

Martlesham Monthly

APRIL 2026 • Produced and Distributed by Volunteers

www.martleshammonthly.com | 

Martlesham Monthly
— OPEN MEETING —
At The Martlesham Heath Pavilion,
Tuesday 7th April at 7.00pm
Hopefully we can get some more volunteers
to keep Martlesham Monthly going!

Everyone Welcome!

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Martlesham Monthly

Produced and Distributed by Volunteers

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www.martleshammonthly.com

And on Facebook

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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.

Martlesham Monthly will be Ending

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

If you are interested, please come along to our open meeting to talk to us and other volunteers about it on

7th April, at 7pm in The Pavilion.

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 with the vision to take it forward into the future.

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

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

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

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

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

We are more than happy to give anyone more information, please contact us via email

email: martleshamadverts@gmail.com or call 07801954101

GIRLGUIDING

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

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

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

1st MARTLESHAM SCOUTS

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

For all enquiries regarding joining the groups please contact

membership@martleshamscouts.org.uk

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

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

Tuesdays (Route 10)

Angela Close: 1.30-1.45pm

Bridge Farm Day Nursery 1.50-2.20pm

Falcon Mobile Home Park: 2.30-2.55pm

Douglas Bader: 3.00-4.15pm

Tue 7 Apr 2026

Tue 5 May 2026

Tue 2 Jun 2026

Thursdays (Route 3)

Play2Day Nursery Gloster Road 10.10 - 10.40,

Douglas Bader: 10.50 - 11.50

Thu 23 Apr 2026

Thu 21 May 2026

Thu 18 Jun 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

Felixstowe Road, Safety Concerns – Parish Council Update

The Felixstowe Road, part of the National Cycle Network Route 1 (NCN1) through Martlesham, has become so dangerous it is seldom used by walkers and cyclists. High traffic volumes and speeding make it a serious safety risk for walkers and cyclists alike.

One of our parish councillors, who is visually impaired, has highlighted how difficult it is to navigate this stretch safely on foot.

"The pavement alongside Felixstowe Road is very narrow in places and when walking with my guide dog, I feel at risk of passing traffic hitting me as it goes past at great speed. When attempting to cross Felixstowe Road during the day, there is so much traffic that is travelling in excess of the 30 mph speed limit that I feel in mortal danger when crossing this very busy road. I urge motorists to consider the road speed limit, and drive to the prevailing road conditions in a safe and measured way."

Thanks to the dedication of our Community Speed Watch volunteers, who regularly monitor speeds and carry out traffic counts, we have clear evidence of the problem; and a recent traffic survey, conducted by Suffolk Highways, has confirmed these findings. This survey was requested by County Councillor Patti Mulcahy, whose support has helped to keep safety concerns in the spotlight. This data showed:

Over 6,000 vehicle movements per day along this stretch of NCN1, and

An 85th percentile speed of 35 mph, despite the posted 30 mph limit.

These figures underline the serious safety risks faced by anyone attempting to walk or cycle along the route.

The parish council continues to press Suffolk County Council for practical improvements to maintain this route as an active transport corridor. Residents who walk, cycle, or drive along the Felixstowe Road are encouraged to share their observations, near-misses, or suggestions with the parish council—every report strengthens the case for action.

And once again, a huge thank-you to our Speed Watch volunteers, whose dedication helps make our roads safer. Their ongoing work provides independent, detailed data to support safety improvements.

To become a community speed watch volunteer or to share your road safety concerns please get in touch with the Parish Council at enquiries@martleshamcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch Community Meetings

Tuesday 21st April – Community, Coffee & Conversation 11:00-12:00 at the Parish Room, Felixstowe Road

Monday 18th May – Services, Support & the Cost of Living (guest speaker from East Suffolk Citizens Advice) 13:30 – 14:30 at the Pavillion, Martlesham Heath

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 1st April

DETC – Wednesday 15th April

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Wednesday 6th May

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

Martlesham Summer Fete – POSTPONED!

It is with deep regret that we will be unable to proceed with the Summer Fete this year.

We are hoping that we will be able to bring the Fete back in 2027.

