



The Village Magazine produced
for the People of Bildeston
by Volunteers from Bildeston

bildeston.org/bugle-village-magazine



April 2026

Issue Number 424





THE BUGLE RULES, RATES AND FEES

FREE CONTRIBUTION INFO Our aim is to provide every resident and organisation the Bildeston with a magazine which provides information of local interest **FREE OF CHARGE**. To that end, we are required to be efficient in the space we use to print free notices. We endeavour to include interesting items, announcements for free local events open to the general public and items of a charitable nature free of charge. Ongoing free announcements need to be reduced to minimum size or make a contribution towards printing costs. Please email Jenna Cox, as below, to submit your community promos, preferably as a Word document, so that we can design according to space.

ADVERTISERS INFO: Advertisers should take note of the artwork specs and costs below, and should **ALWAYS** provide us with all your contact details in order for us to send an invoice and receipt. Advertisements not sent to spec may incur a token, separate design fee, ranging from £10-25, depending on what is required.

For community contributions/content and advertisers, contact Jenna Cox
jenna@articulatehlc.co.uk or ring 01473 808 260.

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and have a brief message of your choice printed on the front cover

Advertising Rates - Specs - dpi 300 or min 150 Format jpg, tiff or PDF

Advert Size	1 Issue	12 Issues	Design Spec
¼ page	£5.00	£35.00	65mm W x 92mm H
½ page	£10.00	£60.00	134mm W x 92mm H
Full Page	£15.00	£110.00	134mmW x 190mm H

THE SMALL PRINT All adverts, payments and items are required before the 17th of every month for inclusion in the following month's issue (except December - before the 13th). The earlier free contributions are received, the greater the chance of inclusion. The Editorial team are not responsible for the accuracy of articles or adverts and reserve the right to alter, shorten or refuse any item submitted for publication. BACS details will be on your invoice. If we do not receive payment by the 17th of the month, your advertisement will NOT be included.

The Bildeston Bugle Management Team

Tim Hooper (Finance Manager) Email: bildeston.bugle.treasurer@gmail.com

Jenna Cox, Editor jenna@articulatehlc.co.uk

Debbie Bailey, Rita Bradley, Bernice Hawthorn, Christine Hastings, Jill Kitching, Terri Reynolds, Margaret Smith (Printing Assistants)

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7 February

26 September

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18 March | 24 June

16 September

25 November

Farm Machinery

March | June

November

Vintage Machinery

25 July

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IP7 6DP

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T. 07900 440141
W. www.fitframephysio.com

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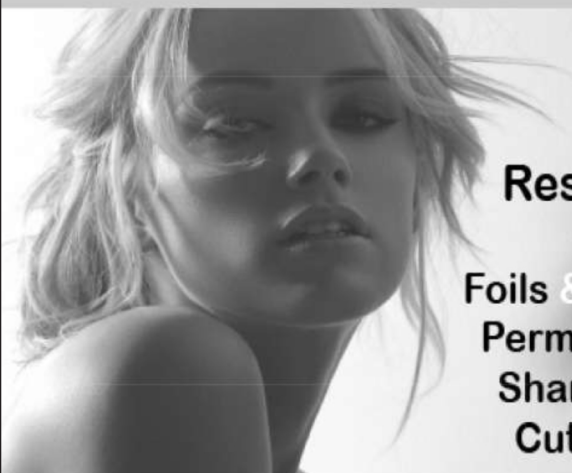
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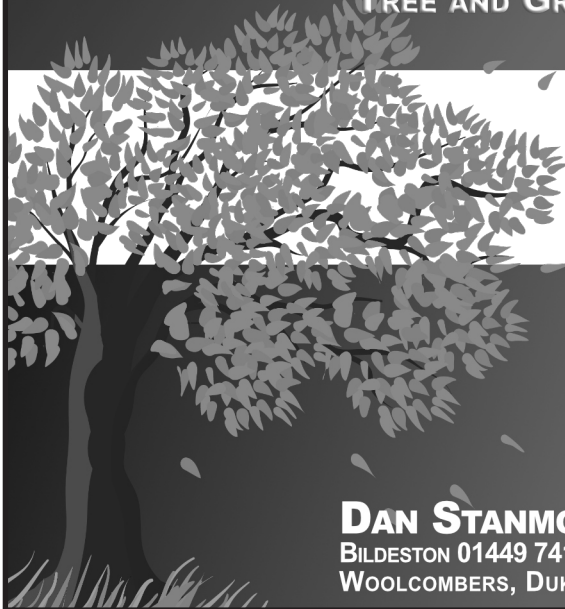
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Welcome

*To Your Magazine
Read, Learn and Be Inspired*



KINGS PIGHTLE NATURE RESERVE HISTORY

Not everyone realises that Bildeston has its very own nature reserve within easy walking distance. Kings Pightle Nature Reserve is to be found at the corner of the playing field on Consent Lane. Everyone is welcome to visit the five and a half acres of natural woodland, reed-bed and meadow (but please keep ALL dogs on a short lead, as there are vulnerable small mammals and ground nesting birds in the area). There is a bird hide for viewing the (mainly) small birds at the feeding station. Please close the door and leave it as you would wish to find it after your visit. Thank you.

Here's a short history of how this village facility came to be: The acquisition of a piece of land for a nature reserve, off Hitcham Road, was completed by Bildeston Parish Council in 1994. This extended to 2.2 ha. (5.1 acres), and it was comprised of low-lying areas of sedge/rank fen vegetation, and a higher area of unused arable land which had last been cultivated approximately five years previously. The land was surveyed, and a nature reserve management plan was drawn up by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, in June 1996.

