

# the Villager

The newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth June 2026



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## EDITORIAL



The summer months bring outdoor activities to the village - and don't miss the chance to add to your garden at the Gardening Club plant sale - it's on the **30th May**. It looks as though the bowling green will be busy, there is a Sports Open Day, the St John the Baptist Church Well Dressing and Flower Festival, a strawberry cream tea and our local village music festival, NFEST which has almost reached it's 30th birthday - details of all these activities can be found here in the Villager.

I am writing this just as our District Councillors, Jon Neish and Paul Hodgson-Jones have been re-elected but the Parish Council is still short of 3 members. Please do consider whether you could contribute to the village by becoming a Parish Councillor. Other ways of contributing to the community are to volunteer to help at Chatters Café or to help the team organising NFEST who are always happy to have extra help on the festival days.

All contributions to this magazine are also always welcome; do send in stories, details of events, pictures, etc. that will keep this publication of interest to the whole village. Entries for the autumn issue (due out 1st September) should be sent in by 1st August. The editor, **Jennifer**

### Editor and Advertising:

Jennifer Horn,  
16 Willow Green, Needingworth, St Ives, PE27 4SW  
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### Next issue deadline:

1st August for Sept., October and Nov. 2026

The views expressed in this newsletter are submitted by readers and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council or the Editor. Dates and times of events have been submitted by the organisers of the events and are passed on in good faith. Please check with the organisers before attending. The Villager is supported by the Parish Council but published independently.

### Mrs Neptune By Steve Puttick

*(Based on the Poetry collection "The Worlds Wife" by Carol Ann Duffy)*

It's no fun being an ocean wife,  
As he in shallow waters wades;  
I'm left back home with all the strife  
While he cavorts with water maids  
I have to comb his tangled locks and trim his awful straggly beard,  
I even have to darn his socks  
And other things that are more weird.  
He sports with mermaids in the foam  
While I attend to duties here,  
I tidy shells to make our home  
While he strokes boobs and pats a rear.  
I sort the kelp and other weed,  
I polish up his trident spear,  
I catch the fish so he can feed  
And all he does is leave me here.  
I know he's out there with a maid,  
He knows I'm here with all my toil,  
He frolics in a weedy glade  
While here I feel my temper boil.  
But he's a man, what can you do?  
My world I'd like to widen.  
I know he thinks I can't say boo,  
But I'm going off with Poseidon!

## CONTENTS

- 4 **PARISH COUNCIL**
- 5 Summary Report
- 7 **From our County Councillor**
- 9 **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**
- WI
- 9 **Where in the Village**
- 10 **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**
- Ouse Valley Scribblers
- 10 **PUZZLE CORNER**
- 11 **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**
- Beer & Wine Club
- Yarnbombers
- Art Club
- Bridge Bunch
- 13 Gardening Club
- 14 **NFEST**
- 17 **CHURCH NEWS:**
- St John the Baptist Church
- 19 Needingworth Baptist Church
- 21 **YOUNG VILLAGER:**
- Guides
- 21 Chatters
- Answers to Puzzle Corner
- 23 **SPORT:**
- Bowls
- Karate
- 24/25 **WHAT'S ON**
- 26 **BUS TIMES**
- VILLAGE HALL** Trustees' Report
- 27 **"The Fisherman's Child"**
- 28 **INFORMATION PAGE**
- Post Office opening times,  
Who's Who, Refuse Collection,  
Buses, Phone nos., Library

### INDEX TO ADVERTISERS Page

Boongate Kia	2
Camel Construction	20
Carpentry and Joinery, R. Laborne	8
CCS Decoration Ltd	20
Clearer Hearing	20
Core Factor Pilates	22
Dance, Vicky Grant School of	6
DDB Home Solutions	16
Decorating Services, TW	8
Eden Print	26
Electrician, John Ward	12
Electrician, Neil Craig	22
EyeSpecs	18
Green Room Gardens	8
Handyman Services	12
Jackson Electrical Contractors	6
More Space Storage	20
Pest Control	22
Plumbing, K. Perryman	12
Rollins Farm Animal Food	16
The ABC's of Salvation	22
Total Heating Control	12
Tree Surgeon, B. Mutter	8
TV Mobile Service	22
White Plumbing	12
Z Cars	22

# PARISH COUNCIL

## Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

## Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council Councillors 11th May 2026

