and allow some to remain.

If you have space, and it is appropriate to how your garden is used, May is a great time to start leaving an area of lawn to grow long for the summer. It will attract wildlife by providing food and habitat, which in turn enriches our lives.

Having a diversity of plants in your outdoor space, ornamental and native, adds wildlife value and enjoyment for us. Many annuals can be sown outside where they are to flower, whether that is in a border or containers. Sowing some now will provide mid to late summer colour. Examples include Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*), Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella damascena*), annual Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*) and annual Toadflax (*Linaria*).

Ensure your seeds are kept watered.

It will be the 30th anniversary of Martlesham in Bloom next year and we are looking for photographs and/or reports of activities and events in the Parish, and ideas of what we could include, during this forthcoming year to include in a portfolio showing and celebrating Martlesham.

For further information about Martlesham in Bloom please contact: martleshaminbloom@gmail.com

or J Maureen Burrows (Secretary) on Tel. 01473 625196

Pop Up Shop

St Michael & All Angels Church The Green, Martlesham Heath

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

Finding food bills a challenge?
Come and fill one of our carrier bags for £2

May 10 & 24
June 14 & 28

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





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.

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

KESGRAVE LIBRARY NEWS

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

Sunday 3rd – Create your own 3D monster picture.

Sunday 10th – This week we are drawing around our hands to make zoo animals. Which animal will you choose?

Sunday 17th – Draw a self-portrait and design a 3D hat you would like to wear.

Sunday 24th – We are hoping the sun has finally arrived, as this week we are making a beach scene.

Sunday 31st – Have you seen any butterflies recently? Using a paper plate, we are designing and decorating butterflies.

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 – 10.15 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 during term time 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. No Session on Tuesday 26th May.

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.

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 pre-school age children.

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 5th May 10.00 a.m. at the library. The group are discussing Dear Mrs Bird by A J Pearce.

Afternoon Book Group – Thursday 7th May 2.45 p.m. The group is currently reading The Survivors by Jane Harper.

Evening Book Group – Thursday 28th May 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. The group are currently reading All the Broken Places by John Boyne.

New Tuesday Book Group beginning Tuesday 12th May 10.00 a.m. This group are currently reading – to be decided.

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 is only one session on Thursday 14th and 28th May 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. Donations welcome.

IT Help Thursday 21st May 2.30 – 4.00 p.m. – Are you having IT issues or need some help with your phone or setting up an email address? Our IT volunteer will be on site to help and offer advice. Why not pop along?

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

Tot Rock 9.45-10.15 a.m. and Baby Bounce 10.45-11.15 a.m.

Lego Afternoon – Tuesday 26th May 2.30 – 4.30 pm. This week is the Suffolk Show. Why not pop along and create something you may see at this show? Will you make a stall, build a tractor or recreate the showground.

Bank Holiday Dates – the library will be closed on the following two bank holidays:

Monday 4th May

Monday 25th May

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.

Book Donations – We are still looking for good quality book donations, mainly fiction – adults or children's, to fundraise for Kesgrave Library Community Group. This group raises additional funding for the library. Please speak to staff if you are interested in donating some items to us.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated items.

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 p.m.

Sunday 10.00-3.00 pm

Martlesham Conservation Group

Many thanks to all those who attended our last work party when we created small patches of bare ground for the benefit of solitary bees and wasps, reptiles, butterflies, ants and some birds that like to eat seeds off the ground.

These bare patches should also gradually be colonised by fresh new heather plants too providing better habitat for the Silver Studded Blue butterfly. We were also fortunate to be serenaded by a Nightingale during most of the time we were working on the heath. Adders have been seen across the heath in good numbers this year and so dog owners are advised to take care and keep their dogs on a lead as this action could avoid unnecessary distress or injury both to the dogs and the adders.

The birdlife on the heath picked up during March and April with the arrival of several migrants. Chiff Chaffs appeared in mid March, with some Blackcaps a little later and Nightingales in early April. On the warmer days a few butterflies appeared, including Brimstone, Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, and Orange Tip.

Buzzards are now seen regularly drifting across the sky with occasional appearances of Kestrels and Peregrine falcons (these have been nesting on the BT site for several years) and Red Kites.

