

Badingham ECHO



February & March 2025

BADINGHAM DIARY

Bingo Night	Wed 29th January	Village Hall 6.30 for 7
Quiz Night	Thu 6th February	Village Hall 7.30
Natter & Chatter	Fri 7th February	Village Hall 10 to 12
Coffee & Bacon Rolls	Sat 15th February	Village Hall 10 to 12
Kurling	Thu 20th February	Village Hall 7.15
Bingo Night	Wed 26th February	Village Hall 6.30 for 7
Deer Parks Talk	Fri 28th February	Village Hall 7 for 7.30
Quiz Night	Thu 6th March	Village Hall 7.30
Natter & Chatter	Fri 7th March	Village Hall 10 to 12
Ceilidh	Fri 7th March	Village Hall 7.30
Coffee & Bacon Rolls	Sat 15th March	Village Hall 10 to 12
Kurling	Thu 20th March	Village Hall 7.15
Bingo Night	Wed 26th March	Village Hall 6.30 for 7
French Evening	Fri 28th March	SOLD OUT
Litter Pick	Sat 29th March	Café 10 am
Quiz Night	Thu 3rd April	Village Hall 7.30
Natter & Chatter	Fri 4th April	Village Hall 10 to 12

Regular Events

Wednesday Walks meet outside the Cafe at 10

Badingham Café Wednesdays & Thursdays, 10.30 - 12.30

Church Services - Please see the Upper Alde Link for full details

The deadline for the next Echo is **15th March**

Please send your news / articles to Tish at Brick Kiln Farm , IP13 8LE
or by email to BadinghamEcho@gmail.com or call Tish on 638259

Notes from the Editor

Rosemary tells me she fried 150 slices of bacon today which must mean the return of the Bacon and Coffee mornings was a great success. I've only been on the sharp end once but can vouch that it's hard work for the team involved - but very much appreciated by the customers.

Christmas events were very well supported too. Thank you to all those who organise village events and those who join in and contribute to our community spirit. I'm pleased to see there are the same number of dates in the Badingham Diary this time as last. The special events this time are a history talk on Deer Parks, a Ceilidh to put us all in a spin and the café's annual French Evening.

Like me, Wendy hates the thought of parting with the festive wreaths we created under Shirley's patient guidance. We're renaming them evergreen wreaths so we can keep them on show through the winter. If you haven't taken part in one of our wreath-making evenings and would be interested for next December, please contact Wendy so she can send details nearer the time: badinghamcc@gmail.com.

In April, I've volunteered to be quizmaster when we are raising funds for the village hall. It's quite a feat compiling 8 rounds of questions so I hope you will come along in support. I tend to float from team to team so don't feel you need a team of 6 to join in. There are also quiz nights in February and March, raising money for the church and the Air Ambulance.

Hope to see you at a village event soon,
Tish

The ECHO is produced for the villagers of Badingham
by the Badingham Community Council
Registered Charity No. 274549

The Editor's decision on whether or where to place material is final. While every effort is made to check information published, the BCC does not endorse the accuracy or reliability of any article or advert within the magazine. E.O.E.

BADINGHAM

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The BCC hopes all residents and their families enjoyed the Christmas festivities and wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Seasonal Gifts were delivered to residents aged 70+. Some gifts were left on doorsteps - it is always good to have feedback that they have been safely received.

The Festive Wreath Making Workshop on the 2nd of December was a huge success, and 15 beautiful wreaths were produced to decorate Badingham doors, and wine and festive nibbles were enjoyed. Many thanks to Shirley, whose expert help ensured such an enjoyable event.

On the 8th of December Michael and Jane hosted a wonderful Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall, followed by magic and a little music from Peter Holloway, who certainly kept us entertained! This is a lovely get together for villagers and a yearly festive tradition we plan to repeat in the future.

Natter and Chatter continues in the Village Hall on the first Friday of the month until the last one of the season on 2nd April. Please do pop in for a chat and a cuppa anytime between 10am and 12 noon, everyone will receive a warm welcome and a biscuit or two!

There is very little to report in this Echo but, as the BCC has a meeting in the latter part of January, there will be more news, events and dates for your diary in the next issue.