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
<b>CLERK</b> Miss Jane Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall, Overcote Lane, Needingworth	01480 468451
<b>PARISH COUNCILLORS</b>		
Mr A Whyte Chairman	23 Bramley Avenue	c/o 468451
Mr N Dyne	Anchor Cottage Holywell Front	07939 009911
Mr R Fountain	91 Ashton Close	496636
Mrs E Macpherson	6 Priory Road	07765 214200
Mrs S Martin	21 Bramley Avenue	07818 888182
Mrs S Mortlock	c/o Parish Office, Needingworth Village Hall	c/o 468451
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green	466110
Mr G Norman	42 Harris Crescent	463724
Mrs C Norman	42 Harris Crescent	463724
Mr C Pearce	22 Harris Crescent	468759
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</b>		
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green, Needingworth	01480 466110
Mr P Hodgson-Jones	Bluntisham House, Rectory Road, Bluntisham	01487 740778
<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>		
Cllr Alex Bulat	Email: alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	07745 908661
<b>VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS</b>		
Jane Banks Email: bookings@needingworthvillagehall.com Tel: 07970 217970		
<b>MILLFIELDS BOOKINGS</b>		
Miss J Bowd Needingworth Village Hall Tel: 01480 468451		



Cllr A Whyte



Cllr C Pearce



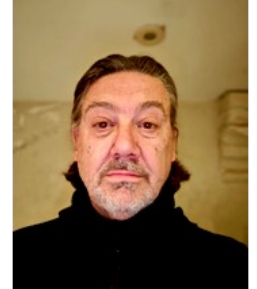
Cllr R Fountain



Cllr E MacPherson



Cllr S Martin



Cllr N Dyne



Cllr S Mortlock



Cllr J Neish



Cllr C Norman



Cllr G Norman

### PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10am – 12pm (Noon)  
For any queries outside of these times please contact the Parish Clerk on Tel: 01480 468451  
or by email: [clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk)  
to book an appointment.

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with your address details.

## Parish Council Report June 2026

At the February meeting a closed session was held where Council received a presentation from Cambs ACRE and further discussions were held regarding the options for the future management of the village hall.

County Councillor Alex Bulat advised that the Government will launch their Local Government Reorganisation consultation in February. She further advised that the Environment Agency have allocated £1.5m to repair Brownhill Staunch.

District Councillor P Hodgson-Jones reported that HDC voted to go ahead with elections in May 2026. District Councillor J Neish added that there are still road safety issues outstanding from David Wilson Homes and the MP is now getting involved to attempt to get a resolution. Also, that the installation of the MUGA at the school has been delayed due to a financial issue from a planning perspective.

Payments totalling £11,378.12 were approved for the period 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

It was resolved that CAPALC be appointed as internal auditor for financial year 2025/26.

The Chairman reported on the meeting with the constituency MP in January where local issues were raised and discussed.

The risk assessment for the village sports day due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026 was approved.

One planning application was considered and supported.

Two policies were approved and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) documents were noted.

At the March meeting a representative from Needingworth Colts addressed Council requesting midweek matches and training to be allowed during March and April. Council supported the request subject to receipt of a risk assessment from the Safeguarding Officer and the school to be used for parking to minimise congestion at Millfields.

Payments totalling £10,405.93 were approved for the period 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

Council accepted the quote from Nigel Dolby to repair estate railings at St John the Baptist Church, Holywell.

There is still outstanding information required from the NFest committee prior to final approval of the event going ahead.

Seven policies were reviewed and adopted.

At the April meeting concerns were raised over the timings of the toucan crossing, County Councillor Bulat will follow up with the Highways Officer and report back to Council.

Elections are due to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Payments totalling £16,400.60 for the period 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 were approved.

Council agreed to the increase in solicitor fees for the proposed purchase of Falklands Walk/ Engineers Wood.

Six planning applications were considered with 5 being supported and one objected to.

Four policies were reviewed and adopted.

Council considered CCC Close Pass Campaign and resolved to put forward 3 locations for temporary signage – High Street, Overcote Lane and Mill Way.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026. This year it was attended by 10 Parish Councillors, District Cllr J Neish and District Councillor P Hodgson-Jones. There were no other members of the public present.

Reports were read out by the Chairman of the Parish Council, both District Councillors and the village hall trust. The Clerk provided a financial report based on draft year-end figures for 2025/26.

For a full record of all Council meetings please visit the website

[www.holywell-cum-needingsworth-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holywell-cum-needingsworth-pc.gov.uk)

or contact the Parish Clerk.