Throughout May butterfly species should appear in greater numbers including the Green Hairstreak butterfly a heathland species that relies on gorse as its food plant. In May we should see more of the wandering Orange Tips, and Speckled Wood butterflies. Hopefully our heath, common and woodland will resound again to that prolific songbird the Nightingale especially at night, whilst other species including migrants such as Garden Warbler, Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat will add to the soundscape during the day. Suffolk remains a stronghold for Nightingales but they have declined in other parts of the country. so it is great to have several singing males in various locations in Martlesham.

We may also be fortunate to hear the beautiful song of the woodlark on the common and heath as we have been able to do in some previous years. Two other bird species typical of heathland the Stonechat and Dartford Warbler were present on the Heath SSSI last summer. So look out for both species this summer. The Dartford Warbler is particularly dependent on heathland as it relies on the small invertebrates found on heathland.

For our work party in May we will be undertaking a walk around the wood to the south of the green on Martlesham Heath on Sunday 10th May starting at 10am. We will try to identify the bird species present by sight and song. Please meet outside the Douglas Bader PH and bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. You may be interested in taking part in our work parties or wildlife surveys if so please contact us and please let us know if you have any interesting wildlife observations.

We will return to the heath for practical work on Sunday 7th June at 10am when we will begin our summer tasks by cutting bracken.

martleshamconservationgrp84@gmail.com

Phil Smith 01473 625630

Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

In March, our Volunteers trimmed back the holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) hedge around the pond. It was exciting to see great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) rising to the surface. Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) was spotted glowing in the sunshine.

Our next work morning is Saturday 16th May, 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

pond hedge trimming - Photo S Corley
Celandines - Photo J Oliver

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Woodbridge Wildlife Group WILDLIFE WALKS

We have several walks planned including

Early Morning Wildlife Walk

(Nightingales and wildflowers) Melton

Riverside to Bromeswell Green

16th May starting at 7.30 am

More Details and Booking - via Suffolk

Wildlife Trust website

PLANT SALE

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Phil Smith - Chairman Woodbridge
Wildlife Group of Suffolk Wildlife Trust
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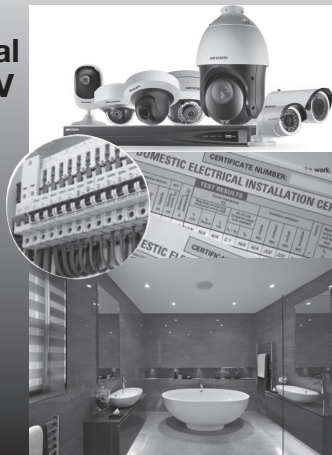


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MARTLESHAM CLIMATE ACTION

Deben Climate Centre citizen science water sampling – Run Meadow pollution update

Further update on this pollution incident. The septic tank owner has fixed an electrical fault and has had the tank emptied. We have added the Run Meadow stream onto the Deben Climate Centre monthly water sampling 'safaris' to ensure it stays clean!

For more information on the citizen science water sampling project and the Four Rivers project go to <https://www.debenclimate.org/four-rivers>

Energy Bills

At the time of writing, the situation in the Middle East continues to put upwards pressure on the world's oil and gas prices and hence on nations' energy bills. For example, the price of oil and hence petrol and diesel are driven by the global oil price as it is traded as a global commodity.

The political debate rages on how to reduce the UK's energy dependence and hence security on global oil and gas markets. As ordinary citizens this is very frustrating as we cannot influence global events, oil and gas supply and global energy prices. What we can do however, is to take steps to improve our own energy security. Here are steps that you can start to consider in rough order of cost/payback (but note that there are grants and cheap/zero percent loans available to do these steps for free or more cheaply for those on lower incomes):

1.Improve insulation i.e. reduce heat losses from your home. Loft insulation (300mm) is a 'no brainer' and other measures such as heavy curtains and chimney and door/window draught excluders can make a real difference. Cavity wall insulation and double/triple glazing are also considerations but more expensive.