Public access at this time was via Hitcham Road, but this was hazardous, with no footpath. In 2004 an improved access was proposed, from Bildeston playing field. With the help of grants from the Suffolk Environmental Trust and the John Artiss fund, a strip of land was purchased from a neighbouring farm, and two bridges were constructed to cross the Bildeston Brook. This enabled safe public access to the nature reserve for the first time.



A follow-up management plan report was made by Suffolk Wildlife Trust in 2006.

The nature reserve committee secured another grant, a Biffa Award, in August 2014. This was for the purchase and installation of a bird-hide and picnic tables and seats for a field study area.

In 2024/25, the two access bridges were renewed as they had deteriorated.

The nature reserve is managed by the *Bildeston Kings Pightle Trust*. This is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. It is dependant on voluntary fundraising and income from the *Henry Morphew Legacy Fund*. It is managed by a committee of seven trustees. For more information and photos, see our website, just Google '*Bildeston Nature Reserve*.'

JOIN OUR WORK PARTIES! From time to time, to maintain the reserve, and to keep pathways clear, volunteer work parties are arranged. If you would like to help in an occasional session of physical exercise in the fresh air (everyone to their own abilities), please contact our secretary, Sue Noakes on 07444 113 684. Or keep a look out for notices here in the Bugle, or Facebook '*Bildeston Noticeboard*'. You will be very welcome. Meanwhile, a very big thank you goes to our current volunteers.

The Henry Morphew Legacy

In April 2015 the Kings Pightle trustees became the administrators of a part of the Henry Morphew legacies. These funds are invested to provide a return to further the stated wishes of Henry Morphew, a long-time Bildeston resident. This includes sums for the benefit of the elderly of Bildeston, the children of Bildeston school, the Bildeston sports field, the Nature Reserve, and generally for the good of the Village and its community. Applications for grants from the Fund to support village activities may be made to the *Kings Pightle Committee*.





EASTER MEMORIAL LILIES If you wish to make a donation towards the Easter Lilies, in remembrance of loved ones, please contact Linda Ashwell (07979 751 132) or the Church Wardens by Wednesday 1st April.

The names of those loved ones will then be read out in the prayers Easter Sunday 5th April in St Mary Magdalene Church.

Church Wardens

Neil Ashwell: 01449 741 370 and Martin Rodgers: 01449 743 120

Maurice Ratliff passed away peacefully at Eckling Grange, Dereham, Norfolk on 28th February 2026, at the age of 95. Maurice lived a full and varied life, pursuing his passions for music and travel, alongside many other interests that enriched both his own life and the lives of those around him. For over fifty years, he was an active and much-valued member of the community in Bildeston and the surrounding area, contributing his time and enthusiasm to all things musical.

Maurice's funeral service will take place at 2:00pm on Saturday 11th April 2026 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Bildeston. All who knew him are warmly welcome to attend and celebrate his life. There won't be flowers but, if anyone would like to make a donation, we will be accepting donations for the *Alzheimer's Society* and *Ely Cathedral Trust*. Julia Smyth, Niece of Maurice Ratliff

BILDESTON BOWLS CLUB

Outdoor Lawn Bowling

Here on the superb bowls green behind Chamberlin Hall

Outdoor bowling with Bildeston Bowls Club April through to September

Open to everyone, all ages and all abilities,

from never tried, through played a bit, to experienced!

If interested, please contact

Lin Jacobs on 07921 822 163 for more details.





It's all GO in Bildeston!

**Plant Sale Saturday 23rd May 10am-1pm
'Carlisle House' 13 Chapel Street**



Our grateful thanks go to Victoria Morgan for this perfect venue! In spite of the chilly and very wet start to Spring, we have all recently found a 'much needed' burst of energy as gardens become the centre of attention, giving them a fresh start for the oncoming summer months. With this in mind, we would very much welcome any donations of plants/shrubs/cuttings, potted and, if possible, labelled for the Plant Sale.

Delivery details for your donated plants to Carlisle House (just off the Village square in Chapel Street) will be given in the next edition of the Bugle. Expect delicious teas, coffees and cakes to make the occasion all the more enjoyable. Expert guidance will be on hand to help purchasers (if required), to select the most suitable plants for different locations.

All proceeds to St Mary Magdalene Church.

The Village Produce Show committee has been busy organising the schedule of categories for this year's show. The date for your diaries is:

SATURDAY 15th AUGUST 2026

We would love all you growers, flower arrangers, crafters, photographers, bakers and jam and chutney makers to be at the ready!

Bildeston Community Cycling

Why not join our monthly Saturday morning Winter Warmer series? These rides are for riders of all abilities.

WINTER WARMER 7

JOIN US FOR A RIDE OF ABOUT 25 MILES, STARTING FROM MARKET PLACE 9.30am, CAFE STOP HALFWAY. BACK ABOUT 12.30pm.

TO FIND OUT THE DATE FOR THIS APRIL RIDE, CONTACT ROBIN WEAVER 741 048

E-BIKES WELCOME! Warm clothing recommended.

The ride will be mainly on quiet lanes, at an acceptable speed (no-one left behind!). Regret no unaccompanied children under 16.

Just Turn Up!



