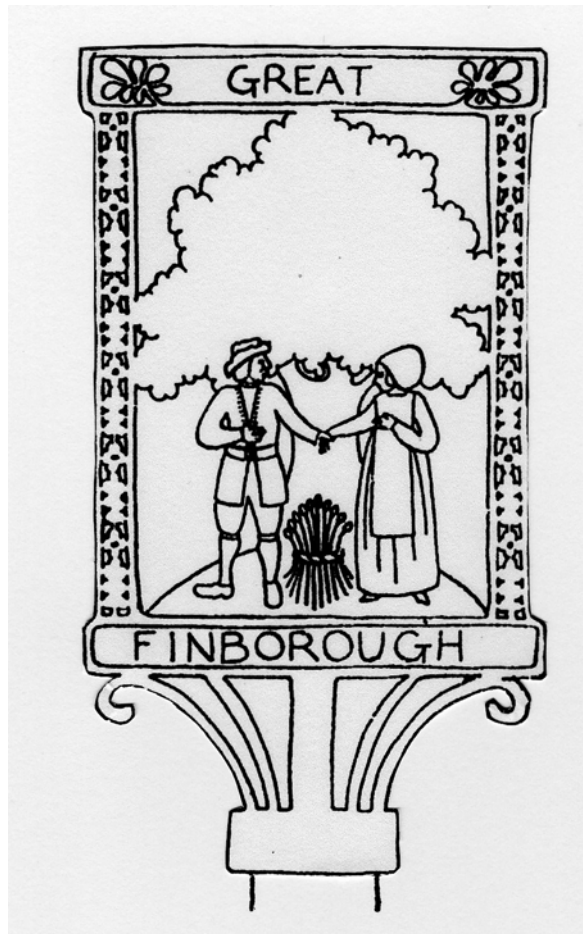


# GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



**MARCH 2010  
ISSUE 406**

## VILLAGE DIARY – MARCH 2010

1	7.30pm	Parish Council, Pettiward Hall
6	7.30pm	Grand Quiz, Buxhall Village Hall
8	tba	Stowmarket and District Camera Club
11	4.30-6pm	Skylarks
11	7.30pm	Garden Club, Pettiward Hall
15	7.30pm	Community Council Meeting
15	tba	Stowmarket and District Camera Club
17	7.00pm	Buxhall Women's Institute
18	Noon	Lent Lunch, Boarded Barn Farm
18	6.30pm	Charity Bingo, Pettiward Hall
20	Noon	Lent Lunch, Mulletts Farm, Buxhall
21	3.00pm	Onehouse Ramblers, Church Room
22	tba	Stowmarket and District Camera Club
25	4.30-6pm	Skylarks
30	Noon	FHOBS Lunch Club, Buxhall Village Hall
31	3.20pm	<i>Eggtravaganza</i> , Primary School

## VILLAGE DIARY – APRIL 2010

1	7.00pm	The Candlestick Club, Buxhall Village Hall
19	7.30pm	Community Council Meeting

## ST JOHN'S TABLE TENNIS

*Thursday Nights 7.30-9.30pm in the Church Room: 11 and 25 March*

Why not try a bit of gentle exercise with a game of Table Tennis? New players welcome. £1 per session. Give me a ring for further details.

**Derek Ames (613328)**

The Newsletter is produced by Great Finborough Parish Council, printed by Gipping Press, and distributed to all households in the village free of charge

## Editorial

Who would have thought Trudy Gray would abandon us to do missionary work in the north! How will we manage without her? I for one am very grateful for the nine years she edited this newsletter. She handed it over in very good shape to me in 2008. My family relied on it when we first came to the village ten years ago, and I'm sure many more of you have as well, when joining this brilliant community. We all hope Trudy and Ian will come back to visit us and reassure us that Great Finborough is still the best place to be. No doubt there will be plenty of opportunities to say adieu before they leave us in April and the newsletter will keep you posted.

If you know someone newly arrived and living in the village, or friends and neighbours who are moving on, please let me know. If you know someone who needs a copy of the Village Welcome Pack please contact me. 15 March 2010 is the next copy deadline for material. Please put 'newsletter' in the header if you are emailing. Norman and I welcome visitors so if you need to contact me 'phone, email or call in to Park Cottage any time. The kettle is always on.