2.Become your own mini power station by having solar panels installed (and remember, east-west facing roof is as good as a south facing roof). Payback is usually less than 10 years especially if you are using or planning to use more electricity (e.g. switching to an induction hob for cooking). Payback is quicker the more you switch away from fossil fuels.

3.A decent sized battery (suggest 10kWh or more for a medium sized home) allows you to switch to a cheap night rate tariff, fill up your battery overnight and use it to run some or all the house during the more expensive daytime. Some battery systems will see you through any power cuts too. Coupled with solar panels you can fill up some of the battery in the daytime to run the house at night.

4.If you have an oil-fired boiler then switching to a heat pump will save running costs (but make sure you get a competent installer to ensure good efficiency) and even compared to gas, a well installed air source heat pump system will be on a par or cheaper than running a gas boiler (and no more gas standing charges!).

The £7.5k grant for air-water systems and £2.5k grant for air-air (probably more suitable for smaller homes) makes the installation cost often as good or cheaper than a new boiler.

If you want to discuss these sorts of steps, get in touch at the e-mail below or drop in at the Martlesham Repair hub or the Deben Climate Centre hub at Woodbridge usually open 10-13.00.



Martlesham Repair and Climate Advice Hub

The next Repair Hubs are 10-12, on Saturday, 9th May and Saturday 13th June 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 all do our bit to tackle an increasingly scary climate crisis and save on energy bills.

Alternatively, why not drop into the Deben Climate Centre floating hub at Whisstocks in Woodbridge (by the Quay café) for advice. It is staffed by volunteers 10.00 – 13.00.

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](https://bsky.app/profile/martleshamca.bsky.social)

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MARTLESHAM HEATH AVIATION SOCIETY

On Saturday 11th April, we held our second Film Afternoon – which we gauge was more successful than the first!

The first film was “We Fought Them in Gunboats”, produced by local Camera Man, Film Maker, Drone Operator and Editor Tim Curtis, written and narrated by local author Julia Jones. We learnt the fascinating story of Motor Gun Boats that operated from “HMS Beehive” based where Felixstowe Docks now is.

The Boats took on the German “E Boats” in fierce battles across the North Sea.... initially the high-speed wooden boats that were not really up to the task, being under armed and with unreliable engines. However, they persevered, improved and soon made their mark, with many Officers called up from the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. Many of the sailors had never been to sea before, coming from many other civilian occupations.

Film clips photos and extracts from the book of the title written by Robert Hichens at the time were used. Robert did not see it published as he was killed in action.

The film proved once again that when it came to it people stepped forward becoming heroes when it was really required. When the film finished the audience gave well deserved impromptu applause.

Then we moved forward in time to watch “Cold War East Anglia – The Front Line” Professionally produced for the RAF Wattisham Station Heritage Group, this went into some detail looking at how our region was impacted by the (sadly continuing) worry about Russian aggression. Whilst many in the audience knew something about what went on – with some watching involved, I can say with certainty that we all learnt something new.

Of particular interest to our members was, of course the local sites of the Atomic Warfare Research Establishment (AWRE) Orfordness, what went on in underground Bunkers at RAF Bawdsey, RAF Wattisham (with its Hunters and Lightning Jet Fighters) and of course with our American friends at RAF Bentwaters, and their associated Communications Station on Foxhall Road.

Not to be forgotten was the Royal Observer Corps – who, if a nuclear attacks were expected – would go underground into their communication centres – or to their monitoring sites in small bunkers often in fields across the country.

All the above was very Top Secret at the time – but has or still is being revealed.

ANNUAL MEETING

On Friday 1st May at 7:30 pm the Society holds its Annual Meeting – where we look back at another very successful year, and forward to more of the same, all now led by our new Chairman Maggie Aggiss.

Entry to this meeting, held at Martlesham Heath Community Centre, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham Heath IP12 4PB – is FREE....

Following, a Picture Quiz will entertain us – all about Aviation and perhaps some other Military style topics... then a short Film Show.

JUNE MEETING

On Friday 5th June at 7:30 pm, we welcome Richard Green – whose name may be familiar to some reading this – as he was brought up on The Heath and has particularly fond memories of his life here.