## Your Parish Council Needs You



There are currently 3 vacancies for Councillor on the Parish Council. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk on

Tel: 01480468451 or email

[clerk@holywell-cum-needingsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holywell-cum-needingsworth-pc.gov.uk)

## 'the Villager'

Extra copies of this quarterly magazine can be obtained from the editor,

**Jennifer Horn**, 16 Willow Green, tel. **01480 468952**

or from **Roger Beaman**, 17 Willow Green, tel. **01480 462379**.

**WEBSITE:** back issues of the Villager magazine can be found on the Villager website [needingsworthvillager.org.uk](http://needingsworthvillager.org.uk)

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# From our County Councillor, Alex Bulat

## Support for families in Huntingdonshire – and the facts about free school meal holiday vouchers

I am writing this article a week before the last Huntingdonshire District Council elections. The next elections will be for unitary authorities and hopefully for an independent Huntingdonshire Council (the minister will decide in the summer on which option to implement).

Many of you will have had a steady stream of leaflets through your doors. I've certainly had my fair share, about 7 or 8 at my house from one party alone... Given some of the content put in certain leaflets, a few residents have got in touch with questions - especially about free school meal vouchers and whether what is claimed is true.

In short, the Government is not stopping free school meal vouchers during holidays, as it is a local decision. But I thought it might be helpful to set things out clearly and share through this article some of the other support that's out there locally for families.

### A quick look at school meal vouchers

Some of you may remember that free school meal vouchers during the holidays were introduced a few years ago to help families whose children also receive free school meals in term time. It's something my group proposed during the last county administration and we were pleased to see it happen.

The idea is simple and has a lot of support. While families may face all sorts of circumstances, children shouldn't go hungry. The scheme has made a real difference locally, especially during the longer school holidays.

It was funded partly through a government scheme called the Household Support Fund, along with some council funding. That fund has now come to an end and been replaced with a new one called the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which will run over at least 3 years and should make planning support a bit easier for the council.

### So, are the vouchers continuing?

You may have seen or heard different things about this recently. At one point, there was a proposal to stop the vouchers when the previous fund ended in March. However, after some debate and opposition, the council's political administration has U-turned and agreed to keep the scheme going until the autumn.

What happens after that is still a decision for the council to make. The important point is that it *can* continue if the council chooses to prioritise it - nothing prevents them from using the new fund towards this. Despite some of the claims circulating, the truth has been confirmed and is out there to see through a freedom of information request and also answers to parliamentary questions. The option to keep supporting families in this way is still there.

If your family used the voucher scheme, or you think they've made a difference (or you have ideas on how this could be done better), I'd really welcome hearing from you.

### What other help is available?

There is some good news when it comes to wider support for families.

Nationally, there have been changes to expand free school meal eligibility and increase access to free childcare for

younger children. There are also plans for more local family hubs and school-based nurseries in the future.

In Huntingdonshire and the wider county, there are also some very practical schemes available. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, funded nationally by the Department for Education, is one that many families find really helpful. It offers funded holiday clubs with meals and activities included. This summer, it will run from late July through to the end of August, with up to 64 hours available per child. You can find the information on the county council website.

There's also wider support with the cost of living available through Citizens Advice, working with the council to help people maximise their income. The county council also has cost of living guidance and resources, a scheme to help with heating oil costs, and the district council offers exemptions for council tax to the lowest income families. This page is useful as you can see the different types of support offered: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living>

Generally, I'd say to families that if you're not sure what you might be eligible for, it's always worth asking!

### Come and have a chat

As always, I'm here to help with any local issues. I hold regular drop-in sessions on the second Thursday of each month at Chatters Café, between 12 and 1pm. No appointment needed, so please feel free to pop in if there's something you'd like to discuss. You can also contact me by email at [alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

As always, I welcome your thoughts on what you would like me to cover in future articles for *The Villager*. A few residents asked me about planning and development, and I intend to cover this in the next issue in more detail, after we know the outcome of the district elections. If you'd like to suggest other topics, you know where to find me.

In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy the summer holidays when they come.



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## Holywell-cum-Needlingworth WI

We held our AGM in March marking the start of our year electing our committee and new president.

Holywell-cum-Needlingworth has for many years raised money for local charities; we were delighted to present both charities with a cheque for £250. Members decide on the charity we support.

This is not the first time that EACH has been chosen; the children's hospice resonates with our members. We also presented a cheque to The Arthur Rank Hospice. We were interested in the presentations from their representatives.