The Brett Valley Benefice
in collaboration with the Bildeston Food Bank
(supported by Suffolk Community Foundation)

COFFEE & CAKE UPDATE

10.30-12noon at St Mary Magdalene church. Offering a friendly, warm and welcoming space for good conversation over freshly brewed coffee and tea. Delicious cakes are provided by the different churches in the Benefice. There is no charge, but donations are very welcome. Held every month on the first Monday of the month

DATES FOR 2026

2nd March
13th April*
*one week later because of the
Bank Holiday
11th May**
**one week later due to Bank
Holiday

June 1st
July 6th
August 3rd
September 7th
October 5th
November 2nd
December 7th





Monday

3.30pm.-7.30pm MLSPA

7.45pm - 9.30pm Badminton

Tuesday

10.00am- 11.00am Zumba

2.00pm - 4.00pm Art Group

7.00pm - 10.00pm Carpet Bowls

Wednesday

7.30pm - 11pm Open Mic

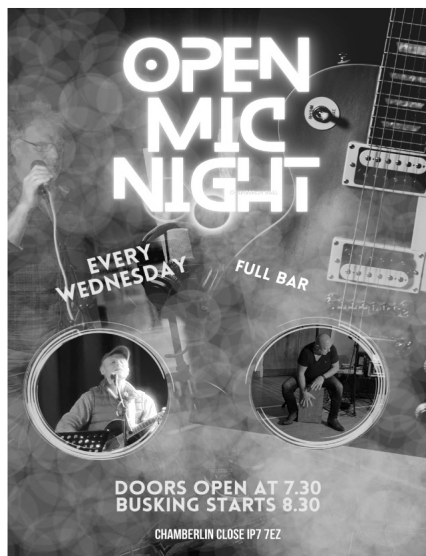
Thursday

10.00am - 11.00am Zumba

6.00pm - 8.00pm Whistle & Wag

Friday

11.00am -1.00pm Pilates



EASTER FAMILY DISCO

SATURDAY 11TH APRIL

5.00PM - 8.00PM

FOOD, DRINKS

EASTER TREATS & GAMES

PRIZE FOR BEST EASTER OUTFIT



www.chamberlinhall.org

Email: enquiries@chamberlinhall.com

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We are a group of amateur artists who meet to enjoy an afternoon of creativity. Newcomers are welcome and no previous experience is necessary.



Come along for a free taster session.

Tuesdays at Chamberlin Hall from 2:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

£10 joining fee and £5 a session (pay as you go)

Call Jo for more info - 01449 257 045

The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic riding NEEDS YOU!!

Shelley is a purpose built centre offering therapy to people living with a wide range of disabilities: situated between Hadleigh and Layham.

We are a charity that relies entirely on volunteers, so if you have a spare hour or two during the week, (term times only), we would love to meet you.

No horse knowledge is required - supporting our riders simply takes empathy, commitment, a willingness to help and a friendly attitude. There are a variety of roles available: helping with the horses, supporting our riders, or assisting with paperwork and correspondence

We are a very friendly group and are open five days a week.

Get in touch today!!

shelleyrda@gmail.com

www.shelleyrda.com

RDA



NAUGHTON MAY FAYRE



BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

4TH MAY 12.30—3.30PM

**WHATFIELD SCHOOL CHOIR
WITH JESS SIMMONS**



FUN DOG SHOW

WITH GUEST JUDGE



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A GREAT AFTERNOON OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

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| ⊗ Win a glider flight | ⊗ Barbeque |
| ⊗ Grand Draw and Raffle | ⊗ Spinning Demonstration |
| ⊗ Cake Stall & Refreshments | ⊗ Children's Corner |
| ⊗ Plant Stall | ⊗ White Elephant & Book Stall |
| ⊗ Fairground Organ | ⊗ Face Painting |
| ⊗ Vintage Engines, Cars,
Motorbikes and Tractors | ⊗ Coconut Shy & Tombola
& Many More Side Shows |
-

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN.

**BILDESTON
HEALTH CENTRE
DISPENSARY**

**SATURDAY
OPENING DATES**

April 2026

April 4th & April 18th

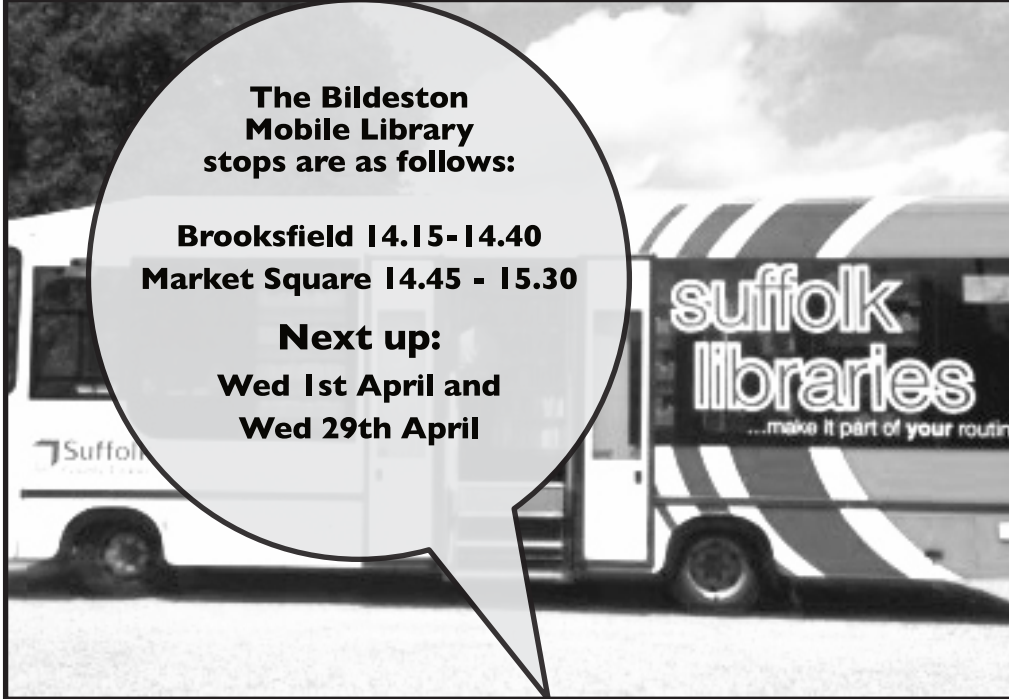
**Please note that we will be
serving patients
from the window**

**BILDESTON
HEALTH CENTRE**

← Patients Car Parking

Car contents left at owners risk.