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

April 12 & 26

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



Forbes Spinney

Forbes Spinney is a group of trees to the north of the Bowls Club in the Recreation Ground.

It was planted in 2020 in recognition of John and Margaret Forbes following John's retirement after many years as a Martlesham parish councillor; Margaret was a founder member of Martlesham in Bloom. Together they had both worked on many projects and activities within the parish of Martlesham.

The photographs show the Spinney when it was first planted in 2020 but now, they have grown and are producing flowers and fruit for wildlife. The types of trees are Common Alder, Rowans, Crab Apple, Wild Pear, Downy Birch, Italian Alder and Field Maple.

**Martlesham Heath Control
Tower Museum opens again
for its Summer Season on**

Easter Sunday 5th April

Then

**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**

Martlesham Heath Householders Limited

MHHL Website

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

Bicycle Ramps

Two bike ramps have been reported in the area - one on the SSSI towards Dobbs Lane and the other one on Grainger's plot between York Road and Mayfield Lane. Please be aware that the building of such ramps is not allowed.

Woodland Survey

Another survey has been completed recently. We continue to get rid of any dangerous branches and trees. If you are out walking in the woods and see work ongoing, please don't go near.

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.

Garden Waste

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

Volunteers

This is a call to any residents who would like to volunteer a bit of time. It is important that a good base of volunteers is maintained. For anyone interested it is a good opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes and have your say on a variety of issues that arise from time to time.

Should you be interested please leave a voicemail on 01473 612207 or send an email to martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com

Contact and further Information

If there are any issues that you feel that need attention please do not hesitate to contact Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd by leaving a voicemail on 01473 612207 or by email to martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com or by post to Martlesham



MARTLESHAM IN BLOOM

Plants for you and pollinators

Have you thought about growing herbs, or maybe you do already but would like to extend your selection?

You can find them in garden centres and nurseries. Not only are culinary herbs tasty for us, but the flowers of many are also great for pollinators! Examples such as Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*), Mint (species of *Mentha*), Sage (*Salvia officinalis*), Thyme (species of *Thymus*) and Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), are hardy so will survive outside year round. Some herbs are evergreen while others die back to ground level in winter, shooting anew in spring.

Most herbs prefer a free draining soil and sun or partial shade. Herbs, depending on their size when fully grown, can be grown in borders, raised beds, containers or even hanging baskets. There are lots of different varieties of some herbs, however if you will be using them in your cooking, check what you buy is being sold as edible, not purely ornamental.

Most deciduous shrubs that flower during spring and into early summer should be pruned straight after flowering to allow new growth that will flower the following year, eg Ribes (Flowering currant), Forsythia, Kerria and Philadelphus (Mock Orange).

If you are pruning or trimming shrubs, trees or hedgerows always check there are no birds nesting, and if there are they must not be disturbed. Although most nest between March and September some may nest outside of that period, particularly with the changing climate. The RSPB provides further details on protection of nesting birds on their website.

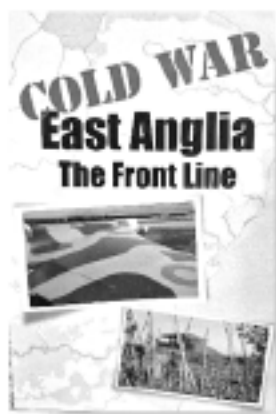
Please let us know about any ideas you have of what we could include in our record of events, activities, groups and pictures of the parish during the year leading up to Martlesham in Bloom's 30th anniversary in 2027. We look forward to hearing from you.

Now that the clocks have sprung forward into spring, enjoy your extra hour in the garden!

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

Martlesham Heath Aviation Society Film Show

Saturday 11th April at 2.30pm featuring:



A ticket only event at the Martlesham Heath Community Centre, IP12 4PB
More information in the MHAS article.



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. The sheets during March were all about Easter, including an activity to make palm fronds to wave.