Money is raised in various and fun ways - selling books at our meetings, scrabble club, knit and natter, tombola's and, of course, the wonderful stall at the village Christmas Bazaar when lucky bags and Christmas wreaths sell like hot cakes.

In April our speaker from the Citizens Advice Bureau started the varied range of topics for our members. We look forward to a talk on Holt Island in May, Zoonique in June and Shakespear Groupies in July.

Along side the speakers we hold a monthly raffle, craft and other competitions (in April our competition was for a floral arrangement in an item found at the breakfast table) and plenty of time to chat with old (and new) friends; we are the WI so there will be refreshments and CAKE.

Outside of our monthly meetings the lunch club visits local venues. Angela hosted a coffee morning / bring and buy; the proceeds will go towards the Summer Party event.

We have over 50 members and are happy to welcome new members. You can "dip your toe" into a meeting as a guest. We meet in the village hall on the 1st Monday of the month ( bank holiday excepted when we move to the next Monday) at 19:30hrs .

Sally Hallwood Tel. 07471 509890

Email [sally.hallwood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sally.hallwood@hotmail.co.uk)



## Where in the Village was this photograph taken?

Answer in the next issue of the Villager.



In the March issue I asked where this photograph was taken - answer outside the OneStop shop.



# CLUBS and SOCIETIES

## Needingworth Scribblers has a new name

Needingworth Scribblers met for the last time at Slepe Hall Hotel on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and re-emerged as the new, **Ouse Valley Scribblers** writing group. We decided to rename the group to reflect our collaboration with Ouse Valley Radio, in Huntingdon, who narrate, record and air our short stories and poems on Sundays and as podcasts, along with other creative productions.

In our April meeting we had a lovely time celebrating the winners of our annual creative writing competition, the "Snow drop cup" (kindly provided by the late Steve Puttick). You can read the winning story on page 27. We had cake and drinks for our lovely team of Judges and a small cash prize for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize winners, and all our stories were read out.

We also had a special visitor, Sue Rodwell Smith, Creative

Director of Ouse Valley Radio, who expertly presented one of our stories and will be getting them recorded for broadcast on Ouse Valley Radio.

We meet every month, on the Second Friday at 7.30pm until 9.30pm. The next meeting will be June 12th then July the 10th. No meeting in August, meetings recommence on the 11th of September 2026.

Ouse Valley Scribblers aim to have fun, with light-hearted writing exercises to boost creativity and get useful feedback on our work, to gently improve our creative writing abilities and confidence.

Our motto is "Creativity through inclusivity".

New members are very welcome to join us.

Our membership/contact person is **Joan Tucker**, and her email address is [starcrazyjoan@gmail.com](mailto:starcrazyjoan@gmail.com).

## Remembering Mrs Steve Puttick

Earlier this year Mrs Steve Puttick, of the Needingworth Scribblers writing group, died.

Steve had been with The Scribblers for about fourteen years. She joined our group of writers shortly after moving to Needingworth from the Scilly Isles.

When I first spoke to her, I foolishly called her Stevie, to which she replied, "If you call me Stevie again, I'll punch you!" Well that told me all I needed to know, she was most definitely no typical "little old dear" She was the unique Steve, with attitude, surprising us all with her fabulous quirky stories and poetry.

Her stories often had deep dark plots and shocking endings, not the Mills & Boon type stories one would naturally

expect from a petite lady of mature years; and we respected and loved her for that.

Steve was the person who decided to send our poetry into the Villager Newsletter. She organised our poems expertly, for many years and was a brilliant poetry teacher, helping to improve our rhyming, scanning and rhythm abilities no end.

Her stories and novel writing were as intelligent and unique as she was, Steve inspired us with her imagination.

The Scribblers miss her greatly and feel the best way to pay tribute to Steve is to publish one of her poems for June's edition of the Villager (see page 3). It wasn't easy deciding which one to print as they are all great.

**Andrea Weeding**

## PUZZLE CORNER

There are many species of birds that can be found in and around our village, in gardens or by the river. Twelve are hidden in this Wordsearch. How many can you find? The first letters of the species are:

B,B,B,C,D,K,M,R,R,S,S,S.      Answers on page 21.