Keep warm and safe, Pauline
Pauline Skevington on behalf of the BCC

LITTLE ERNIE DRAW

Reminder – the prize draw will start in April.
I wish you all the best of luck.

Sonja – BCC President

BADINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Uniting for Change:

How Your Group Can Benefit from Parish Support
Let's make 2025 our best year yet!

Happy New Year!

Our Parish is fortunate to have such a diverse range of groups contributing to the well-being and vibrancy of our village.

In the spirit of collaboration and shared purpose, I would like to invite all community groups to come together to discuss ways we can collectively enhance our village and strengthen our connections. By using our efforts, we can achieve greater outcomes and make a more significant impact.

The Parish Council is committed to supporting the invaluable work you do and encourages you to reach out if you require assistance, whether it be guidance, resources or funding.

If your group has specific needs or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Council. We would be delighted to hear from you and explore how we can work together to support your projects.

Thank you for your dedication and contribution to making our village such a special place. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
Caroline Byrne

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Badingham Parish Council

Contact badinghamclerk@gmail.com

What's on at Badingham Village Hall

SPRING CEILIDH

WITH SYZEWELL GAP



**DANCES
CALLED BY**

**TREVOR
BECKFORD**

*Dance the evening away to the infectious rhythms and tunes of **Syzewell Gap**, one of the region's foremost ceilidh bands.*

**TICKETS £10 (£5 FOR CHILDREN)
AND INCLUDE A PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER.
(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS!)**

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH AT 7.30PM

Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/badingham-village-hall
or from the Community Café, or phone: 01728 638130

News from Enterprise Badingham

Community Gardens

We now have a few spare plots available, and are looking for new gardeners to take them on. There's no need to be an experienced gardener, we are a friendly group and can pass on tips and suggestions. A plot costs £20 per year. If you would like one, and to discuss further, please contact Janet. (See below).

Oil Syndicate

We receive an annual rebate from Rix for oil ordered through our syndicate, which we put towards village activities. Rix come out in January, April, July and October to deliver for those on the syndicate. The more of us who can coordinate our order with their deliveries, the bigger the rebate, so we hope more of you might join if possible. Thank you.

Once registered with them, they ring the week before delivery date to see if you'd like to order. Minimum is 500 litres. Please contact Janet for more info.

Spring Recipe Booklet

Our fourth and last booklet will be available at the end of March, from the café, or Janet at janet.barwell@btinternet.com or Annie on annie.clark.t21@btinternet.com. We are planning to include some delicious spring recipes to welcome the warmer weather.

We still have copies of the first three booklets, so do come and complete your collection! £3.50 each. All money raised will go towards maintaining the community herb garden behind the Village Hall.

Latest Village News & Events

Check for updates on www.badingham.org.uk

Village Facebook groups

Badingham Recorder - for recording events, sharing memories and archives

Badingham Village Community - for news, advice and help

Badingham Village Hall - Badingham Café - Badingham White Horse
Upper Alde Churches

Friday 28th February
BADINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
DEER PARKS OF SUFFOLK
with a focus on Badingham and its parks

Talk kindly given by Dr Rosemary Hoppitt

Doors open at 7 pm

You will be welcomed with a glass of wine/soft drink
and a finger buffet

The talk will begin at 7.45

Raising funds for the repair
of Saint John's church roof

Tickets £10 from
Tanya 663992, Ann 638288
or Badingham Café

Rev Claire is now sending out a Weekly Link for the parishes in the Upper Alde Valley. If you would like to be included in the mailing list please email revclairekiddy@gmail.com giving permission to use your email address.



**Saturday 15th February
&
Saturday 15th March**

COFFEE & BACON ROLLS

We also have vegetarian and vegan options

**10am - 12 noon
at Badingham Village Hall**

We hope you will join us for a tasty treat
and a chance to get together and chat

The Carol Service and The Crib Service collected £45.00 for The Children's Society – thank you everyone who contributed.

Just a reminder – there is a collection point for the Food Bank in the Church Chancel. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and very welcome.

Badingham Church Roof Repairs

We are progressing with the Development Phase of our project with initial support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and with thanks to the National Lottery players.

We are currently seeking tenders from Architects and Project Managers. Many hours work are involved and we have a way to go. We hope for a successful outcome!

BADINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

We need you! If you want to keep village life and activities going into the future, we really need new people to join the Village Hall Committee. We have lost several members over the last year and urgently need to get up to strength again. Please give this some serious consideration so we can keep our village hall going. If you want to know more, please get in touch.

Martin Clark 01728 638130 martintclark@gmail.com

Following the sell-out event last year Syzewell Gap will be playing for a Spring Ceilidh in March. Get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment!!

Friday March 7th at 7.30pm

Spring Ceilidh

with Syzewell Gap



Dances called by Trevor Beckford

£10 (£5 children) with a Ploughman's supper

Spring into action and get your tickets from:



Badingham Community Café
www.ticketsource.co.uk/badingham-village-hall

01728 638130

To book the village hall for an event, family get together or party contact Charles on 07734 527808 or email badinghamvillagehall@gmail.com

DENNINGTON CEP SCHOOL



Swallows Class went back in time to September 1939, when we were evacuated from London to the little village of Dennington. We used evidence from our school's log book from the time for some interesting details about how evacuees felt about this experience. We listened to Chamberlain's war announcement in the church and wrote postcards home to our families. We then walked (with kind permission) to the pillbox to explore how that would have been used in WWII. In the afternoon we did some cooking using recipes from the time.

The lead up to Christmas has as always been very exciting and busy. On Tuesday we had a special visitor – Father Christmas. He met with all the children and handed out gifts. On Wednesday we were off to Colchester Theatre to watch Peter Pan. The highlight of the festivities, though, was Chaffinches' and Robins' class performance of the nativity story which was called The Littlest Christmas Tree. We were all so proud to see how the children's confidence has grown and to witness their fantastic acting, singing and dancing skills!

Jenny Turner

CHURCH BOOKSHOP

Thanks to everyone who came to the Special Book Sale just before Christmas, including the helpers. We made £110 for the Church upkeep, which was very pleasing. It was a bit cold in the Churchyard but the Mulled Wine warmed us up a bit. It was very nice to see people from neighbouring villages as well as our loyal customers. We plan to hold a further event in March and will publicise the date once we have checked the long range weather forecast!

Meanwhile, please keep calling in to see what's on the shelves - we would also welcome donations of your unwanted books. We can collect locally if needed, please ring 638078. Thank you! Patricia



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EYES DOWN FOR BINGO!

Bingo at Badingham Village Hall
on the last WEDNESDAY of each month

*** 29 January ***

*** 26 February * * 26 March ***

from 6.30 for a 7pm start

Cash only

£10 for 2 books and raffle tickets!

Refreshments served at half time
or bring your own snacks and drinks

Call Celia for details 638332

HAVE A GO AT KURLING



Eighteen enthusiastic but rather rusty 'kurlers' arrended in January. There was rather more chatter than stones hitting the target. Jocelyn and Errol have kindly taken over the reins from Joyce and Ray.

Our Christmas party was another tasty fish and chips supper. Our nearest the bullseye challenge was supplemented by a table quiz and even a sing-along. You don't need to commit to more than one session and at just £2.50 a time, with tea, coffee and a biscuit thrown in, kurling is a fun way to pass a couple of hours on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7.15pm.

BOWLS CLUB

Interested in joining
Badingham Bowls Club?

Call Ann 638760

We are a friendly, social
club with the emphasis on
enjoying the game - good
results are a bonus!

HAVE A GO AT KURLING

Join us in the Village Hall
on the 3rd Thursday of
the month, 7.15 - 9pm

£2.50 per person includes
tea/coffee and biscuits

BADINGHAM & DENNINGTON BELL RINGERS

We meet for practice every Thursday evening at 7.30pm
at Badingham or Dennington church

NEW RINGERS ALWAYS WELCOME

If you haven't rung before don't worry, come along and try,
we will teach you how it's done.

Interested in having a go? Call Matt 638070

THE SLOW READERS BOOK CLUB

Meet alternate months on a
Friday evening in the café
for wine, nibbles and a
discussion on the books we
have read.

Call Caroline 638585

BADINGHAM GARDENING CLUB

Our afternoon meetings are
held on the first Thursday of
the month, when we enjoy
tea and cake and a look
around members' gardens.