He joined the Royal Air Force – and is now a Squadron Leader in UK Space Command Come along and find out more about his fascinating RAF Career.

Entry to this talk is £3 for Society members - £5 for others. Pay at the door on the night.

There is no need to book in advance – just arrive in good time.

CONTROL TOWER MUSEUM

Finally – our Control Tower Museum is now open on Sunday Afternoons from 2:00 to 4:30. (group visits at other times by previous arrangement). It is located behind Parkers Place, off Eagle Way, Martlesham Heath IP5 3UZ. Phone 07707711104 Entry is FREE – But donations (especially generous ones!) are welcomed, as the Museum is entirely self-funded!

Over the last months we have been upgrading and changing our displays – this continues as we are now putting together a display about National Servicemen who were stationed at Martlesham Heath after the Second World War through the Cold War period – If any readers have stories about family members who were based here – do get in touch.

Come along and find out more about the story of the fascinating airfield from Royal Flying Corps Days in the Great War then, following the formation of the Royal Air Force, its time as the premier Aircraft and Armaments Experimental Establishment.

Then World War 2, when it became a Fighter Station, latterly operating alongside Squadrons of the United States Army Air Force.

It then returned to Flight and Armament Testing and other activities including Gliding for Air Cadets – before closing in 1963.

For more information on any of the above, Contact: Howard King 01473 274300 Publicity@mhas.org.uk



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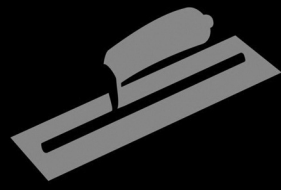


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BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

May is quite a busy month at the block.

The Museum is open every Thursday, Sunday and both Bank Holidays during May. On Sunday 3rd May we will be running our award winning virtual reality "climb the 360 feet transmitter tower".

This is an opportunity to experience what everyone stationed at RAF Bawdsey had to go through.

Sunday 24th May sees a veteran car run stop at the Museum, while on 24th and 25th May, the popular 1940s Café will be in operation too. The Museum will also be present at the Suffolk Show on 27th and 28th May at the Trinity Park Show Ground.

Further details of all our activities may be found on our website:

www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

For more information contact

info@bawdseyradar.org.uk

or phone 07821 162879.

MARTLESHAM BOWLS CLUB

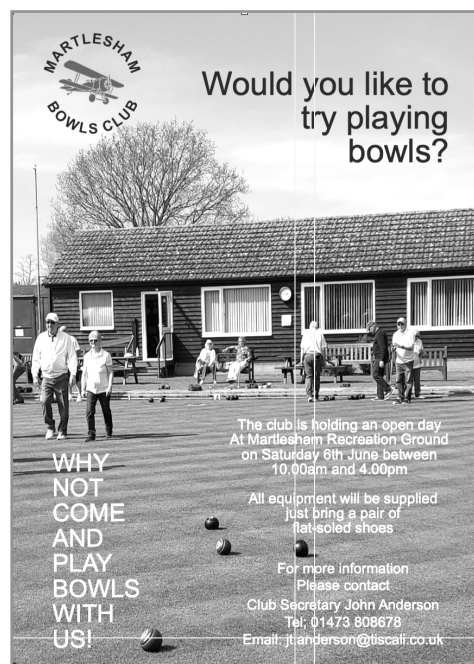
Would you like to try playing bowls?

If so why not come to your local bowls club at Martlesham Recreation Ground. The club is holding an open day on Saturday 6th June between 10.00am and 4.00pm. All equipment will be supplied just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes.

The club actively bowls in several local leagues and also encourages social bowling on Thursday and Saturday afternoons at 2.00pm. They would love to see some new faces. Why not come along and give it a try?

With tea, coffee and biscuits provided we can sit and chat about what's involved and answer questions or queries you may have. For more information please contact

Club Secretary, John Anderson 01473 808678 or 07547727439 Email: jt.anderson@tiscali.co.uk



MARTLESHAM BOWLS CLUB

Would you like to try playing bowls?

WHY NOT COME AND PLAY BOWLS WITH US!