K	N	B	A	R	N	O	W	L	E
O	I	X	B	M	A	E	L	D	V
S	K	N	G	H	W	P	R	I	O
N	S	I	G	R	S	I	G	D	D
R	I	B	D	F	B	U	U	R	K
E	S	O	V	K	I	N	H	O	C
T	T	R	C	O	N	S	W	O	O
T	Y	A	I	O	S	R	H	K	T
I	L	E	C	R	O	W	N	E	S
B	E	K	E	I	P	G	A	M	R

## HUGE Plant Sale

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Gardening Club

The largest PLANT SALE in the area will take place at Needingworth Village Hall

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May  
2026**

Prompt start at 10.00 am till 12.00

Great Plants Great Prices!

## Beer and Wine Club

In March we said a sad farewell to Andy Killoran, a valued member. He was a Committee member, a story teller, a good wine taster and an all round good egg, willing to help anyone who asked him. He has been on the Village hall and our Wine Club Committees for many years. (Our meetings will now finish minutes earlier.) He sailed the high seas on Cruise liners, Cargo boats and Ferries and now has possibly teamed up with Captain Sparrow on board the Black Pearl.

We had the AGM in March to arrange further meetings.

On April the 19th we had a meal at the Ferryboat and our Rhubarb wine competition was on 15th May.

19th June is a social meeting with cheese and wine.

July of course is the BBQ.

Contact me on **01480 466239** or Sandra on **01487 825669**

**Petronella Britton**

## YARNBOMBERS

Over the past weeks the Yarnbombers have been creating a special display for the village, celebrating that on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May it will be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough, we have all really enjoyed working on this project, and decided to send best wishes to Sir David together with pictures of our displays. We hope both Sir David and the village enjoy our efforts.

We meet on every Monday morning, 10.00 – 12.00 at the Ferryboat, if you would like to join us you would be most welcome.

**Jackie Norris**



*Dear Sir David*

*The Needingworth Yarnbombers are sending you our very best wishes and congratulations for your forthcoming special birthday. A Happy '100<sup>th</sup>' Birthday to You.*

*In tribute to your special day, we have created displays around our village, and I enclose some photographs for you. We meet every Monday morning at our local pub, where there is a lot of chat (not a lot of knitting or crocheting) and the chat often comes around to your amazing documentaries that we have all watched on Sunday.*

*We hope you enjoy looking at our displays, and that you have an amazing Birthday.*

*With kind regards and very best wishes.*

*Jackie Norris, On behalf of The Needingworth Yarnbombers.*



## Ouse Valley Scribblers

Ouse Valley Scribblers writers group meet on the second Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at Needingworth Village Hall.

Contact Joan Tucker at [starcrazyjoan@gmail.com](mailto:starcrazyjoan@gmail.com)

for more information.

## ART CLUB

We meet every two weeks on Fridays in the Village Hall.

We are a small, friendly group; if you are interesting in joining us,

please telephone **Paul on 01480 465536**

## "Bridge Bunch"

We meet on Friday afternoons from 2 pm - 5 pm at my house in the Furlongs.

We play the Benjii Accol system.

We are a small friendly group and would welcome some new members.

For more information call Hannah Dickinson 01480 460132

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# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Gardening Club Blooming marvellous Plant Sale!!

As I write this, the sun is shining and there is abundant growth and flowers all around the village making me realise what a lovely village we live in. It is particularly beautiful in the summer months when so many gardens are bursting with colour and vibrancy.



Our own garden is hosting a number of nesting birds including blue tits, house sparrows, robins, long tailed tits, black birds and the lovely Jenny Wren who flits delightfully around the various plants looking for food. It is bucolic!

In addition we have a fabulous show of flowers bringing joy and beauty to our little corner of the world.

Just as our gardens warm up, the activities of the Gardening Club begin in earnest.

We have our big event of the year

which is the HUGE PLANT SALE in the Village Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

This sale is by far the largest in the area as we fill the large Village Hall with good quality, well priced and well grown plants.

We open the doors PROMPTLY at 10.00am and there is always a long queue waiting to bag the best bargains. The hall is generally sold out of plants by 11.30 am so make sure you get there on time to avoid disappointment.

There are delicious homemade cakes and refreshments available.

Hope to see you there!!

We have our first garden visit on 24<sup>th</sup> June and it is a big one!

We have a double header trip as we are visiting TWO great gardens, Deene Park and Cottesbrooke Hall, in Northants on a de luxe coach picking up in Needingworth at 9.00 am expecting to be back approx 6.30 pm

This is a subsidised trip so if you would like to join us you would be most welcome for a day out. Cost is approx £40 each so for details please contact me on

[parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk)  
or te. 01480 493360

We are having a few similar trips and visits this year all as part of the club membership.

One of our most enjoyable functions is the annual garden event in Holywell.