Call Dee on 621016

VILLAGE QUIZ

A quiz is held on the first THURSDAY of each month
7.30 - 9.30 pm in Badingham Village Hall

Tables of up to six people (£3 per person)

Please bring your own nibbles, drinks and glasses

Proceeds to local organisations and charities

£60 raised for Parkinson's UK in December

6th February - Badingham Church

6th March - East Anglian Air Ambulance

3rd April - Badingham Village Hall

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Quotes, references and pics available

Badingham Shop & Café

Café email: Badinghamshopcafe@gmail.com

Facebook: Badingham Village Shop and Café

Website: badingham.org.uk/Badingham-cafe



After a well-earned three week break the café volunteers have welcomed 2025 and are once again baking delicious cakes, serving behind the counter with a smile and leading walks around the village. During January we will be open on Wednesdays only from 10.30am – 12.30pm, reopening on both Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5th February.

The first **Wednesday Walk** of the New Year was a great success, with lots of new faces enjoying the brisk walk in the fields around Badingham. The walks leave the café at 10am each week and heads off on various paths around the village, returning to the café about an hour later for hot drinks, delicious bakes and continued conversations. A warm welcome awaits all new walkers to the group.

The joint café / Village Hall committee **Winter Market** on 29th November was a great success, and thanks are given to everyone involved in ensuring it was so enjoyable for all those attending. Steve and Adie serenaded us as we shopped amongst the well-stocked stalls, drank mulled wine with mince pies and ate delicious bowls of chilli. Father Christmas was in attendance with gifts for the children of Badingham, and there was a lovely festive atmosphere ahead of the holidays.

On the 6th December we held our annual Volunteers Party, a get together in the café to say a huge 'thank you' for all the hard work and efforts our volunteers make during the year to keep the café and our popular events going. The party was enjoyed by all who attended, and we hope to welcome more volunteers over the coming months. If you would like to join our café volunteers, please do contact us at the email above.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the planned Carol Singing at the café on 13th December as we didn't have enough volunteers to run the evening. We're sorry to those who were disappointed that this event didn't take place and hope that next year we will be able to go ahead as usual.

Huge thanks to Sonja, Jean and Judy who created a wonderful Christmas Hamper for our seasonal raffle. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets to raise funds for the café, and congratulations to Rodney who won the hamper – a real treat to share with family and friends.

Our postponed **French Evening** will be going ahead on 28th March – you may remember that we were unable to use the Village Hall for the original event, and so it has been rearranged. All those with tickets were happy to wait for the new date, so we don't have any places available, however if you would like to put your name down on the waiting list in case anyone is unable to attend please contact us via the café email.

Karen Gregory will be again hosting our **Spring Litter Pick** on Saturday 29th March. Please join us at 10am at the café where you will be given the equipment needed to collect litter, then join us afterwards for delicious scoffins and hot drinks.

The café committee will be meeting very soon to plan our calendar for 2025; please do let us know if you have any activities or events you would like to see at the café, and if you'd like to be the first to know when new events are organised please email us and let us know.

We look forward to seeing you in the café for homemade cakes, coffee and conversation.

Thank You from Linda M

We have been supplied weekly for as long as I can remember with wonderful eggs by Jerry Shaw from Laxfield. His last delivery was Sunday 15th December.

I would like to thank Jerry for his 40 years of magnificent service to this and surrounding villages.

It may not be a scam -

Last September OFCOM introduced One Touch Switch to make it quicker and easier for phone and broadband services to be transferred between suppliers. Unfortunately, I've already seen four cases where people have been in danger of losing their services because of mistakes made by someone else or another company. If you receive a message from your provider along the lines of 'sorry you are leaving' please do not ignore it. If your phone number or broadband is taken away, it may take several days to retrieve.

BADINGHAM NATURE DIARY

Paul shares his notable sightings from Pollards and around the village. We would love to hear what you have spotted, in your garden or on walks around the village.



2 November	Redwing	10+
4 November	Vapourer moth	
10 November	Lapwing	7, Pound Green Road
13 November	Bullfinch	
14 November	Fieldfare	12
	Large White	Butterfly caterpillar on cabbages
21 November	Golden Plover	50+
23 November	Red Kite	High Road
18 December	Collared Earthstar	Under bay tree

I had to look up what a Collared Earthstar was!