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



Martlesham Preschool

As we are coming into Spring, we are so happy to see the sunshine, we can't wait to explore our surroundings. Although we do also love to splash in puddles, last term there were lots to play in. Last term we also learnt 'all about us', how our body works and what makes us different. We had a walk to the local shop and a visit from a puppy, which all of us loved. We continue to enjoy gymnastics and our ballet and French lessons. We have a very busy term planned with lots of exciting things coming up.

Spaces for September are filling up quickly, please get in touch if you would like to have a look around and secure your child's space.

Contact us on 01473 625986 or via email Martleshampreschool@outlook.com



Hedgehog Nursery at Gorseland Primary School

Do you have a child aged 3-4 years old? Are you looking for high quality care and learning in a stimulating environment? Have you thought about the huge benefits of sending your child to a school Nursery?

Hedgehog Nursery is open Monday to Friday for 3 and 4 year olds during term time. We offer wrap around care from 7:30 to 18:00 with our breakfast and afterschool clubs.

Hedgehog Nursery is part of Gorseland Primary school and is led by a dedicated team of qualified and experienced staff. We are very lucky that we have the use of the school's fantastic facilities including our forest school, library, large sports hall and extensive grounds to explore. This makes our provision very special. We provide a learning atmosphere where children can explore and investigate in a safe, stimulating and challenging environment. We capitalise on the children's interests to springboard them into learning experiences that extend what they can already do.

If you are 'curious' and have a 3 or 4 year old, please don't hesitate to book a tour of the Nursery, via the school's website, or contact the School Office instead on 01473 623790. We warmly welcome families from our community to come to see us in practice.



KESGRAVE LIBRARY NEWS

The staff at Kesgrave Library would like to wish all their customers a very Happy Easter.

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

Sunday 5th – EASTER SUNDAY - Closed

Sunday 12th – Spring has finally arrived. Create your own spring blossom tree.

Sunday 19th – This week we are making birds out of paper cups. Which bird will you make?

Sunday 26th – Did you know that if you draw round your hand it looks like a cactus? Design your own cactus picture.

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 7th April.

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.

Easter Craft Sessions - On the following dates, we will be running afternoon craft sessions:

Thursday 2nd April – Easter Crafts

Thursday 9th April – Spring Crafts

These are free sessions and all the equipment will be provided. Under 8's will need to be accompanied by an adult.

IT Help Thursday 9th April 2.30 – 4.00 p.m. – Are you having IT issues or need some help with your phone or setting up an email address? Every fourth Thursday of the month, our IT volunteer will be on site to help and advice. Why not pop along?

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

Easter Opening Times

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday – Closed

Saturday 4th April – Open as usual 10.00 – 5.00 p.m.

Sunday 6th April – Easter Sunday – Closed

Monday 7th April – Easter Monday – Closed

Tuesday 8th April – Normal hours resume.

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

The Martlesham Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on the western side of the village is an example of dry lowland heath (the rarest type of habitat in Europe), which should ideally be dominated by heathers with a mix of other low growing plants including fine grasses.

Much of the work of the Group is involved in conserving this habitat for wildlife but also helping to support good public access. On our last work party in March we filled in holes in the central part of the heath and completed clearing up after the Megabash that took place in February. We would like to thank all the members who helped on our recent work parties and those who gave up their time and effort on that event. Also we give our thanks to the Greenways project for their support on the Megabash and continuing support over many years.

Members of the public, especially dog walkers can make a valuable contribution to the conservation of our heathland and its associated wildlife by sticking to the main paths. The areas cleared in the winter could be colonised by ground nesting birds and reptiles especially if the disturbance level could be kept low.

If you are a dog walker we strongly advise you to walk your dog on a lead and stick to the main paths, partly for the benefit of our local wildlife but also for the protection of your dog as we seem to have a good population of adders present on the heath based on the numbers seen last year. Please don't be tempted to take short cuts across the open areas, and please remember all our British snakes and lizards are protected by law.

For more information about reptiles (and amphibians) try the website <https://www.arc-trust.org>.

In April, we should see the major influx of migrant birds with more varied song such as from the Nightingale, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat. Please listen out for these birds on our heaths and woodlands this year, and enjoy the rich soundscape resulting from their birdsong.