Tel
01449-740254
(24Hours)



**The Bildeston
Mobile Library
stops are as follows:**

Brooksfield 14.15-14.40

Market Square 14.45 - 15.30

Next up:

Wed 1st April and

Wed 29th April

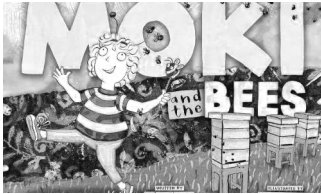
**suffolk
libraries**
...make it part of your routine

Bildeston Primary School

Learning and Growing Together

World Book Day

World Book Day this year was themed around Polar Bears and the Arctic. The Arctic feels like a world straight out of a storybook — icy landscapes, shimmering northern lights, and incredible animals. Children are naturally fascinated by places that feel magical and far away, which makes them eager to read, explore, and ask questions. Polar bears are also a symbol of how our planet is changing, helping children learn about climate change at the same time! We welcomed parents in to share in activities with the children



Moki & the Bees

Moki and the Bees is a children's picture book written by Helen Thorne. Helen is also an avid bee keeper and she visited reception and key stage 1 children to share her passion for bees as well as her book.

Planetarium

Children in year 5 recently enjoyed an unforgettable experience when a mobile planetarium transformed a local school into a 360-degree space dome. Once inside, the pupils were surrounded by stars, planets, and galaxies, creating the feeling of travelling through space without ever leaving the building



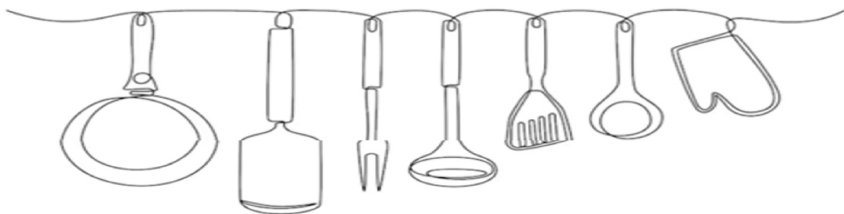
Mother's Day

Not since the pandemic, have we had mums in to enjoy a super roast lunch cooked by our wonderful catering team. The event went really well, having served over 50 mums with their children.



If you are considering Bildeston Primary for your child, please phone the office on the number below.
We can arrange personal tours of our school.

Bildeston Primary School Newberry Road, Bildeston, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7ES Telephone: 01449 740269
www.bildeston.suffolk.sch.uk



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Easter is coming, along with sun and Spring (We hope!). Are you hosting Easter lunch? If so, here's a *'twofer'*, great with a glass or three of Prosecco (and to be really Italian, whizz some fresh peaches in a MagiMix and drop a tsp into each glass before pouring in the Fizz. Lo and Behold, you have a Bellini!

Air Fryer Crispy Artichokes and Olives

A jar (or three) artichokes in herby oil
and/or Olives stuffed with anchovy
(dry the olives if wet)
2 eggs, beaten well with a fork
panko mixed with grated parmesan
plain flour with garlic powder, salt, paprika



Spray the air fryer basket with oil. Get three bowls ready. In one, mix the panko and parmesan and bit of salt and paprika. In the second, the two eggs. And, in the third, mix the flour with some salt, paprika and garlic powder.

Drain the artichokes and the olives. Toss them in the seasoned flour to coat, then toss them into the egg bowl and coat; and, lastly, put the coated pieces into the panko. Now you are ready to go. You can make these early and just reheat them for about 3 minutes just before serving,



Put your coated pieces into the air fryer basket, leaving space between them, spray all with a bit of oil, and bake them at 200° for 5 minutes, then flip the morsels, and spray again and bake 3 minutes more. You may need to do this several times.



Sooooo good. There are never any left!

BRETT VALLEY BENEFICE

Services in the Benefice - April 2026

Wednesday 1st April Holy Week	19.00 pm	Compline	Naughton
Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday	19.00 pm	Holy Communion and washing of feet	Whatfield
Friday 3rd April Good Friday	11.00 am 14.00 pm	Walk of Witness (followed by Good Friday devotions)	Bildeston to Semer to Lindsey
Saturday 4th April Easter Eve	19.00 pm	Easter Vigil & Bonfire	Nedging
Sunday 5th April Easter Day "He is Risen - Alleluia"	08.00 am 11.00 am	Sunrise Holy Communion - followed by breakfast Holy Communion	Naughton Bildeston
Sunday 12th April 1st Sunday after Easter	11.00 am 18.00 pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Nedging Semer
Sunday 19th April 2nd Sunday after Easter	9.30 am 11.00 am	Morning Worship Holy Communion	Nedging Bildeston
Sunday 26th April 3rd Sunday after Easter	09.30 am 11.00 am 15.00 pm 18.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Church Evening Praise	Whatfield Semer Bildeston Naughton

Morning Prayer said during the Month:

3rd Tuesday of the month 9am Naughton

3rd Monday of the month 10am Whatfield; 4th Tuesday of the month 9am Nedging

Naughton Benefice Coffee Morning on behalf of the Bildeston Food Bank held in Bildeston Church – Monday 13th April 10.30am – 12noon

All the Benefice Churches are open during daylight hours apart from All Saints Semer, where the key can be collected from Hollow Trees Farm Shop

Please contact Revd Nicola 07521 457 844 revnictv@outlook.com for any information re. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals or any matters of faith.

We are delighted to have Revd Teresa serving as Deacon in the Benefice.

Please do check out our new website brettvalleybenefice.uk which will be updated over the coming weeks to give you more information on services/events/fundraising.