**Sally Gooch**



**Dennis Green**

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## News from the Parish Council

### ***Power of Wellbeing***

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides a number of new powers to town and parish councils, the most significant of which is the rather oddly named "power of wellbeing". This potentially gives parish councils a general power to spend money on any activity which adds to the wellbeing of its community, i.e. it gives the parish council more freedom to operate for the benefit of the community outside previous legislative restraints. There are new criteria which each council has to meet if they wish to exercise the power. This includes specific training – which our parish councilors have undertaken – and public consultation prior to adopting the new power. The Parish Council will consider whether it wishes to formally adopt the power of wellbeing at its next full meeting on Monday 1 March at 7.30pm in the Pettward Hall. All welcome.

### ***Youth Shelter***

The Parish Council has applied for a grant of £10,000 from Suffolk County Council (SCC) towards the purchase of a Youth Shelter for locating next to the new football pitch. If we are successful, it will be solar-powered and have radio (one volume), wifi and bluetooth technology. However, there's no guarantee we'll get the money. SCC has £40,000 to spend on community projects, although grants are limited to a maximum of £10,000. The deal on this is that because they have more requests for grants than cash available, the allocation of grants will be decided by public online voting via this link: [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/yourplacematters/vote](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/yourplacematters/vote)

Voting is open until 31 March. It is vital that we "get our vote out" in Great Finborough and anyone who is under 19 has a single vote. All this will be publicised via schools and please encourage any young people who meet the voting criteria (see the website) to vote.

### ***Multi-User Games Area***

We have now given Gipping Homes an indication of our aspiration for a Multi-User Games Area to be located on what would otherwise be a 5-a-side football pitch. Youth Café members and other young people consulted would ideally like an all-weather court, marked up for both

football and basketball. As might be imagined this is expensive and we are looking creatively at ways as to how this might be sensibly funded.

### ***Pettiward Hall***

Rumours that the Hall is closing for refurbishment are quite simply wrong. A feasibility study is currently taking place as to how the Hall might be modernised. Before anything definite happens there will be the opportunity for everyone who is interested to see possible plans and comment on the options. Even if we decide as a community to do something, we will have to raise the money first, so talk of closures really is premature.

**Richard Brice. Chair, Parish Council**

### **Community Council**

The purpose of the Community Council is to discharge the management of the village amenities which include the car park, conservation area, future 5-a-side pitch, the Pettiward Hall and the play area. At the January 2010 meeting the trustees were appointed: Cathy Croome, Angela Mulligan, Kath Burlinson and Richard Brice. Cathy was elected Secretary and Chris Grady as Treasurer. A new Chair is needed.

Meetings are taking place with the architect working with the village on the refurbishment of the Pettiward Hall. Legal loose ends still need tying up by Mid Suffolk District Council before the Conservation Area will be handed over to the Parish Council. Rodney Self has prepared a Management Plan for the woodland/conversation area as required by MSDC. Further discussions are taking place with regard to the sports field and landscaping of the car park. Meeting dates this year are 7.30pm on: 15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November and 20 December.

**Sue Green**

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## **News from your District Councillor**

### ***Local Government Reorganisation***

Now that the Government has at last made a (sort of) definite decision about this, and will *not impose* one (or two) very large councils to provide all services in Suffolk, the project to merge the operations of Mid Suffolk & Babergh will continue, with the support of all political parties in both councils. I very much welcome this approach of change *by agreement*, and it is also what Government has suggested: ‘...to invite all the Suffolk councils, with their Members of Parliament, consulting other stakeholders and through a county constitutional convention, to reach a consensus on a unitary solution for that area’. I am hopeful that can be carried out far more cheaply than the increasingly absurd Boundary Committee process, and that the cost of council services can be contained by merging them with Babergh.

### ***NHS Dentist in Stowmarket***

The Station View practice now has a second dentist and is able to take on more patients. You can pop in to 19 Station Road West, or call 01449 613369.

### ***Stowmarket Plan Latest***

The new Submission Draft should be available for public comment from 12 April to 24 May, and Onehouse Parish Council have arranged a Councillors Surgery for 17 April to make the new material available in the village.

### ***Budget and Council Tax Bills***

Subject to final approval by County and District councillors, bills locally are likely to go up about 3%. A smaller rise than many previous years, but necessitating some small cuts and price rises for chargeable services. Government grants for 2010/11 have risen only half a per cent - below inflation - putting pressure on Council Tax.

To get in touch with me see Who's Who.

**John Matthissen**

### Preparing to say Farewell

News has its own momentum and I expect that many of you may have heard that Ian and I will be leaving Finborough in April. I have been appointed as a Priest serving in Upper Coquetdale in North Northumberland. We will be living in a part of the country that we both know and love, and are looking forward to the opportunity. It is a very rural area and I'm sure that while some things will be familiar there will be many new experiences as well.