The club is holding an open day At Martlesham Recreation Ground on Saturday 6th June between 10.00am and 4.00pm

All equipment will be supplied just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes

For more information Please contact Club Secretary John Anderson Tel: 01473 808678 Email: jt.anderson@tiscali.co.uk

MARTLESHAM LADIES CLUB

Heads up though ladies on May 7th (only!) we will be in the Main Hall because of Local Elections.

The Club meets fortnightly until June 18th in the Richards Room at Martlesham Community Hall in Felixstowe Road. We start again in September.

For more details ring me, June, 07867525422

BADMINTON IN KESGRAVE

Woodbridge Badminton Club will be running a summer badminton club on a pay-as-you-play basis at the Kesgrave Community Centre Sports Hall on Thursday evenings 8pm - 10pm starting on 7th May and running until the end of August. The cost is expected to be £6 per session. For latest details check out our website at <https://www.woodbridgebadminton.co.uk> or email jim.cavanagh955@gmail.com or ring Jim Cavanagh on 0780 323 2892.

Over the winter (September-April) we have been playing at Kesgrave High School. We welcome a range of abilities but unfortunately not complete beginners at the adult club. The league is just drawing to a close as I write this and I am pleased that we managed to field 5 teams this year, one more than last year! We have also had a good run in the annual knockout trophy. We are always keen to get new league players to help us improve though!

MARTLESHAM BRASS 'Making Music Fun in East Anglia'

2026 marks the 30th Birthday of Martlesham Brass, and as part of our celebrations, some band members are visiting Wantage in Oxfordshire to meet up with Wantage Silver Band who were very generous in their support helping to establish Martlesham Brass.

Looking forward into June, our preliminary and beginner bands invite you to join them for 'Tea & Tunes' on Saturday 13th June 10.00 to 12.00 in St Michael's Church Martlesham Heath. Admission free.

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

Liz Howard (Publicity Officer)

publicity@martleshambrass.co.uk 07544 962205

Registered Charity No.1100922. Visit our website www.martleshambrass.co.uk

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF WOODBRIDGE

At the meeting in March, members were delighted to welcome Angela Leggett- Bond, the District Chairman, who told tales of her varied and busy life and shared her reasons for choosing The Lighthouse Trust as her charity this year. District Chairman Angela and President of Woodbridge Deirdre Griffin, then presented each other with gifts.

At the 24th annual Inner Wheel of Woodbridge Quiz, teams nibbled and sipped whilst racking their brains for the correct answers. Competition was tough, results close and the winning team were deserving of the title and the prize. By the end of the evening over £800 had been raised for Brave Futures. The Quiz date for Next year is 12th March 2027.

In April, members were treated to a very interesting and informative talk, given by Barbara McElroy, about the incredible history of Framlingham Castle; royalty, religion, poverty and pestilence.

The knit and natter group will be knitting and nattering at Notcutts 14.30 April 15th and the Memory Café will be held on 29th April at Woodbridge Football club.

Woodbridge IW members meet at Ufford Park Hotel at 6.30 pm on the first Thursday of each month.

Find out more about the club and its aims and objectives at District 8 <https://innerwheel.co.uk> or email district8innerwheel@gmail.com for further information.

A thought for April

Thought for the month - Unsung Heroes?

I was struck by an article I read a few weeks ago about Keith who has been a 'bin man' for the last 40 years and his local council were celebrating his commitment. It is estimated he has collected nearly a million bins and travelled about 10 times around the world. By the sound of it he is an unassuming person as he told the BBC that he has 'just got up in the morning and I've done my job and life has carried on.' He also said it has been a great job – 'it really has!' I wonder if we can all say that about our daily tasks?

There are many unsung heroes in our community and the group of people who produce, publish and distribute this magazine come to mind. Knowing some of the comments we have received about this column we know how important the magazine is for keeping people in touch with our community. They too, are unsung heroes who do a fantastic job – thank you.

Nowadays, in our culture it seems we are keener to criticise rather than praise, especially those who lead or take a prominent role in public life. Perhaps as the summer begins this May and we enjoy longer days and better weather we could learn much from Saint Barnabas. He was one of Jesus' first disciples, an unsung hero known as the 'encourager'. With Barnabas' encouragement people began to follow Jesus' teaching and were called Christians for the first time.