Brett Valley Benefice Pastoral Letter – April 2026

From the Rector – Revd Nicola Tindall

Dear Friends,

Last year, I wrote about living in times of global uncertainty; and, sadly, rather than any of the situations improving we are now in the grip of something potentially far worse. As I write, the Middle East is in a precarious position. Where is God in all of the judgments, the decisions, the bombings, the resulting homelessness, I hear you ask? Didn't He send His Son to save us all from sin? The simple answer is 'yes He did.' However, God is not some magician who with a flick of His wand can switch people's minds from behaving with animosity, to being full of love and kindness for their fellow man. He allows us to use His gift of freewill. How we use that gift affects outcomes not just in local communities, but its ripple effect filters through to global matters. Today we pray for a swift outcome to hostilities in the Middle East and that a volatile area of the world can settle down again, albeit in an uneasy truce.

World matters of today are overshadowing the Greatest World Event of all time, celebrated this year on the first Sunday of April, Easter Day. It is the day when Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Jesus was crucified on the cross and gave his life for us so that we would be forgiven our sins and be free to have a new relationship with God. By rising again, he demonstrated the enormity of God's love. The message of Easter is very simple. If we want to enjoy that special relationship with God, we must make peace with our neighbour and love our brothers and sisters throughout the world a little more.

There are many ways we can prepare to receive this gift; one is walking with Christ during the darkness of Good Friday. Please join the Benefice's Walk of Witness, (dogs very welcome) on Good Friday, 3rd April. We begin at 11am, from St Mary Magdalene Church, walking to All Saints, Semer, and enjoying further fellowship over our packed lunches. We continue to St Peter's, Lindsey, for a service of Devotion at 2pm. Come for all or part of the day. It is a very companionable experience, sharing with others in our community and thinking of Christians across the world as we engage in joyful fellowship and quiet contemplation.

May you know Christ's blessing this Easter and may you live out his greatest commandment of loving your neighbour as yourself.

Yours in Christ,
Nicola

Tel. 07521 457 844 revnictv@outlook.com

Always Keep in Mind ...

Bell Ringing The band of enthusiastic bellringers continue to thrive and practise every Tuesday. For more details, please contact either Church Warden.

Church Wardens Neil Ashwell: 01449 741 370 and Martin Rodgers: 01449 743 120

Fundraising footnote for St Mary Magdalene

Maintaining our historic church gives us many challenges, from cracks, movement and falling plaster, to rodent damage, updating lighting and paying electricity bills takes time and money. Your Church needs your help and support for it to survive into the future and provide the beautiful setting we need for Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings apart from our normal services and large Village events.

All donations are most welcome and, to enable easy access to cash free donations and charitable giving, you can use the QR code. We also have a card-reader in the Church. Just touch on the front screen the amount you wish to donate and then tap your card on the top. If preferred, cheques made payable to 'Bildeston PCC' or BACS transfers - Account Name: BILDESTON PCC Sort code 20-44-51 Account number 60187186 are very welcome too! If you are regular monthly donor, we really value your commitment to our church and thank you for your ongoing support but have you considered an inflationary increase in your standing order as your Church struggles to meet rising costs.

Please contact Richard Lester our Church Treasurer if anyone needs further information on regular giving on 01449 744 120 or email: *richard.c.lester@btinternet.com*



DON'T GO HUNGRY

Are you finding it hard to meet the current costs of food and energy?

Has work dried up or you have very little money?

In these difficult times nobody should go hungry.

If you and your family are struggling to put food on the table, we can help.

Bildeston Food Bank is a discreet service for Bildeston residents.

Call us on 01449 257 136 (local call charges)

or email **bildestoncsg@gmail.com** in strictest confidence

If you can help support Bildeston Food Bank, we would love to hear from you, too.

We need food, toiletries and cleaning products. We also need games, tools and bric-a-brac for our car-boot stall.

All donations to be delivered to Park House, 9-111 Duke St, Bildeston IP7 7EW

... We Need You

Duke Street, Bildeston email: bildestonbc@gmail.com

Service Every Sunday Morning at 10.45

Strollers & Striders

Mondays 9.45am
Ring 07584 189 356
or 07901 563 281
for details

Craft It Together

alternate Tuesdays
2pm to 4pm 33
Smock Meadow,
07759 644 786
for details



Lunch Club

12.30 First Wed
every month Ring
07584 189 356 to
reserve a place

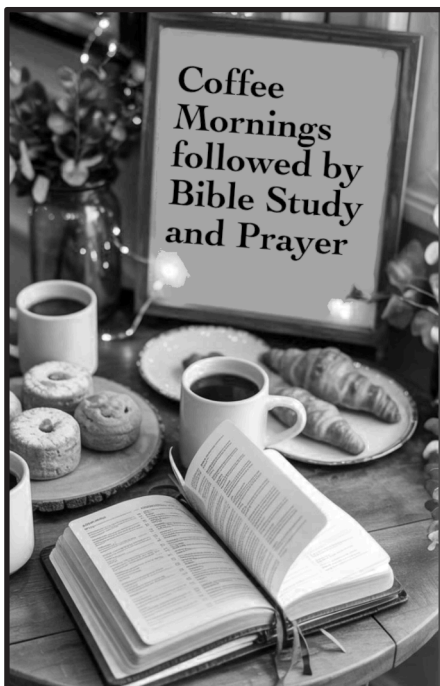
Motley Crew

Bible Study

prayer and lively
discussion 7.30pm
Thursdays at 33
Smock Meadow

Community Coffee Centre Fridays 9.00 to 11.30am

All are most welcome. Enjoy meeting old and new friends at any of these events



10.30 am to 12 noon
87 High Street, Bildeston

An opportunity for fellowship, to pray
together and to ask questions about our
faith in Jesus

All Welcome

Dates: April 15, 22, 29, May 13, 20
& June 10, 17, 24

For more information, please call

Neil Pearson on 07774 893 484
email: njp111@hotmail.com

Teresa Lester on 01449 744 120
email: teresalester47@gmail.com

New daily bus service to Stowmarket and Hadleigh starts in April

From county councillor Robert Lindsay

For a long time, I'd thought that it was crazy we in Bildeston did not have a regular daily bus to either Hadleigh or, more particularly, Stowmarket to get people to work or college and the mainline train station to London.