Later in the month if the weather warms up we may begin to see more butterflies which may include the Green Hairstreak, Brimstone and Orange Tip, adding colour and movement to the landscape.

Greenways are likely to re-visit the SSSI towards the end of April or in May in order to scrape away topsoil from the area that was cleared of gorse in the winter (just in front of the mound/bank). This time of year has been specifically chosen so as to avoid disturbance to reptiles as they will be active and naturally on the move. There will be no birds nesting as the area has been cleared of gorse and other scrub.

Later in the year probably in October our group will re-seed the scraped area using heather clippings. Unfortunately some people have been digging holes and running bikes over the areas scraped and re-seeded last year. I can understand the temptation but it is impacting our efforts to recover the area to young heather, so vital for the nationally rare Silver Studded Blue butterfly that we are fortunate to have on the Heath. So please if you know anyone involved ask them to stop.

Our next work party will be on Sunday 12th April at 10am. Please meet on the Martlesham Heath SSSI next to the bank that runs east-west across the site, just along the path from the sign board between Heathfield and The Oaks. We will be creating small patches of bare ground for the benefit of solitary bees and wasps, reptiles, butterflies and some birds that like to eat seeds off the ground. Please bring a spade if you have one.

Looking ahead to May we aim to do some bird surveys.

You may be interested in taking part in our work parties or wildlife surveys please contact us via our email - martleshamconservationgrp84@gmail.com for more information.

Portal Woodlands Conservation Group

A few hardy Volunteers braved February's wet weather to repair damage caused by an unauthorised heavy vehicle that had churned up the path and destroyed undergrowth. They spread wood chippings to fix the worst areas. Looking forward to spring's warmer, longer days!

Our next work morning is Sunday 19th April, 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



Suffolk Wildlife Trust Woodbridge Wildlife Group

We have some of our regular talks coming up.

"The Future of Barn Owls, BOSS" 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.

WILDLIFE WALKS

We have several walks planned including

**Heathland Wildlife walk
at Sutton Heath,**
Saturday 11th April
starting at 9.30 am

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

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE
due to roadworks near Foxburrow Farm
Sunday 3rd May 2pm - 4pm
now at
MARTLESHAM COMMUNITY HALL
Plant sale, with books, refreshments and
more.
Just turn up.

*Phil Smith - Chairman Woodbridge
Wildlife Group of Suffolk Wildlife Trust
swtwoodbridge@outlook.com*





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MARTLESHAM CLIMATE ACTION

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

As reported last month, following a sampling activity with Kesgrave High School year 13 environmental science 'A' level students we walked the stream that goes through Run Meadow and found what looked like a septic tank overflowing directly through a pipe into the stream. The ammonia levels were off the chart, and it was so bad you could smell it! The EA wrote to the landowner who has confirmed a fault with their septic tank so hopefully that will now be sorted. Result for citizen science!

For more information on the citizen science water sampling project and the Four Rivers project go to

www.debenclimate.org/four-rivers

Martlesham Repair and Climate Advice Hub

The next Repair Hubs are 10-12, on Saturday 11th April and Saturday, 9th May 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. 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

BAWDSEY RADAR MUSEUM

As some of you may have seen in the local news, coastal erosion is now on our list of things to worry about for the future.

However for the time being we are still quite a way away from the sea, so business is very much as usual for now.

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

On Sunday 5th 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.

The first series of very informative podcasts about the history of radar at Bawdsey called "Echoes of Bawdsey – The Story of Radar" is now available to listen on the website.

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

www.bawdseyradar.org.uk

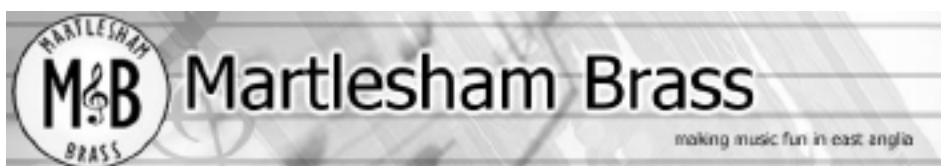
For more information contact
info@bawdseyradar.org.uk or
phone 07821 162879.