Feelings are very mixed at the moment. We have lived in Finborough for over 30 years and there will be lots that we will miss. The familiarity of the surroundings – both locally and elsewhere in Suffolk; the house and garden; local walks. But especially of course the people – the many close friends we have made over the years and the everyday contact with so many people. Over 30 years I have been involved in many aspects of the village – the church, the Primary School (it's almost 25 years since my first contact there), the WI, Pettward Hall and the Parish Council, the local Wildlife Trust. There are many memories that we will be taking with us.

Details of the move are yet to be finalised. Those of you who have moved frequently will know all about this, but our last move was a long time ago. It's surprising what has been accumulated over the years and there have been several trips to local charity shops! As we settle in Alwinton the community here will continue to be in my prayers, and I will value yours. With every blessing.

**Trudy Gray**

### Allotments in the Village

To date 17 households or groups have expressed an interest in having an allotment and representation has been made on their behalf to the Parish Council, which has the duty to identify suitable sites and secure enough plots for the number of people who want an allotment (or half an allotment). Possible sites have been identified but if anyone has any suggestions, or would like to add their names to the list, please let me know.

**John Davey**

### The Chestnut Horse

So our pub is closed again and another good landlord has to move on. It saddens me as Leonel was the first person we met when moving to the village. I have found articles regarding other pubs owned by Greene King who have had increases in rent which has left the landlord unable to keep their business going. We don't know the full story, of course, but that is because Greene King aren't communicating with its customers. Having spoken to several people in the village everyone is tired of this now regular occurrence with a landlords taking the tenancy and then struggling to make a living.

The swapping and changing isn't good for the village. As rural businesses are among the hardest hit in recessions it is important to show our support. What do the rest of you think and does anyone have an idea as to how WE as a village might be able to take the matter into our own hands and stop it happening in the future?

**Adam Brown**



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### News from Great Finborough Primary School

We are very sorry that we will shortly be saying 'Goodbye' to Rev. Trudy Gray who is moving post. Trudy has been a significant and important part of the spiritual life of this school for some time and will be greatly missed by all the children and staff here.

We have received approval for work to be carried out in both Red and Blue Classes to give them access to outside learning environments. This will enable the teachers to deliver some of the curriculum outside with the children when the weather gets better!

Next term we are lucky enough to start African drumming with our Year 4's and as part of our Artworks project, local artist Roger Gamble will be coming in to work alongside the children enabling them to produce their own piece of art using acrylic paints. We have been visited by the Suffolk County Road Safety Officer to support the children with crossing the road safely and other road safety activities. This will continue into next term.

The Mother's Day Service is at St Andrews Church on 14 March and hope to see many of our families there. We will be joined by Creeping Primary school on the morning of 25 March to watch the 'RHEMA' theatre company who are coming in to perform a play of Easter tales and we are looking forward to that. Many thanks for your continued support.

**Stephen Dodd**



### Brownies

The Brownies are having an exciting year as it is the 100th birthday celebrations of Girl Guiding. Eleanor and Jessica, who are the two oldest

Brownies went to Butlins Skegness for the weekend with me and Mary Williams (the District Commissioner). Brownies and Leaders took over Butlins with 3000 of us from the Anglian Region. We had a fabulous time; something we will remember in this Centenary Year.

The Brownie Pack is now working towards the Adventure 100 Badge; a special badge devised for this Centenary Year. They have been Tobogganing on the dry ski slope, had a 'pamper evening', recorded 100 places they have visited, and have many more challenges to do during the year.

We now have 17 girls as Brownies. Three girls have just started and will be enrolled soon and two more are due to start after Easter. We do however need another adult to help us out on a weekly basis - term time with the occasional weekend for activities. We meet at the Primary School on Mondays 6pm to 7.30 pm. If you feel you have some time to spare please get in contact with me on 674538. With many thanks.

**Gail Jarrett**

### Suffolk Foot Health

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### Are You Ready For This Year's General Election?

A General Election can be called at any time, with a minimum of 17 working days between the announcement and polling day. The election must take place by 3 June 2010. Mid Suffolk District Council is urging residents not to wait until the date has been announced before they secure their right to vote. The time between the election date being announced and the last chance to register to vote can be a matter of a few days. If you are not on the Electoral Register, you won't be able to vote.

Sometimes people do not realise they need to re-register every year. Mid Suffolk District Council sent you a registration form last Autumn, but if you are not sure you returned it, or if you have moved house since then and have not registered with your new details, you need to register now.

You can register to vote if you are a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen. You can also register if you are an EU citizen resident in the UK as you are eligible to vote in local elections - but not the General Election. British citizens living abroad can also register to vote as long as they have been on the electoral register at a UK address no more than 15 years ago. There are also special provisions for those serving abroad to vote.