So when I heard there was some Government money for new services back in autumn 2023, I asked on Bildeston's Facebook noticeboard if people would be interested in such a regular daily service.

There was a very positive response and that, in turn, encouraged Bildeston, Hitcham and Finborough parish councils to put in an application to Suffolk County Council for a new daily bus service.

Those bids were sadly not successful on the first attempt. But a year later, when another dollop of bus money arrived, the idea was approved. Now, two and a bit years on, I'm very pleased to say that a new six-service-a-day, Monday to Friday bus service, the 51, will start from mid April. Run by *Konect*. The timetable is below.

I understand that many TMJ staff come from Hadleigh and Stowmarket directions and should, as a result, be able to leave their cars at home and get the bus to and from work. The ticket price is likely to be cheaper than a day's parking at Stowmarket train station.

Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor
Robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk



Route	51	51	51	51	51	51
Stowmarket Railway Station	07:40	09:40	11:40	13:40	15:40	17:40
Great Finborough, Post Office	07:48	09:48	11:48	13:48	15:48	17:48
Hitcham, White Horse	07:57	09:57	11:57	13:57	15:57	17:57
Bildeston, Clock Tower	08:00	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:00	18:00
Hadleigh, Bus Station	08:16	10:16	12:16	14:16	16:16	18:16
Route	51	51	51	51	51	51
Hadleigh, Bus Station	07:00	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:00	17:00
Bildeston, Clock Tower	07:13	09:13	11:13	13:13	15:13	17:13
Hitcham, White Horse	07:16	09:16	11:16	13:16	15:16	17:16
Great Finborough, Post Office	07:25	09:25	11:25	13:25	15:25	17:25
Stowmarket Railway Station	07:34	09:34	11:34	13:34	15:34	17:34



Route 112 runs every Tuesday and Thursday leaving Bildeston Clock Tower at 9.30am and stopping in Chelsworth, Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh (on request), Little Waldingfield, Great Waldingfield and Sudbury.

The Return service leaves Sudbury Bus Station at 1pm.

Every passenger is valued as fares are crucial to keeping this important service viable, and there is no restriction on who can travel.



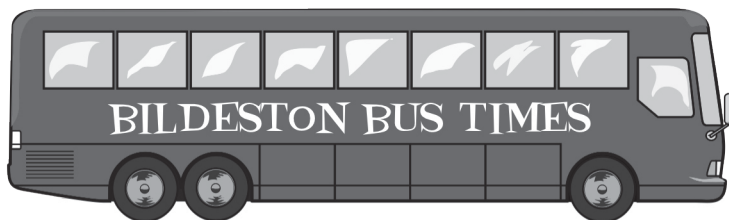
Community Transport

TIMETABLE ROUTE 112 **[TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS ONLY]**

2026

OUTWARD JOURNEY		RETURN JOURNEY	
Bildeston Market Square	09.30 am	Sainsbury's store front RQ	
Chelsworth, Peacock pub	09.34 am	Sudbury bus station	13.00 pm
Monks Eleigh, Swan pub	09.37 am	Tesco store bust stop RQ	
Brent Eleigh, Village Hall	09.41 am	Sudbury Health Centre RQ	
Lavenham (adj. Swan Hotel) RQ		Chilton roundabout	13.04 pm
Little Waldingfield, Swan pub	09.49 am	Bantocks Road, White Hall	13.08 pm
Great Waldingfield, post office	09.53 am	Bantocks Road, Lynns Hall	13.09 pm
Bantocks Road, Lynns Hall	09.55 am	Great Waldingfield, post office	13.11 pm
Bantocks Road, White Hall	09.56 am	Little Waldingfield, Swan pub	13.15 pm
Chilton roundabout	09.59 am	Lavenham (opp Swan Hotel) RQ	
Sudbury Health Centre RQ		Brent Eleigh, Village Hall	13.23 pm
Tesco store bus stop RQ		Swingleton Green RQ	
Sudbury Bus Station	10.04 am	Monks Eleigh, Swan pub	13.28 pm
Sainsbury's store front RQ		Chelsworth, Peacock Pub	13.32 pm
		Bildeston Market Square	13.37 pm
		Brooksfield, Bildeston RQ	

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 REGISTERED CHARITY 1145266 LIMITED COMPANY REGISTERED BY GUARANTEE 07489822



Ipswich Route 111 Operated by Mulleys Motorways

Hitcham – Bildeston – Somersham - Ipswich

Monday to Saturday

Bildeston Clock Tower (opp)	Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station
0720	0817
0950	1046
1350	1446
1650	1746

Ipswich – Somersham – Bildeston – Hitcham

Monday to Saturday

Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station	Bildeston Clock Tower
0840 (0850 in school holidays)	0932 (0936 in school holidays)
1235	1329
1540 (1550 in school holidays)	1642 (1643 in school holidays)
1750	1843

Stowmarket Route 461 Operated by Hadleigh Community Transport & Chambers

Stowmarket – Great Bricett/Hitcham – Hadleigh

Monday & Thursday

Bildeston Clock Tower (opp)	Hadleigh Bus Station
1305	1340

Hadleigh – Hitcham/Great Bricet - Stowmarket

Hadleigh Bus Station	Bildeston Clock Tower
0950	1003

Bury St Edmunds Route 379 – Wednesday only

Bury St Edmunds – Bildeston – Hadleigh

Bildeston Clock Tower (opp)	Hadleigh Bus Station
1351	1414

Hadleigh – Bildeston – Bury St Edmunds

Hadleigh Bus Station	Bildeston Clock Tower
0942	1009

Bildeston Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held Monday 2nd March 2026, 7.30pm, at Chamberlin Hall, Chamberlin Close, Bildeston.