When I was dropping Sonja home after the Kurling Christmas Party (19th December), a woodcock flew up in front of the car on Wood Road and settled on the other side of the road, allowing us a good look. Although a nocturnal bird, we thought it might have just arrived from the continent. The next day I saw a Chinese Water Deer for the first time at Brick Kiln. I had seen one just the week before, close to the water tower in Dennington. This one seems to be hanging around - Richard has since seen it around the fields. They are larger than a Muntjac but smaller than a roe deer. Like the Muntjac, the males grow tusks - giving them the name Vampire Deer. This is another escapee breed from Whipsnade Zoo that has gradually populated East Anglia.



**DO YOUR BIT -
SPRING LITTER PICK**

Saturday 29th March

Meet at the Café at 10

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BADINGHAM NEIGHBOUR- HOOD WATCH

Sonja Russell -
Lead Co-ordinator

Email:

geoffreyrussell268@gmail.com

Please note: my landline is no more,
please use the mobile: 07821 235834

Hope you all had a good Christmas and
New Year we did!.. and everyone safely
returned from holidays.

Everything seems very quiet at present
BUT we will see how it unfolds during the
year of 2025. Please contact me when
there is anything you need reported.

Let There Be Light

The right lighting can deter would-be criminals and help you and your neighbours keep an eye on your property.

One of the easiest ways to deter burglars is to install motion activated lights around your home. An instant burst of light will alert you to movement and startle a potential intruder.

Timers for internal lights will give the appearance of your home being occupied even when you are out or away on holiday. The ERA Protect Floodlight Camera looks and works like a regular spotlight but additionally sends a live feed to your smartphone so you can monitor your home from anywhere in the world.

Neighbourhood Watch Alert

There has been a NHW scam doing the rounds. It has not affected Badingham



NHW but I have made sure everything is updated for security.

Driving Ban

An Ipswich man has been banned from driving for 6 months for driving without insurance. He was fined £660 for the offence. In addition, Suffolk Magistrates ordered him to pay a surcharge of £264 as well as legal costs. In total, £1014. Get your insurance when it is due!

Drugs

A mid-Suffolk man has been imprisoned for 16 weeks as he failed to comply with the conditions of his suspended sentence. Sgt Allard commented: "Class A drugs are responsible for wreaking havoc in our communities". Anyone in our village with drugs on their mind, consider the consequences to yourself and others.

WaterSafe

NHW is advising residents to ask plumbers working on their drinking water supply on simple question: "Are you using lead-free solder?" Plumbers sometimes use solder to join pipes and make connections. Lead dissolving into your water can build up in the body and cause health issues, with babies and young children most at risk.

To find your nearest WaterSafe approved plumber or installer visit watersafe.org.uk or call 0333 207 9030.

Finally – Happy New Year and look after yourselves!

Sonja

Sonja's Archives

Badingham is a small, spread out village with plenty of things going on but, at the same time, a very pleasant place to live... THUMBS UP... never DOWN!

Badingham Church – William Dowsing appointed parliamentary visitor to the churches of Suffolk in 1643 with the job of destroying superstitious ornaments etc. Smashed sixteen cherubims belonging to this church. How dare he!

Badingham School originally in Low Street (which now is the Village Hall) moved up to Rectory Road. Mrs Barnard was Headmistress in the 1950s – I remember her very well.

Beside the old Village Hall entrance, next to Malcolm and Megs drive, was A H Watson's General Store. I used to pop down on my bicycle to get sweets.

Oakenhill Hall - this is Crackenhill Hall of the book 'Joseph and his Brethren' – a fine read which has claim to being the best of all rural novels. The book was first published in 1928, written by H W Freeman.

Several farms had Suffolk Red Polls, a breed of naturally hornless cattle which is noted for its docility, longevity and thriftiness. Fine Suffolk traits! The Red Poll is a good milker and the steers make excellent beef animals.

More about Badingham in a later issue, Sonja

JOIN US FOR NATTER & CHATTER

Join us in the Village Hall on the first Friday of the month:

ÿ 7th February

ÿ 7th March

ÿ 2nd April

Drop in for a chat and a cuppa between 10 and 12 noon

FRAMLINGHAM LIBRARY

Welcome to 2025!