This year we are having a "Widest Sunflower Competition" to be held in August



Approx 65 members were given standard sunflower seeds in March and they are growing these on in pots or gardens ready to bring their widest flower to be measured in front of all competitors. Efforts range from the enormous through to the extremely modest!

It is all great fun with refreshments etc provided generally on a lovely sunny afternoon.

Our high quality but entertaining monthly talks also continue on the second Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.45

I encourage you to come along and find out why we are such a popular and enjoyable group in the village.

Grant Williamson



Wildlife Trust for  
**Beds, Cambs  
& Northants**

**Huntingdonshire  
Local Group**

### City Wildlife Haven, St Johns College Grounds, Cambridge

As a follow up to the talk that David Austrin gave us in March, we are pleased to invite you to a walk looking at the wildlife in St. John's College grounds. This will be held on Wednesday 8th July, meeting at 6.45 for a 7pm start.

David is the Head Gardener at St. John's College, Cambridge and this evening he will show us how he has combined mixed formal and wildlife friendly gardening to provide a refuge for many native species of fauna and flora.

David trained at Kew Gardens, then developed his knowledge at Cambridge University Botanic Gardens before moving to St. Johns College.

Spaces are limited and attendance is by **booking only**. Please book your place via the website

<https://www.wildlifebcn/wild-events>  
where you will also find details of exactly where to meet.

### Woodwalton Marsh and Gamsey Wood

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to invite you to visit these two small nature reserves on Sunday 5th July from 10.30am to 13.00. Both sites are managed by the Wildlife Trust and our leader will be Eamonn Lawlor.

Woodwalton Marsh is a rare example of a meadow on calcareous clay. It is an SSSI and has some interesting species such as Dropwort, Pyramidal Orchids and Suphur Clover. Butterflies, including marbled white, grizzled skipper and ringlet may also be seen.

Gamsey Wood is a County Wildlife Site and is believed to be part of the larger ancient forest that covered this area in Saxon times.

Both sites have limited parking, so please car share if possible. Either park in Woodwalton village and walk to the reserve entrance (Grid ref TL211814, [what3words/sizing.companies.wing](http://what3words.com/sizing.companies.wing)), or you can find a few spaces along this minor road which leads from Woodwalton village to Church End.

Booking is essential for these walks as both sites are small and numbers limited. Bookings must be made via the website <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/wild-events>, where further details can also be found.

For more information please contact Tim –  
07941 261346 or [timpfryer@googlemail.com](mailto:timpfryer@googlemail.com).

# NFEST 26

Needingworth's Community Music & Real Ale Festival

FRIDAY 26 & SATURDAY 27 JUNE



FREE ENTRY

Site open 5:30 PM  
(Fri) & 12noon (Sat)



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@NeedingworthFestival



www.nfest.org

## NFEST is back – with a fresh much-loved vibe

In a departure from our usual Saturday start, this year's NFEST starts your weekend early on **Friday 26 June, followed by the full festival on Saturday 27th.**

Friday evening kicks things off in style with live music, food, and three bars - including a brand new one, so if you're seriously into the beer, you'll love it. Saturday offers a packed programme of activities within a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere.

Entry remains free, so whether you come for the music or just to relax, you're welcome.

### Who's playing this year?

**Live music remains at the heart of the festival**, featuring emerging talent, original artists and local acts. It starts with a high-energy start, headlined by **Joe & the Juice**, a female hard rock band playing a special set. Also featuring Needingworth-born lead singer. They're joined by **The Atomics**, the (almost) all female band, and, opening the weekend, up and coming songwriter **Joseph Littlewood**.

Saturday builds from an acoustic opening with this year's unmissable Saturday live act, the mate party band **Submarine Racers**. It's followed by **NFEST Or Wot**. Mid-afternoon you can enjoy the rhythms of Willingham's **OpenCircle**, followed by a strong cast of the best original performers in the region. Whatever you're into, your festival is here, from chilled beginnings to a full-on party.

### Beyond the music: our community

**Saturday also celebrates the community** with **Sage Sound and Healing** opening the day in the marquee from noon (bring your own yoga mat). There are football challenges on the field all afternoon, a **Scribblers** book stall and a range of activities in the Hall itself. Chatters Café will be serving up treats. So whether you're chilling on the lawn or on the zip wire, there's something for everyone.

NFEST just wouldn't be possible without the support of local businesses, and we're incredibly grateful to this year - **Brice Aggregates, Cyrus Aggregates, MXI, and EyeSpecs** - whose invaluable support makes the festival affordable and rooted in the local community.