For more information, or to register to vote, go to [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk) (the website of the independent elections watchdog, the Electoral Commission). Registering to vote only takes a few minutes. You can either print off a form the website or telephone 01449 724672.

**Vicky Smy**

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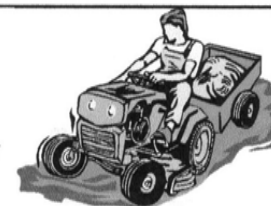
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### Onehouse Ramblers

The next walk will be on 21 March. Meet at Church Room Park at 3pm for a walk of about four miles. If you need a lift please call me on 613328. We look forward to some good walks over the coming months, as the afternoons get longer & we enjoy some pleasant spring sunshine.

**Derek Ames**

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### Stowmarket and District Camera Club

This month we managed to resume our meetings as the cold and snowy weather had relented and everyone was able to get to the hall. On 25 January we had our annual tripod competition with Framlingham and Wymondham clubs. There was a very high standard of work on show with Stowmarket ahead after the print section but unfortunately we eventually came third behind Framlingham. Then on 8 February we had an evening with Vince Sneath entitled competition photo discussion where members brought in prints for discussion among members as what would improve their work in the future. Several ideas were put forward to help the newer members to progress their enjoyment of photography.

On 8 March we have a lecture by Andy Hanson. Public are welcome. Cost £1 per head. Tea/coffee and biscuits included. 15 March is a 3-way battle with Lakenheath. 22 March is an open competition. So if you are interested in joining us you would be very welcome for more info go to our website at [www.stowmarket&districtcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.stowmarket&districtcameraclub.co.uk) **Brian Payne**

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### WILD BIRD SEED

The next order will be placed on 12 March and will be available for collection from Abbey Farm Cottage, Buxhall Road, Great Finborough, IP14 3AU, by about 17 March.

If you would like to place an order please let me have your requirements together with a cheque to 'Great Finborough Garden Club'. It is essential that I have your telephone number so that you can be advised when seed is ready for collection.

Orders may be posted to or dropped off at Abbey Farm Cottage; 1, Valley Lane; or 8, High Road, and must be received by 10 March.

**John Davey**

Product	Weight	Price
Wild Bird Mix	20 kg	£7.50
Finch Mix (no corn)	20 kg	£9.50
Mixed Corn	20 kg	£6.50
Peanuts (superior quality)	25 kg	£22.50
Peanuts (half sack)	12.5 kg approx	£12.50
Black Sunflower Seed	15 kg	£9.00
Sunflower Kernels	25 kg	£25.75
Sunflower Kernels (half sack)	10kg approx	£12.00
Niger Seed	25 kg	£20.50
Niger Seed (half sack)	10kg approx	£9.50
Fat Balls (any quantity)	Price each	11 pence



## Great Finborough & District Garden Club

Following a very successful 2009 with a selection of fascinating speakers, some enjoyable and well supported social events, as well as a very successful Open Gardens, the new gardening year arrived with bitter cold, snow and ice. In the short intervals between the snow showers I noticed that the daffodils have started to peek their leaves above the soil so the promise is there of better things to come.

The first meeting of 2010 started with the hardier members defying the forecast of ice and snow producing a good turnout to listen to the ever enthusiastic Barry Gayton deliver an excellent talk on growing flowers for flower arrangers. I look forward to seeing spectacular results throughout the year!

The next meeting will take place on the 11 March at the usual time of 7.30pm in the upper room of the Pettiward Hall. The subject is 'Bulbs' and Rob Leeds will be exploring every aspect of these most flexible and reliable plants.

Opposite is the March bird seed order form so, if your supplies are running low due to the hard Winter please return the completed form to John on March 11 or drop it in to Abbey Farm Cottage.

Members should all have received a letter regarding the choice of our charity for 2010/11. Please give it some thought and, if you have a suggestion, follow the instructions in the letter so the whole membership can make a decision at the April meeting.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or would like to join us for any event you will be very welcome. Membership is only £10 per household per year. For further information contact me or John Davey at [john@abbeyclassics.co.uk](mailto:john@abbeyclassics.co.uk) - see Who's Who. **Judith Cameron**

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"I would love to think that Tom has made lifelong friends at Great Finborough and Buxhall Under 5s. Seeing him playing most of yesterday afternoon with one of his very best friends from pre-school, and now school, making 'Oopsadaisy Land' out of Lego was just lovely."

### **No Small Children? You can still support us!**

We always need raffle prizes, cakes or helping hands at our fund-raising events, keep an eye out for our adverts and contact us if you can help.