Solar Panels and Battery advice

Phil Bull and I recently met with a resident to help them with advice on using their battery and solar panel set up to save the most money.

By changing to a cheap rate night tariff and filling up your battery at night you can extend the time the battery will run your home using this cheap rate rather than more expensive day rate.

It also pays if the night rate is cheaper than the solar export rate, so you fill the battery at night rather than use solar in the daytime to fill it up. Get in contact if you need advice!



Martlesham Brass - 'Making Music Fun in East Anglia'

Please join us on Saturday 25th April 2026 at 7.00pm, in St Michael's Church Centre, Martlesham Heath for our Spring Concert, featuring all four of our bands.

There will be refreshments and a raffle. Tickets are £5.00 (primary school age children free) and are available by calling 07544 962205, at www.martleshambrass.co.uk, or on the door.

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

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MARTLESHAM HEATH AVIATION SOCIETY

NASA + Drone History.

Don Mobley – formerly a fighter pilot with the United States Air Force, came along and gave us a meeting of two halves, The First called “Reaching for the Stars – NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Early Days”, which was created in 1958.

It came about as a result of the Sputnik Shock – when this Satellite was put into Orbit.... Stunning the US. This was followed by sending Dog Laika, a stray dog from Moscow, on Sputnik 2 on November 3rd 1957, and Yuri Gagarin the first human to orbit the Earth on 12 April 1961

America responded using (like the USSR) repurposed Ballistic Missile technology– to launch satellites like Telstar and Alan Shepard the first American in space.(1961) and then John Glen (the first American to orbit the Planet) in 1962 –(and much later in 1998 to go into Space again) – both in the 60's in MercuryProgram space capsules.

Remember, the 1960's was a very Cold War period, when both Superpowers were trying to outdo each other in Space, claiming that their political systems (Communism V Capitalism) the best. The US was very open talking about their successes and failures like Gemini Capsule docking problems with another spacecraft which nearly ended in disaster, and the Apollo Spacecraft fire of Friday 27th Jan 1967 when Gus Grissom, Ed. White and Roger Chafee, burned to death in less than a minute in their seats atop the launch rocket, as a spark ignited the oxygen rich atmosphere. This caused a major rebuild of the Apollo Command Module.

The much more secretive Russians tried to project their image of developing a faultless technology. However they had their own share of disaster and near misses and fairly recently they had serious damage to one of their launchpads.

As of January 2026, there have been five incidents in which a spacecraft in flight suffered crew fatalities, killing a total of 15 astronauts and 4 cosmonauts. Of these, two had reached the internationally recognized edge of space, 266,000ft, when or before the incident occurred, and one was planned to do so. In each of these two accidents, the entire crew was killed. As of

December 2023, a total of 676 people have flown into space and 19 of them have died in related incidents. This sets the current statistical fatality rate at 2.8 percent. The Americans were more focused on sending men to the Moon, the Russians being somewhat outperformed. The Apollo Program successfully landing 12 astronauts on the moon in six missions between 1969 and 1972, the first one being Apollo 11. The Russians seemed to have concentrated more on Satellite and associated technologies.

For the future of the American Space programme, there have often been questions in the US Congress etc over the Cost, and even necessity of going back to the Moon or even further to Mars. The Commercialisation of Space Travel is now a reality, with people like Elon Musk using his SpaceX company and setting some amazing project targets – with his Falcon Rocket being the most powerful ever produced.

After a break Don described the History of Drones. The first Drones go back to the first to Ancient China, in about the 5th Century when kites were used for leisure, military, military reconnaissance and even psychological warfare –some were even used to carry incendiary devices over enemy positions.

The first properly recorded use occurred during the siege of Venice in 1849, when Austrian military launched approx. 200 paper hot air balloons carrying small explosive payloads with time delayed fuses. In World War 1 the Royal Flying Corps developed an experimental radio controlled “Aerial Target” as a guided weapon against Zeppelins. Though there are no records of them actually being used. The Americans built “The Kettering Bug” in 1918 as a flying Bomb with a mechanical guidance system before cutting power and dropping its payload. Sounds Familiar- then look at the German V-1 “Buzz Bomb” or “Doodle Bug”.