Unseen work and commitment are worth celebrating – even if like Keith it takes forty years to be acknowledged. People don't need a celebratory event or a certificate, but they do need acknowledgement – perhaps there is an unsung hero known to you whose unseen commitment is worth celebrating?

Now.....what a difference that would make!

Malcolm Rittman
Martlesham with Brightwell Benefice

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10TH-16TH MAY 2026

Motivated by Christian love for neighbour but working worldwide wherever there is need, Christian Aid and its partners work all year round to support communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of deep poverty - visit christianaid.org.uk to find out more.

Every year, during Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland have seven days to make a difference and raise funds for this work. This year's appeal is focusing on work in Nairobi, Kenya, where intense poverty means families have a daily struggle to feed their children.

With secure jobs hard to find, and most people earning less than a dollar a day to cover school costs, rent and water, providing food for every meal is a relentless problem. But with tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, families are learning how to make the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables to cook or sell. Urban farming in even the smallest of spaces has changed the fear of hunger and homelessness into the happiness of knowing they can feed their families in a secure home!

Would you be able to help fund lasting change and bring hope to families like this? During Christian Aid Week please consider giving anything you can to support this project, and other work Christian Aid funds throughout the world through its local partners on the ground. Volunteers may be delivering a red envelope through your door and you can fill this to donate by cash or cheque then return it to the address on the envelope, or you can give online using our benefice e-envelope at <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/martlesham-benefice>.

It is easy to feel powerless when faced with the continuing desperate need in the world. But together we can do something about world poverty and want! Please consider giving this Christian Aid week.

On behalf of the poor and vulnerable people of the world, thank you.

Carolyn Smith

GIPPESWYK SINGERS

Our next concert will take place on Saturday 6th Jun 7.30 pm.

It will be An Evening With Elgar and will include music From the Bavarian Highlands, as well as part songs and Ave Verum

Choir rehearsals take place at St Michael's Church on Martlesham Heath, Monday evenings.

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.

Whilst there is a membership fee for 26 year olds and above, there is no membership fee for young 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.

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

Phone: 07873 557999

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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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 3rd May	St Michael's 9.30am Coffee and pastries 10am Breakfast Church St Mary's 11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 10th May	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion St John's 6.30pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 17th May	St Michael's 10.30am Morning Worship and APCM	7pm Zoom Reflecting with God
Sunday 24th May	St Michael's 10am Holy Communion St John's 6.30pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 31st May	St Michael's 10.30am Benefice Service	10.30am Benefice Service
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 13th and 27th May: 10am Holy Communion at St Michael's	

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

May

- 1 for all volunteers
- 2 give thanks for the joy of birdsong
- 3 **thank you Lord for being alongside us**
- 4 for safe travel on the bank holiday
- 5 for children and young adults being bullied
- 6 for the residents of Hilton Road
- 7 for the smooth running of the local elections
- 8 for wisdom for all newly-elected councillors
- 9 for farmers and those working in agriculture
- 10 **Lord, help us to share the hope we have in you**
- 11 Christian Aid Week: for the work of Christian Aid
- 12 for hospital, GP surgery and workplace nurses
- 13 for the residents of Holfen Close
- 14 Ascension Day: may we seek and serve our risen Lord
- 15 for all taking exams
- 16 those working for reconciliation and peace

- 17 **for our Annual Parish Church Meeting today**
- 18 for comfort for the lost and lonely
- 19 for Home-Start and the families they help
- 20 for the residents of Holly End
- 21 for all new families
- 22 for those with memory loss, their families and carers
- 23 those working in the legal profession
- 24 **Pentecost: thank God for the gift of his Holy Spirit**
- 25 give thanks for times of relaxation and rest
- 26 for our neighbours
- 27 for the residents of Horseman Court
- 28 for all who are living in fear
- 29 for young people unable to find paid employment
- 30 for prisoners, prison workers, and their families
- 31 **Trinity Sunday: Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!**

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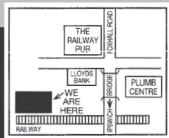
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