A big thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts for the **Children's Library** and associated works project! We're pleased to announce that we have successfully raised the necessary funds. As I write, we are awaiting the final costings for the enabling works, and we hope to be able to share a start date soon. Please note that there may be some short-term closures once the project begins, but we will keep you updated with all the details.



We also want to extend our thanks to everyone who donated toys for Christmas. These have been passed on to the Children's Hub at Leiston, where they will support local families.

Our regular activities are ongoing, including our **Warm Welcome Conversations** on Thursdays. Why not pop in at 10:00am for a chat and to find out what's going on at the Library?

We are also excited to announce that we will be starting **tablet/iPad courses** in February! If you're interested, please let us know. We're just awaiting confirmation of dates and times, and we'll keep you updated.

Special Event – 'Homecoming' with Melissa Harrison

Monday, 3rd March, 7:00pm – Please book your place at the library.

Join us for an inspiring evening with author Melissa Harrison. **Homecoming** is a year-long course in noticing the beauty and stories unfolding around you, wherever you are. With monthly guides, bird songs to listen out for, beautiful illustrations, checklists, and tips, *Homecoming* will help you reconnect with nature, improve your wellbeing, and tune into the rhythm of the seasons.

By writing down the best thing you experience in nature each day, you'll learn how to build your own rituals and habits to carry you through the year.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the library!

Vivia

FARMING UPDATE

When Julian asked me about our patches of re-drilled land, wondering if it was an environmental scheme, I thought it time to restart my occasional series about farm life.

Conditions were better for drilling this season but on parts of the headlands (the edges of the fields which see more farm machinery traffic) the seed did not establish well. These patches have been sown again. It's not an easy decision, pulling up ground and using more seed but we weren't alone in this. Many farmers are still experiencing the effects of prolonged rainfall in 2023 that led to waterlogged fields.

Last year we renewed some old land drains which had collapsed after the persistent rain. These drains had been dug by hand by Dad and Alfred 'Bob' Shelley back in the 60s. Our heavy land is good at retaining moisture in dry spells but needs good drainage. Ditches are cleaned on a regular rotation to help drains run freely. Fortunately, not as much needs to be done by hand these days.

Today, we enlist the help of our cousin Richard Barnes whose father went into the land drainage business with John Chilvers from Bowling Green Farm. Coming from at least 15 generations of Suffolk farmers, we like to think that between us we have inherited enough practical genes to help us cope with our unpredictable weather.

I hear a number of farm contractors have rejected a sizeable block of land a few miles from here because it is poorly drained; showing just how important that is to good growing conditions.

It was slow coming but the re-drilled seed has pricked through on the row. Helicopter pilots are doing a marvellous job scaring greedy pigeons off of the young plants!

This year's Suffolk Tractor Light Parade raised over £12,500 for the Air Ambulance, Suffolk Libraries and the Eastern Community Assistance Team. Thousands of spectators lined the route – a spectacle enjoyed by all ages. Their support for the farming community was much appreciated. Richard will tell you that decorating tractors is not a 5 minute job!

Happy to answer your questions – send them my way. Tish



Patrick Spencer MP
Member of Parliament for
Central Suffolk & North Ipswich

As we step into the New Year, I find myself reflecting on the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for our communities across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich. The turn of the year is not just a calendar change, but a moment to reset, refocus and renew our ambitions – both personal and collective.

This year, I remain fully committed to continuing the hard work that underpins the heart of our constituency – strengthening our public services, supporting our communities across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich and addressing the local concerns that matter most to fellow residents here in Suffolk. In many ways, 2024 has been a stark reminder of the resilience and character that define our towns and villages. From local residents and businesses still grappling with the after effects of the flooding caused by Storm Babet to small businesses navigating economic pressures, the determination of our communities has been inspiring.

In 2025, I will focus on three key areas that local residents consistently raise with me – healthcare, infrastructure and the environment. Our NHS remains a pillar of strength, but I know the strain it faces, especially during the winter months. I will continue pressing for greater investment in frontline services but especially for urgent and much needed investment in primary care, allowing better access to GPs and local clinics. Likewise, improving rural transport links and broadband infrastructure will

remain priorities – we must ensure that no village or town is left behind as we move further into the digital age.