### Bags2 School Collections

Have you got any unwanted quality second hand clothing, bedding, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts or handbags? **Help us raise funds and bag it up for us and drop into Pre-school, no need to wait for collection date—we can store for you!**



Committee Chairperson  
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### **Bells ring for Heroes**

Every year, local bell ringers of the North West District of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers get together to try and consolidate what they have learnt at their practices with a Quarter Peal Week. The aim is to ring a quarter peal at as many of our towers as possible. This includes all the towers in the Stowmarket, Thingoe, Ixworth, Mildenhall and Hartismere Deaneries. Ringing a quarter peal is a significant achievement for bell ringers. It is 45 minutes of sustained ringing, using only memory and technical skill to ring the required changes. On top of that, it is musical and the quality of ringing is high. It is traditional to ring a quarter peal for a church event, or a special occasion such as a wedding, or in memory of someone.

In 2010, the Quarter Peal Week will take place between 11 and 18 April. We invite you to sponsor the quarter peals at Buxhall and Great Finborough for the charity *Help For Heroes*. In this area we have many close connections with the Services and, as ringers, we want to do something to show that every village cares deeply about the lives scarred by current conflicts. If you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause, please contact me on 737991. If you would like to know more about the charity, you can visit the *Help for Heroes* website at [www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

**David Steed**

### **FHOBS Lunch Club**

FHOBS is a thriving Lunch Club with about 40 members who enjoy a meal and some valued comradeship. This takes place on the last Tuesday of each month: 12 noon for 12.30pm in Buxhall Village Hall. A small charge of £3.50 is made to cover expenses. We would be delighted to welcome new members. Please contact me on 737814.

**Jill**

### **Grand Quiz**

For all you Quiz fans, book your places now. Saturday 6 March 2010 at Buxhall Village Hall, 7.30pm. Teams of up to six people (£3 per person). Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles. Original format back by popular demand! Grand draw as well. Phone us on 736598 to book your places.

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### The Candlestick Club

The long cold Winter is almost over. Spring is on its way. Candlestick members are starting to stir and emerge from their hibernation. The committee will be meeting soon and we have already put together a programme of outings, talks and events for 2010. The opening meeting will be a social evening with the committee providing a few nibbles and an entertainer/singer will keep us amused for an hour or so.

We aim to have a printed programme for the year printed up to give out on the night. Come and join us on 1 April at 7pm in Buxhall Village Hall. The Treasurer will be collecting subscriptions: £6 per person for the year. Very good value. New members, and anyone needing a lift, should contact me. See Who's Who.


**Keith Proctor**

### Window Appeal St Andrew's Church, Great Finborough

Thanks to all who have made a contribution towards the repair of the window. We hope that work will be underway in the near future. Funds are still needed and it is not too late to contribute to the repair of the North Window in St Andrew's.

If you would like to contribute to this work and to have a dedication held in a permanent record in the church please complete the form printed in this newsletter. Further copies of the form are at the back of the church and available from me on 677223. I hope you can give us some help!

**Paul Nettleton**


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### News from the Friends of Great Finborough Primary School

The Friends are holding an Eggtravaganza on Wednesday 31 March from 3.20pm to 4.30pm at Great Finborough Primary School. There will be lots of egg related stalls so please come along for an eggsellent time. If anyone could help with a donation of Easter eggs, large or small please could you leave in the friend's box in reception or pass to a member of the friends. Many thanks to you all for your continuous support in raising money for the children of the primary school.

### Easy Search Website

Thank you again to everyone who has used this search engine. Please keep on searching! If you are an Internet Shopper why not help the Friends raise funds by using the free website [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and follow the links. Over 400 retailers can be accessed from this site and up to 15% from each online purchase will be donated to the friends.



### ***Squirrel Gardens***

The garden club started again on 24 February and is busy sowing seeds and preparing for the coming year. We have some seeds for sale at discounted prices to raise money for the garden for next year. If you would like to purchase any vegetable seeds please feel free to contact one of us. We are still looking for any donations of kneelers for the children. If you have one that needs a good home that they wish to donate to the club please feel free to either leave with the primary school or contact Lesley Cass, Julie Francis (736185) or me on 678480.

**Sharla Goldsmith**

### **Buxhall Women's Institute**

The January meeting got off to a lively start with annual subscriptions due for payment. Our numbers were swelled by six new members and four visitors. A warm welcome was expressed to them all. Visitors pay £2.75 on the night and can attend three meetings during the year to see if they would like to join.