### Lend a hand?

Now approaching its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, our humble village festival is still run entirely by volunteers, and we're always keen to welcome new people. All profits raised supporting the Village Hall Trust, a registered charity.

### Planning your visit?

- Gates open 5.30pm Friday and midday Saturday, closing at 10.30pm both days. Entry is free but cash donations are gratefully received.
- Help us keep the site tidy and our footprint sustainable by using the many recycling points on site and bringing a refillable bottle.
- Folding chairs are welcome on the field, but not inside the marquee. On the field itself, all glass items, dogs (except for assistance dogs) are not allowed.
- Parking is readily available on site - please avoid parking on Overcote Lane and respect local residents.
- Security and volunteer photographers will be present - if you prefer not to appear in photos, just let them know.

Stay up to date on latest announcements by following us on Facebook (@NeedingworthFestival) and Instagram (@nfest\_org) - or visit our website online.

# Back for 2026 A twist on our Village tradition

Day-Sunday festival format, this  
starts early with an evening opening on  
Friday - **all-day festival experience on Sat-**

Start with four fantastic live acts, great  
and new can bar inside the marquee  
means you won't need to miss a thing!  
A mix of live music and community activi-  
party atmosphere.

Drop in or stay all day, everyone is

**NFEST**, with a vibrant mix of  
local favourites. Friday night delivers  
**JoanovArc** - a nationally touring all-  
official homecoming gig with their  
you're joined by local new wave favour-  
male indie covers band *Hey Furiosa!*  
Cambridge-based singer

Opening into a full festival finale, featur-  
headliners **The 29th Funktion**, ulti-  
and our favourite anarchic sons of  
can enjoy the wonderful African  
*Singers and Drummers*, surrounded  
pop/rock talent from across the re-  
val Saturday promises everything  
arty finish!

## Community partners

### Community at the heart of NFEST.

Start with a relaxing sound bath inside  
(yoga mat). *Needingworth Colts* host  
afternoon, alongside face painting,  
local charities. And inside the Village  
setting up a wide range of affordable  
the field or supervising the kids on  
everyone.

Without the support of some fantastic  
we're grateful to our main sponsors this  
**MXI Plumbing and Heating**,  
backing help us keep the festival af-  
community.

More - even an hour or two across the weekend can make a huge difference. NFEST is completely non-profit, with all funds

Willingly accepted. Please support your local festival by making a donation, and/or buying food and drink on site.

Bottle (no bottled water is sold on site).

Distance dogs) and overnight camping are strictly prohibited.

For more or get full details on our website: [www.nfest.org/programme](http://www.nfest.org/programme). And if you'd like to volunteer, contact us wherever you find us

**NFEST26**  
FRI 26 - SAT 27 JUNE

What's on...

FREE ENTRY!  
FREE ENTRY!  
FREE ENTRY!

# MUSIC

Friday from 6pm

**JOANOVARC**  
**THE ATOMICS**  
**HEY FURIOSA!**  
**JOSEPH LITTLEWOOD**

Saturday from 1pm

**THE 29<sup>TH</sup> FUNKTION**  
**SUBMARINE RACERS**  
**OR WOT**  
**IONA SKY**  
**MODERN HAZE**  
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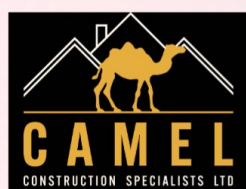
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Tel: 01480 495984, or email us at [Darren@ddbhomesolutions.co.uk](mailto:Darren@ddbhomesolutions.co.uk)



## Parish Church of St John the Baptist Holywell-cum-Needingworth

[www.meridianbenefice.org.uk](http://www.meridianbenefice.org.uk)

As spring and the snowdrops started to emerge, it was a delight to welcome so many of you to our annual Snowdrop Coffee Morning in February. Many purchases of potted bulbs and plants were made in readiness for the season; thank you as always for your support.

In addition to our usual services during the holy season of Lent, we held an inspiring and reflective candlelit service in the Taizé tradition; a joy to worship with friends including those from other denominations. A week later we celebrated Mothering Sunday. Flowers were distributed (see photo) and simnel cake enjoyed! A group from church led 'Experience Easter' in school before we marked this joyful festival at church. On a lovely if a little cold Easter Day morning several of us gathered outside at 06.15am for our Dawn Communion, in the company of a beautiful barn owl which hunted in front of us throughout the service. Amazing! Again, it was a joy to welcome many of you to join with us to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection.