Reconnaissance drones like the American Ryan Firebee were designed in the Cold War. Both are basically what is in use by the military, with hugely more sophisticated systems.

For instance the Lockheed D21, was a high Speed drone to be launched from a modified SR21 “Blackbird” to spy over the Soviet Union. But fitted to the SR21 – there were serious aerodynamic issues so was abandoned.

Military Drone technology has redefined defence strategies. As Global threats evolve, continued development ensures tactical superiority, minimises human risk, and improves operational intelligence shaping the future of conflict and global security dynamics.

Drones have many more tasks they can and will perform. Using real time control and live data streaming, they laid the groundwork for the military systems like the Predator and the Global Hawk, with the Israelis and Ukrainian's being recognised for speedy and effective innovations.

These days they are used by a wide variety of Industries, like Agriculture (crop and pesticide spraying), land and plant growth surveying, construction and infrastructure - site inspection and tracking progress.

Energy companies inspect pipelines and powerlines and wind turbines (being cheaper than manned helicopters). Search and rescue – locating missing persons in difficult terrain or over the sea. Perhaps one day they could even rescue someone!

Delivery services (Amazon? UPS? Ziplane?) offering rapid, contactless delivery and even medicine delivery during pandemics or disasters.

Climate Change Research. Drones could become an aerial Taxi. Wisk Aero, a subsidiary of Boeing, is looking to market their autonomous Gen6 air taxi by the end of the 2020's, which will be a 4-passenger aircraft, with a range of 72 nautical miles, flying at 120 knots. Perhaps UBER would get involved:

The development of Drones is outpacing current Privacy and Surveillance issues. They can capture high resolution images, audio and thermal data at a distance, often undetected. This raises serious privacy and civil liberties concerns, that can easily breach personal boundaries without consent.

Sat 11th April 2026 Martlesham Heath Av Soc, Special Film Afternoon

We are expecting a FULL HOUSE so tickets are required. Admission £6 for Society members, £8 for non-members. Available from Howard on 01473 274300 (Ansaphone available) or use publicity@mhas.org.uk

There MAY be returns or some spares at the door on the day. Having said that – don't delay in asking for tickets!



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Woolly Wonders

A reminder to all the would-be knitters/crocheters amongst you that you can come & learn a new skill at the Runway Cafe every Thursday 10-12. If you're an experienced crafter we'd love to see you too.

The only requirement is to buy whatever kind of refreshment you like.

We're a friendly bunch who like to chat. You can work on your own project or join a joint one to support a charity. We have a growing list of nearly 40 charities we've supported in the 12 years since we got together.

Huge thanks must go to Paul, Ken, Rob & Gwynneth for their tireless work to spread information out there to our community, through this publication. When I came to live here in 1999, it was my only way of finding out what was going on & where I could get involved.

Wishing them all a very happy retirement from what has been a long standing commitment to Martlesham and those of us that live here.

Rachel Pennick

MARTLESHAM BOWLS CLUB

Just a reminder as we look forward to the start of the new bowls season with the Bowls Club opening on Saturday 11th April.

The club actively bowls in several local leagues for those who want to bowl competitively and also encourages social bowling on Thursday and Saturday afternoons at 2.00pm.

We would love to see some new faces. Why not come along and give it a try any Thursday or Saturday afternoon. Just wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes, have a go at bowling and join the members for a cup tea and biscuits.

We now have a date of Saturday 6th June for our annual open day with more information to follow next month.

For more information, please contact the Secretary John Anderson on 01473 808678 or 07547727439 and by email at: jt.anderson@tiscali.co.uk

More information can also be found on our website at www.martleshambowlsclub.com

MARTLESHAM LADIES CLUB

Another month gone by and I am writing this as Spring is officially here, although today is very foggy!

The ladies had a great meeting at the end of February with Eric and his rhymes, with a few songs mixed in - it was a really fun afternoon, everyone went home smiling.

April is a busy month, we have a Royal Marines bandsman talking about his change of career and a talk about books, their covers and care.