We then followed our usual format with the reading of the minutes recording the December meeting, listening to the Treasurer's report, discussing the W.I. entries for the Suffolk Show, and anticipating the outings for the coming year. These will include a trip to Thursford. We have already enjoyed a trip to see the Rock & Roll Pantomime, Aladdin, at the Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, you can't please all of the people all of the time. This was true for me concerning our January speaker, Brian Heard. His subject was Forensic Science and I anticipated a talk on the science of forensics, especially with the advent of DNA, but this was not the case and I was disappointed with the content of his talk which I felt was inappropriate for his audience. This is a personal opinion and may not reflect the views of all our members.

We have a Federation Meeting on 2 March at Trinity Park. There will be several speakers on the day but the main one will be Adam Henson, the farmer on the BBC programme Countryfile. Next meeting 17 March, speaker Colin Hopper, on the subject 'History of Magic'. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Visitors welcome.

**Anne Hicks**



## **Family Service for Palm Sunday**

**St Andrew's Church  
11am Sunday 28 March**

Starting with procession around the church.

A Bring and Share Picnic in the Churchyard after the service.

If you would like more information give Trudy or Lesley a ring  
Do come along – all welcome

## **Decorating St Andrew's Church for Easter**

All will be welcome to give a hand in decorating  
the church ready for the Easter celebrations.  
Decorating will be done on Saturday 3 April.



*Coffee and cake will be served.  
All levels of skill welcome! Do come along.*

### **LENT Discussion Group**

This is the time before Easter when we are all asked to consider aspects of our faith which may need renewing or even leaving behind. Traditionally Christians come together to support one another in the Christian journey in an informal setting during this time of year and we are pleased that our Rural Dean Rev. Barbara Bilston will lead our discussions. The meetings will take place at Rectory Bungalow, Buxhall, beginning Wednesday 24 February and continuing on Wednesdays up to and including 24 March: 7.30pm until 9pm. All are welcome to participate or simply to see what happens. Offers of cake also appreciated.

**Chris Childs (736093)**



### **Ladies' Lunch Report – February 2010**

14 ladies met to eat together at the beginning of the month and hear Revd. Barbara Bilston, our Rural Dean, talk about the works she does. Although she made it sound as if she didn't do a great deal we could read between the lines that there was a huge amount of work to cover as well as an enormous amount of information to process. Then, almost as an aside, Barbara slipped in that she quite frequently works a 13 hour day.

Since it is the custom that a collection is taken to cover the cost of the meal and the remainder of the money given to a charity of the speaker's choice, the ladies were extremely generous in donating £70 to the Haiti appeal which was Barbara's choice. A further £25 was collected over the next few days so it has been possible to send off a donation of £95, specifically earmarked for a children's charity helping in the earthquake region.

**Arlene**

### **Charity Bingo**

We are back again for 2010 and look forward to another great year in raising money for your local charities. Thank you all for your support last year we were able to raise a total of £959.06. This month's bingo will be on Thursday 18 March 6.30pm at Pettiward Hall. Money raised will go towards Great Finborough and Buxhall Brownies. There will be Bingo, Raffle and Refreshments. All welcome, Children to be accompanied by an adult. Please come along and join in the fun. If anyone has any unwanted raffle prizes they wish to donate, please feel free to bring along on the night or contact either Mari (770032) or me.

**Sharla Goldsmith**

### **Skylarks Children's Club**

There are still some places available at Skylarks. Any child aged between 5 and 9 years living in Onehouse, Harleston, Shelland, Great Finborough or Buxhall who would like to join Skylarks, please contact me on 613328 or Christine Hagger (736487). The next Skylarks sessions are on 11 and 25 March.

**Derek Ames**

## **PUTTING SAFETY FIRST**



### **CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace**

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1 Day Manual Handling Principles and Practice  
3 Day Level 3 Supervising Health and Safety in the Workplace

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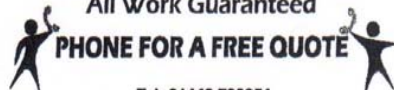
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### St Andrew's Church

As I begin to put the material together for this month we are about to enter Lent. Traditionally this is a time to take stock, to reflect on where we are and to prepare for the great celebration of Easter. It is a time when many people give up something – perhaps chocolate or alcohol. But it's also a time to do something a bit more. Many Christians will try spend more time in prayer or perhaps reading one of the many books that are recommended for Lent. The Lent lunches throughout the Benefice remind us that it is also a time when we can support one or other of the many organisations that work to aid development in other parts of the world.