Present	
Cllr Ray McCann, Chairman	County Cllr Robert Lindsay
Cllr Robin Sedgwick	District Cllr Deborah Saw
Cllr Virginia Tuck	Clerk – Angela Chapman
Cllr Richard Lester	1 x Residents
Apologies: Cllr Helen Alcoe, Cllr Virginia Tuck, Cllr Alex Banks	

C661/25/26 Chairman's Welcome & Apologies

Chairman McCann welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies noted.

C662 /25/26 Vacancy for Parish Councillor/s.

2 vacancies remain.

C663/25/26 Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. Cllr Richard Lester – Kings Pightle Committee, St. Mary Magdalene church PCC, Sports Field Management Committee/Trustee

C664/25/26 Requests for dispensation in respect of pecuniary interests. None.

C665/25/26 Minutes of Last Meeting held 5th January 2026, approved as a true record of the meeting.

C666/25/26 Public Session – to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports. Adjourned 1938hrs to receive reports from County and District Councillors and consider any matters raised by local parishioners.

DC Deborah Saw Full report from Babergh District Councillor Deborah Saw can be seen on bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/

Bildeston Issues Following up a query from a resident concerning the construction of a ditch on the Ipswich Road site which appeared to be at a higher level than the existing one I contacted Orbit who confirmed that their engineers were trying to achieve the connection at the right level from the roadside, across the ditch within the site. I have also asked Orbit to increase road cleaning during the current wet spell. I was alerted to the construction by Orbit of a temporary footpath behind Artiss Close as the footpath down the main road side isn't able to be constructed yet, see above.

cont'd Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/03/26

DC Deborah Saw

Full report from Babergh District Councillor Deborah Saw can be seen on <https://bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/> Report read out in DC Saw's absence.

Bildeston Issues I have been in contact with Orbit Housing and its contractors regarding footpaths at its Ipswich Road site and the construction of a ditch. There is now a temporary footpath running by the side of Artiss Close which matches the alternative the Parish Council wanted.

There have been residents' complaints about parking by Council contractors at Brooksfield and damage to a grass verge. Thank you to Cllr. Robin Sidgwick for providing photographs. I have spoken to the project manager at the Council and he informed me that the work would finish around the end of March. He did speak to the contractors and initially parking improved but that did not last. I will report back to the Parish Council at the meeting.

The Joint Local Plan and the Call for Sites

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are proceeding with its new Joint Local Plan in response to significant changes in national planning policy and updated Government housing requirements which have led to an 86% increase in our annual housing target. Babergh has held two Call for Sites at the end of 2025/2026 and in 2024.

The Councils have published a map of all sites submitted during these Call for Sites exercises. It can be accessed here <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites>. Let me stress this is not a list of preferred locations for development and all these sites have to be assessed and consulted on by communities. We have published it so communities have early visibility. Assessments will be published through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment in Spring 2026. Officer assessment does not determine allocations — that occurs at the draft plan stage, which will be subject to full public consultation.

The County Council Elections are back on!

The Government has said that the County Council elections must be held after having told the County Council that it could cancel the election if it thought it had 'capacity issues.' It is the District Councils' officers who run the election on behalf of the County and fortunately given the policy backtracking we have experienced from the Government, did not stop preparations.

The election will be held on 7th May. To vote in person on 7 May, you must be on the electoral register by 23:59 BST on Monday 20 April.

You can register online with your National Insurance number, external, or by writing to your council's electoral registration office.

The rules about postal and proxy votes have changed, and you need to renew them every three years. Any postal or proxy votes set up before 31 October 2023 have expired

CC Robert Lindsay Full report from Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsay can be seen on <https://bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/> Report read out in CC Lindsay's absence. .

cont'd 2 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/03/26

New bus 51 Hadleigh and Stowmarket

I have no new info on this timetable but the number and timing of services is limited because it is just one driver operating one bus going to and fro, and by law a single driver's shift is limited. The operator TMS apparently is prepared to flex the timings once the service is underway, within these limits, depending on demand. Apparently HCT is not willing to ticket share on the route. I hope this may change if the route becomes successful.

County council elections back on

As you probably heard, last month the Government suddenly U-turned on its move to scrap County Council elections and they are now back on with very little notice. This is owing to a legal challenge which the Government found it could not defend itself against, although before its lawyers saw the challenge the Government was adamant that it had legal precedence on its side. All in all this strikes me as representative of the cavalier way local government changes are being pushed through.

Vehicle Removal Trial for Resurfacing Works

Often road works have been delayed and extra costs added because people fail to heed the warning to move their cars beforehand. Suffolk Highways have announced that they will trial towing away vehicles that have not been removed between March and June this year for about 19 specific planned resurfacing works. The council will a fortnight before place cards placed under windscreens and through residents' doors. Two days before the works are due to begin, cones will be put out along with signage warning that it will become a towing zone on the day. If there are cars parked on the road on the day, officers will knock on doors to try and find the owner and as a last resort, vehicles will be moved. There is a £70 fine to get it back. Essex County Council has been doing this for about a decade and found that it has worked to cut costs of road works.

County Council chief executive quits with no new job to go to

On 13 February, it was announced that Nicola Beach, the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, would be resigning after six years at the end of March. Because the council will be dissolved in May 2028, the administration will be appointing two existing directors – Andrew Cook (currently deputy CEO) and Mark Ash (currently director of local government reorganisation) – into new joint chief executive roles for the remaining two years of the council's existence.