Also busy for me as it will be our Diamond Wedding Anniversary at the beginning of the month, followed by a friend's big birthday celebrations!

Time goes by so rapidly that we really do need to make the most of every single day and enjoy the friendship and companionship of people around us, although it can be difficult sometimes.

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

The Club meets fortnightly from April 9th 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 is coming to the end of the winter season (September-April) at Kesgrave High School. Adult club nights are on Wednesday evenings at the new earlier start time of 7:00pm until 8th April, league matches are on Thursday evenings for those feeling competitive, and Junior club is on Monday nights. On Thursday 16th April and the following weeks we will move the time and the location of club nights to 8pm to 10pm on Thursdays at the Kesgrave Community Centre Sports Hall (KWMCC).

The good news for the club, but not-so-good-news for prospective joiners is that at the time of writing the Junior club is full and the Adult club is also getting very busy. So, if you are interested in joining it is important to contact us via email jim.cavanagh955@gmail.com or ring Jim Cavanagh on 0780 323 2892 before you come along. You may be able to come and try us out for a £6 guest fee, refundable against the annual membership if you join for the season.

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

MARTLESHAM HEATH SURGERY

Patient Participation Group (PPG) News

As you may have seen, the building improvements at Martlesham Heath Surgery is now almost complete, with the final works to the new powered entrance door nearing completion.

We are pleased to share the key enhancements now in place:

- Increased clinical space – Five new multi-purpose treatment rooms have been added. These provide a mix of rooms for telephone/online consultations and face-to-face appointments, increasing flexibility and capacity.
- A new, fully powered entrance door, improving accessibility for all patients.
- A redesigned waiting area – Although this space is now smaller due to the physical constraints of the building, the priority has been to maximise clinical rooms so we can offer more appointments each day.

These improvements represent an important step forward in expanding the care we provide to the community.

Supporting Appointment Attendance

At Martlesham Heath Surgery, we understand that life can be unpredictable and that sometimes it may be difficult to attend an appointment. During January, we recorded 38 appointments where patients did not attend (DNAs) along with 138 cancellations, some of which were at very short notice.

We also recognise that communication issues, such as notifications not arriving, difficulties with technology, or misunderstandings about appointment times can occasionally contribute to missed appointments. If you think this may have happened to you, please contact the Surgery to let us know. Your feedback helps us identify and resolve any issues that could be affecting patients.

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible, ideally the day before, so that we can offer the appointment to someone else who may need it urgently.

Your support helps us ensure that our clinical time is used effectively for the benefit of the whole community.

Get Involved

If you'd like to learn more about the PPGs or are interested in joining, please contact us: MartPPG@gmx.com

Alternatively, you can leave your name and contact details at reception in an envelope marked "For the PPG."

A thought for April

Do you remember the song by Flanders and Swann 'Twas on a Monday morning when the gasman came to call'? Well I had 'one of those weeks' not long ago.

Monday I'd picked up a cancellation appointment from my dentist and was due to have some extensive treatment in the afternoon. Monday morning it was cancelled as my dentist was ill.

Tuesday morning I had a hair appointment. It was postponed until later in the morning as my hairdresser was running late.

Tuesday afternoon I was due to return to my Pilates session after a few weeks of foot problems. Tuesday morning it was cancelled as my Pilates teacher was ill.

I began to dread Wednesday morning!!!! Fortunately the rest of the week continued without any major surprises! But it got me thinking, how convenient life can become as we expect things to go smoothly; and how inconvenient it can become when unexpected events mess up our calendar. For Lent I've been reading a series of books on how to find time in our lives for God and for others and to release ourselves from the trendy image that we're constantly busy. In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 11, Jesus says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". Perhaps this Easter, we could spend a little more time discovering the real meaning of Easter and the sacrifice Jesus made in order that we might find rest for our souls, peace in our hearts and hope for the future.

Rev Margaret Rittman PTO

Martlesham with Brightwell.

RSPCA Spring Quiz

Welcome quizzers!

We've booked the date for our next Branch quiz –

Saturday 11th April 2026

and we'll be welcoming teams of up to 6 people with some testing questions and a hot supper of jacket potato with a selection of fillings.