### *North Window: A Start to Work*

Anyone passing the church recently may have noticed that work has started on the repairs to the window and stonework. The existing leaded glass has been removed and taken away for remaking. People have been generous in making donations but further donations are needed to enable the work to continue without drawing too heavily on the small Fabric Fund that the church holds in reserve. Donation forms are available from Paul Nettleton (677223) or at the back of the church.

It was a delight to welcome the Primary School into the church just before the half term holiday. Together we constructed a huge paper chain that showed the seasons of the Church Year. Volunteers led the singing. The service ended with many of the children receiving awards for their work and the contribution they have made to the life of the school.

### *A thought for the weeks ahead*

Recently I came across this quotation which seemed relevant in many ways – not least for the church and the local community as we work together while we wait for a new Priest to be appointed. Richard Hooker, 16<sup>th</sup> century theologian: *Change is not made without inconvenience – even from worse to better.*

**Trudy Gray**

## From the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

The recent closure of the Chestnut Horse at Great Finborough, which we all hope will be temporary, and the news of the departure of Rev Trudy Gray for Northumberland are instances of when something that seems permanent comes to a stop. We wish those involved with our pub. Well as we do Trudy in her ministry in the north. Nevertheless there is an element of sadness and sense that without them somehow our communal life is diminished. As far as Trudy is concerned her loss will be felt in all our villages especially with children's work. It will be even more keenly felt in the community of Finborough itself.

Many of these closures and departures are foreseeable by those who wish to look; others are not. These are some of the minor storms that affect all our lives – illness, sudden death, unemployment are much harder to bear, let alone complete catastrophes such as has afflicted the Haitian people.

So then the 'ship of life' on which we all sail is rocked by forces within and without us. How we deal with them depends to a large extent on personality and faith. Sometimes we struggle to 'keep an even keel' but reminded recently of the Gospel story when Jesus stilled the storm (Luke 8.22-25), he did not rebuke the disciples for being 'rocky' or asking for support. He dealt with their fear and simply asked them 'Where is your faith?'

There are people we too can ask for help –there is no shame...The same question comes to us as we look to our future, individually, as a group of churches, local communities and in terms of local government (newly reignited). There is nothing new under the sun 'though it frequently seems otherwise. Many people with little or no faith believe that ultimately all things work for good. But the faithful Christian actively engages in the work of the Kingdom of God believing that to be the ultimate good. The Christian believes that God holds us all in the palm of his hand and that he is working his purposes out through all of us – frail earthen vessels though we maybe.

The boat may rock and tip – but our corporate, communal and individual life goes on and on. Let us hold onto what is good and positive and encouraging and do what we can to give it support keeping faith in each other and in our God for a brighter future for us all.

And as I write I hear of the commencement of work on the boarded up window at St Andrews Church and exciting plans for the renovation of the Community Centre and Church Room in Onehouse. Transformation continues.

**Chris Childs**

## Women's World Day of Prayer

The 2010 Service will be held at

St Andrew's Great Finborough

At 2.15pm on Friday 5 March.

This year's service is planned by the Christian Women of Cameroon

**LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE GOD**

**Speaker: Revd Barbara Bilston**

All welcome. Refreshments served afterwards.

Contact Elizabeth Pyke (612749) if you would like a lift.

## Sunday 14 March is Mothering Sunday

A chance to say Thank you!

A chance to the gifts, talents and love a mother can give us.

Are you planning breakfast in bed?

Perhaps a special family lunch?

Or perhaps just a chance for Mum to have a bit of a rest!

**Why not include Family Service for Mothering Sunday in your celebrations?**

**11am at St Andrew, Great Finborough**

Do come along. You will be very welcome.



## Good Friday 'Family Workshop'

**10.30am 2 April at St Andrew's Church**

**Come along and join in this popular annual workshop**

A chance to learn more about the Easter story

Something to make

Something to do

Something to listen to

**Activities from 10.30 to 11.30am**

**Refreshments including Hot Cross Buns and Easter biscuits**

For further information contact Trudy (674819)

## FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism at St Andrew, Great Finborough

**Milly Grace Bryanton**

**24 January 2010**

**Betsy Florence Horton**



Burial of Ashes at Finborough, St Andrew

**Kathleen Audrey Airey**

**11 January 2010**

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### Services at St Andrew's in March

7 March	11am	Holy Communion
14 March	11am	Family Service for Mothering Sunday
21 March	11am	Holy Communion & Reading of the Passion
28 March	11am	Family Service and Baptism

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## LENT LUNCHES IN MARCH



### Great Finborough

Thursday 18 March at Boarded Barn Farm  
from Noon to 1.30pm

### Buxhall

Saturday 20 March at Mulletts Farm, from Noon to 2pm

Proceeds for Charities working to bring relief of Poverty





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## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR MARCH