Flooding has once again reared its head over the winter, disrupting homes and livelihoods. I am actively engaging with local authorities and the Environment Agency to push for more robust flood prevention measures. Our beautiful landscape must be protected, not just for today but for future generations. I will also advocate for schemes that encourage sustainable farming practices, supporting our farmers in their essential role as stewards of the countryside.

Supporting local businesses will be key to strengthening our economy in the year ahead. By expanding opportunities for skills development and apprenticeships, we can help ensure that young people across Suffolk have the tools they need to secure fulfilling, long-term careers within our own communities.

As always, I am here to listen and, first and foremost, to act on your behalf. If there is an issue you feel needs attention or a cause you would like me to support, please do not hesitate to get in touch. This year presents an opportunity to build on our progress so far and I look forward to hearing from you and meeting many more of you in the New Year.

Let us embrace the possibilities that 2025 brings with optimism and determination. Together, we can ensure that the year ahead is one of positive change and renewed hope for all.

patrick.spencer.mp@parliament.uk



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LOCAL TRANSPORT

Service 118 Eye, Stradbroke, Laxfield, Framlingham, Ipswich

Monday – Friday (Schooldays only)

Stradbroke	07:15	Ipswich, OCM	17:15
Laxfield	07:21	Otley College	17:35
Pound Corner	07:30	Framlingham, White Horse	17:59
Badingham, White Horse	07:31	Badingham, White Horse	18:06
Framlingham, Bridge Street	07:51	Pound Corner	18:08
Otley College	08:19		
Ipswich, Old Cattle Market	08:43		

CATS (Coastal Accessible Transport Service) 01728 830516

Booking hours:

Mon-Fri - 8.45am - 4.00pm

Service hours:

Mon-Sat - 7.00am - 7.00pm

CATS provide transport services to people in coastal towns and villages when access to public transport is not available. Volunteers drive minibuses, wheelchair friendly vehicles or use their own cars.

Route 522 from Peasenhall to Leiston, via Saxmundham

Bus leaves Peasenhall Chapel St at two hour intervals from 07:53 to 13:53, calling at Waitrose Saxmundham at 08:16 to 14:16 and Leiston High St at 09:26 to 15:26. Returning to Peasenhall at 09:52, two hourly to 15:52.

Katch bus service - operated by CATS

KatchaLift.com operates between Fram, WickhamMarket, Campsea Ashe and Snape.

Book via the app or call 01728 635939 (8.30am to 4pm).

High Suffolk Community Bus

Mini bus from Tannington and Worlingworth make regular trips to Ipswich, Diss, Bury St Edmunds and Norwich. See Combust.org.uk for more details.

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POLICE - Framlingham	Fire Station, Saxmundham Road	Dial 101
	Staffed by volunteers on Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri	9am - 1pm
DOCTORS	Pembroke Road, Framlingham	01728 723627
DENTIST	Framlingham Dental Surgery	01728 723651
VET - Castle Vet Group	Pepperwash Lane, Framlingham	01728 723480
VET- Framlingham Vets	Station Road, Framlingham	01728 621 666
Peasenhall Post Office	The Street, Peasenhall	01728 660 060
Little Oaks Playschool	Michele Cole	07585 913605
Primary School	Dennington	01728 638206
High School	Thomas Mills, Framlingham	01728 723493
Library	Bridge Street, Framlingham	01728 723735
Newspapers	Patricks of Framlingham	01728 724414
DIY Materials	Framlingham DIY	01728 723505
Taxi Service	Country Cars	01728 724377
Window Cleaner	Prestige Window Clean	07538 585431
Fresh Fish Van	Spencer Wightman	07929 097124
Church	Ann Foster	01728 638288
White Horse Inn	Moss & Co	01728 580107
Community Council	Rob Johnston	07939 235417
Community Gardens	Janet Barwell	01728 638089
Neighbourhood Watch	Sonja Russell	07821 235834
Oil Syndicate	Janet Barwell	01728 638089
Parish Council Chair	Thomas Mountain	07984 033345
Parish Council Clerk	Caroline Byrne	01986 798765
Village Hall bookings	Charles Bainbridge	07734 527808

Remember, if you **Need a Hand** while you can't get out and about, there is a team of willing people ready to help - call Karen on 07587 173755