Location: St Michaels Church Centre,
Martlesham Heath, IP5 3PL

Time: 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start

Cost: £10

Doors will open at 7:00 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Tickets will be on sale nearer the time, but for more information, please contact Kate on

kate.grimwood@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk

Martlesham Community Hall

This Spring there are a number of changes to our core team. David and Pat Embery have been central to the running of the Hall for many years. David's been both our Treasurer and Hall Manager in recent years and Pat has been Booking Secretary for many years, for which we truly thank them. David has now retired as Treasurer. Martyn Shakespeare, already a Trustee of the charity, has taken over as our new Treasurer. We welcome him to the role. Pat has also retired as Booking Secretary. We're pleased to welcome our new Booking Secretary, Sammy Jo Wright.

We're also pleased to welcome two new volunteers to the team, Clive and Jane Barker. Clive will be our new Hall Manager from May onwards, with David Embery retiring at our AGM on 30 April. Clive will be 'shadowing' David until then. Jane will be helping Clive and getting involved in administration work in due course.

We're running our popular Community Quizzes again in 2026, though only three times this year. Still to come are Saturday 16 May and Saturday 17 October. We open the bookings 5 - 6 weeks beforehand. If you'd like us to let you know when you can book, then please go to mchall.org.uk/quizzes and send us a message.

Also on our website, you can find more details about the Hall and our smaller venue the Richards Room, check their availability, hire rates and make a booking request. You can also book by calling our Booking Secretary on 01473 623203 between 08:00 and 20:00 Monday to Saturday.

We look forward to welcoming you.

GIPSESWYK SINGERS

Our next concert will be Sat 6th Jun 7.30 pm
- An evening with Elgar

Choir rehearsals take place at St Michael's Church on 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 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.

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 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'
Friday 3rd April Good Friday	St Mary's	3pm Hour at the Cross	
Saturday 4th April Holy Saturday	St Mary's	6.30pm Vigil Service	A warm welcome awaits you at all our services.
Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday	St Michael's St Mary's	10am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 12th April	St Michael's St John's	10am Holy Communion 3pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 19th April	St Michael's	9.30am Coffee and pastries 10am Informal Holy Communion	10am Holy Communion 7pm Zoom Reflecting with God
Sunday 26th April	St Michael's St John's	10am Holy Communion 3pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion
<i>It would be helpful if you could contact Toby by the Saturday before for Zoom codes.</i>			
Midweek Services	Every Monday: 8.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's Wednesday 8th and 22nd: 10am Holy Communion at St Michael's Friday 3rd: 10am Walk of Witness from St Mary's to St Michael's		

Prayer Diary Please pray daily for peace and include the following as an addition to your daily prayers:

April

- 1 for the residents of Gresswell Court
- 2 Maundy Thursday – that we may serve others with love
- 3 Good Friday – give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice
- 4 Holy Saturday - for all who have been bereaved recently
- 5 **Easter Sunday – give thanks for the victory of life over death**
- 6 give thanks for signs of new life
- 7 for those providing aid in dangerous situations
- 8 for the residents of Harvesters Way
- 9 for all at the Runway today
- 10 for those recovering from operations
- 11 for all working in local retail businesses today
- 12 **give thanks for the hope the risen Jesus brings**
- 13 for students and staff returning to school this week
- 14 for students preparing for exams this term
- 15 for the residents of Heather Close

- 16 give thanks for the support of friends and neighbours
- 17 for fellowship and fun at Friends on Friday
- 18 for families struggling with their finances
- 19 **that we may worship God with joy**
- 20 for those feeling lonely or isolated
- 21 give thanks for the wonders of God's creation
- 22 for the residents of Heathfield & Heathfield Mews
- 23 St George's Day – pray for our country and government
- 24 those working at Adastral Park
- 25 St Mark's Day – give thanks for his gospel
- 26 **for all at the Pop-Up Shop today**
- 27 for our Bible study Home Groups
- 28 for all at the Broom Tree café today
- 29 for the residents of Higgins Place
- 30 those working for worldwide food security

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