Suffolk Sustainability Initiatives Nominated for Awards

Suffolk County Council is one of 24 UK local authorities to be shortlisted for the first APSE Energy Awards, which are held in partnership with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The nomination recognises the council's Warm Homes Suffolk Loan Scheme, and the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group's Home Energy Efficiency Assessment Scheme (administered by Reed In Partnership). Both these schemes were a result of declaring a climate emergency. However the county has *removed the word "climate"* from its policy to deal with national strategic infrastructure projects.

cont'd 3 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/03/26

Reconvened 1948 hrs.

C679/25/26 Planning Applications

Planning Appendix A - Items for comment None.

Planning Appendix B – Items determined by Babergh District Council None.

C680/25/26 Clerks Report

Ashtons – update –Deed of Grant has been sent. Ashtons are awaiting a response from the landowner's solicitor.

Welcome pack – draft now completed. Feedback needed, together with distribution list. See C681/26/26 d. below.

Smith of Derby – letter sent, awaiting response.

Assertion 10 – this is a new digital and data compliance that the PC needs to adhere to. It will appear on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR 2025-26. You will see several items on the agenda relating to this.

The works being carried out by Babergh on some houses at Brookfield has caused some irritation to residents, as workman's vans have been parked in the residents' parking bays. Babergh DC have been contacted. The works will be finished by the end of March.

Environmental Improvement project – liaising with Councillors on works. I have compiled a list of work improvements which has been distributed. See C681/26/26 e. below.

Finances All in place, ready for the end of the financial year.

C681/25/26 Projects and Progress Reports

a.Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Philip Alcoe received a NP document from Rachel Leggett Associates, consultants. He will distribute to all other NP group members, also to the Clerk, who will distribute to all Parish Cllrs for information. Work on the plan will not commence until June 2026. Central Government has changed the NPPF. Funding needs to be put in place. It is hoped CIL funds will be available, as well as funding from KBB. It was noted it is important to keep non-Cllr working group members informed.

b.Orbit Housing, Weavers Grove – Cllr Robin Sidgwick inspected the area and the new footpath Sunday, there is no change. He is in contact with Will Harvey/ Orbit Housing.

c.SID – awaiting pole installation

d.Welcome Pack – Clerk distributed draft leaflet. One addition to be put on. Quote for printing distributed to Cllrs. Approved for printing.

e.Village Environmental Improvement project – Clerk produced and distributed worksheet. Cllr Robin Sidgwick has completed several tasks. Other tasks still to be being carried out on this ongoing project. A group to be arranged to clear area at the end of Smock Meadow.

f.Playground monthly report – on SharePoint. Nothing to report.

g.update on village amenities – Clerk confirmed the PC had arranged levelling of a recent burial grave.

cont'd 4 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/03/26

C682/25/26 Administrative, Finance and Governance Reports

a. Payments for approval – authorised by Cllrs McCann and Sidgwick.

Payee	Description	Net of VAT
An Accounting Gem	Accountancy fees	31.25
Parish Council Websites	Website maintenance	60.00
P Barham	Cemetery Maintenance	25.00
SMS	Microsoft 365 subs	43.46
A Chapman	Admin expenses	39.00
McAfee	Laptop Protection	4109.99
A Chapman	Clerk' salary	0.0
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	274.71

b. Approval and signing Scribe of monthly accounting reports – checked and signed

c. Assertion 10 – review and adopt new IT policy – approved and adopted

d. Assertion 10 - Adopt Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Publication Scheme, Freedom of Information Act Model Publication Scheme Version 1.2 (2015-10-23). Defer

e. Assertion 10 - update and review GDPR Policy and Data Protection Act 2018 – reviewed and adopted.

F. Review policy list. Defer

g. Waste bin emptying – considerable increase in emptying costs. Approved. Discussion on bins in Market Place which get full very quickly. Parcel boxes being put in the bins after being collected from the shop. Cllr Philip Alcoe offered to empty the bins of cardboard if they get too full

h. Community First Responder Initiative – with Chelsworth and Monks Eleigh PCs.

Chairman Ray McCann read out the email. Proposal to raise funds to equip CFR. The approximate amount needed is £3k. Chairman McCann will contact Chair of Chelsworth PC. Bildeston PC are happy to support and assist with fundraising and finding volunteers. The PC will put a piece in the Bugle and Roundabout.

C683/25/26 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council Clerk to contact DC Deborha Saw regarding damage to property on the High Street from water and debris off the road surface.

C684/25/26 Items for next agenda

Neighbourhood Plan

Welcome Pack distribution

Village environmental improvements

Playground report

Parish Councillor vacancies

Meeting closed 2050 hrs.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th April 2026 7.30pm, at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston.

Village website: www.bildeston.org

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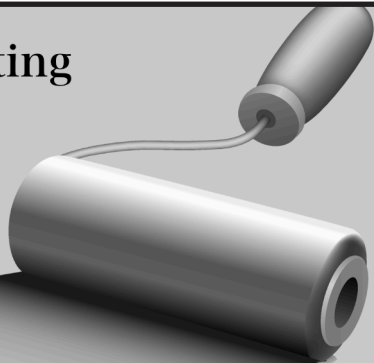
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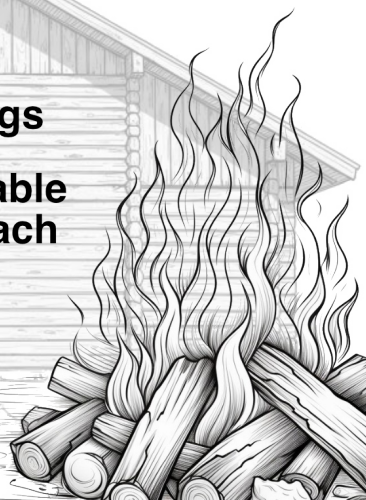
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