### Weekday Morning Prayer

Monday	Onehouse	8.00 – 8.30 am
Friday	Great Finborough	8.00 – 8.30 am

### Sunday 7 March

Sung Eucharist  
Reflective Morning Prayer  
Holy Communion  
Holy Communion  
Evening Worship

### Third Sunday of Lent

Buxhall	9.30am
Shelland	9.30am
Harleston	9.30am
Finborough	11.00am
Onehouse Church Room	6.30pm

### Sunday 14 March

Family Communion  
Family Service  
Family Service  
Family Service  
Family Service

### Mothering Sunday

Buxhall	9.30am
Shelland	9.30am
Harleston	11.00am
Onehouse Church	11.00am
Finborough	11.00am

### Sunday 21 March

Matins  
Holy Communion  
Holy Communion  
Family Communion

### Passion Sunday

Buxhall	9.30am
Shelland	9.30am
Finborough	11.00am
Onehouse Church Room	11.00am

### Sunday 28 March

Holy Communion  
Holy Communion  
Family Service and Baptism  
Holy Communion

### Palm Sunday

Buxhall	9.30am
Harleston	9.30am
Finborough	11.00am
Onehouse Church Room	11.00am

## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR APRIL

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 April</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	
Agape/meal		Onehouse Church Room	7.30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 April</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	
Walk of Witness		Onehouse Church Room	10.30am
Good Friday Workshop		Finborough	10.30am
Last Hour		Harleston	2.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3 April</b>	<b>Easter Eve</b>	
New Fire of Easter		Buxhall	4.00pm
Tenebrae		Shelland	7.30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4 April</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	
Dawn Eucharist		Finborough	5.30am
Sung Eucharist		Buxhall	9.30am
Holy Communion		Shelland	9.30am
Holy Communion		Finborough	11.00am
Holy Communion		Onehouse Church	11.00am
Holy Communion		Harleston	11.00am

*Whether you are a regular worshipper or visiting this Sunday  
you will find a warm welcome at any of our services*

**Pop in For Coffee at St Andrew's**  
**Every Saturday Morning**  
**from 10.30am to Noon**



This is an informal opportunity to have coffee and a chat - perhaps when you're passing on a stroll around the village or visiting the churchyard.

## WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

Chair, Parish Council/Community Council	Richard Brice	676249
Clerk, Parish Council	Giles Hill	740272
	<a href="mailto:lsdp@btinternet.com">lsdp@btinternet.com</a>	
District Councillor	John Matthissen	771742
3 Wash Lane Corner, Great Finborough, IP14 3BJ	<a href="mailto:councillor@matthissen.net">councillor@matthissen.net</a>	
County Councillor	Penny Otton	737870
	<a href="mailto:penny.otton@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk">penny.otton@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk</a>	
Newsletter Editor	Sally Gooch	677940
	<a href="mailto:sally.gooch@btinternet.com">sally.gooch@btinternet.com</a>	
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. Trudy Gray	674819
Church Warden	Lesley Cass	675970
Church Warden	Brenda Grimaldi	612440
Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5s	Delia Prior	07708
		362697
Great Finborough & Buxhall Brownies	Gail Jarrett	674538
Chair, Team Finborough (Youth Club)	Joe Ball	
	<a href="mailto:josephball@hotmail.co.uk">josephball@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Charity Bingo	Sharla Goldsmith	678480
Candlestick Club	Keith Proctor	736598
Great Finborough & District Garden Club	Judith Cameron	672978
	<a href="mailto:judyandian@btinternet.com">judyandian@btinternet.com</a>	
Royal British Legion	Charles Freeman	01728
		684819
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	John Davey	674401
Post Office & Village Shop	Nigel & Jeannette Edwards	612274
Landlord, The Chestnut Horse	Leonel Girao	612298
Head, Great Finborough Primary School	Stephen Dodd	613208
	<a href="mailto:headteacher@greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk">headteacher@greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk</a>	
Chair of Governors, Primary School	Nigel Brown	675344
Police	PCSO Claire Cox	
	01284 774100 x3104 or via 01473 613 5000	
Combs Middle School (674666)	Stowmarket High School (613541)	
Stowmarket Health Centre		776000
Combs Ford Surgery		678333
Stowmarket Library		613143
<b>Pettward Hall Bookings</b>		676249
<b>Village website:</b>	<a href="http://www.great-finborough.co.uk">www.great-finborough.co.uk</a>	
<b>Primary School website:</b>	<a href="http://www.greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk">www.greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk</a>	