At our Annual Parish Meeting in April the following people were elected to various offices and will form our Parochial Church Council (PCC): Ben Peilow (Churchwarden & Treasurer), Gillian Deller (Churchwarden), Jo Turnbull (Secretary), Ann Lorman (Safeguarding), Carole Armit (Electoral Roll), Rev. Liz Strickland (Associate Priest) and Carol Peilow (LLM). Our Vicar, Fr Valmor Pimenta chairs the PCC. We also have a wonderful team who do so much to support the church in many ways.

At this point, we offer an open invitation to become part of the team. There's a wide variety of roles and deep experience is less important than enthusiasm and a willingness to take part. Whether supporting keeping the church open and available through cleaning, minor maintenance, helping with the flowers, fundraising or activities; or within worship singing with the choir, musical accompaniment using piano or the organ (some expertise needed for this one!), reading. These are just a few examples. Do contact the Churchwardens if you are interested, or just curious.

We invite everyone to worship with us – you can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome. Services at your local parish church are held every Sunday and alternate between Morning Worship (first and third Sundays) and Holy Communion (second and fourth Sundays). All begin at 09.30 am. For those who like to worship according to the book of Common Prayer there is BCP Holy Communion at 8 am on the first Sunday of the month. In addition, there is a midweek Holy Communion at 12 noon on the first Tuesday of every month, and a service of Compline (a short Evening Prayer of the church) at 6 pm on the third Thursday of every month.

Details of all our services are posted on the church notice board, in the bi-monthly newsletter *The Herald*, on our own and local Facebook pages, and on our website ([www.meridianbenefice.org.uk](http://www.meridianbenefice.org.uk))

If you are planning a baptism, a wedding or a funeral please contact the Vicar, Revd. Valmor Pimenta ([vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk), 01487 829882)

### SUMMER EVENTS

With the summer months comes a series of events to which



we warmly invite you:

**Sunday 7 June** – We are holding our annual **Strawberry Tea** from 3pm at 67 High Street Needingworth with thanks to Daphne Stocker. An afternoon of strawberries, cream teas and cakes and children's games, in a lovely garden setting! Admission by donation.

**Friday 19 June – Sunday 21 June** – Our **Patronal Festival** including the Well Dressing celebrates 'The Sea' this year.

If you would like to help with the clay preparation for the panels **Flaunching** will take place on **Saturday 6 June at 10am**. **Petalling** of the panels which form the well dressing will start on **Tuesday 16 June from 10am**. You are welcome to come and give it a try!

The service to bless the well will take place on **Friday 19 June at 6pm** followed by refreshments. On **Saturday 20 June** the flower festival, stalls, raffle and teas will be available from 12 noon until about 4pm. On **Sunday 21 June** come and join us for a concert by **Fen Shanty Folk at 3pm** – plenty of fun sea shanties to join in with, followed by refreshments. Entry by donation.

**Coffee Morning** – we plan to hold a coffee morning at Chapel House in Needingworth during the summer. Watch out for details on social media.

### Date for your diary:

Our **Harvest Coffee Morning** will take place at church on **Saturday 26 September** from 10am-12 noon. Everyone is welcome. More details to follow.

### Contacts:

Revd. Valmor Pimenta    **01487 829882**  
[vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk)

### Churchwardens:

Ben Peilow                    01480 496958  
Gillian Deller                07821 387193

[hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk](mailto:hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk)

**Cambridge Airport – home to our Cambridge crew – will be closing. Without a base in Cambridgeshire, we risk losing half of the service that currently responds to medical emergencies across our region.**

Every day, five people across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk need our specialist critical care team.

People like baby Clayton who was born in January 2025 at just 26 weeks.

#### Clayton's story

"I looked down and saw a tiny baby boy gasping for air," Clayton's Mum, Mia, recalls.

Our Anglia Two crew, Dr Liam Neale and Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) Jon Locke, were dispatched by critical care car from our Cambridge base. The equipment carried by our helicopters and critical care cars enables enhanced care to be delivered at the incident scene – when the patient needs it most – such as blood transfusions, advanced pain relief, sedation and anaesthesia, and surgical interventions. This, combined with quick onward transfer to the most appropriate hospital, gives every patient the best possible chance of surviving and recovering from a life-threatening emergency.

When Dr Liam and CCP Jon arrived, Clayton was alive but extremely unwell and it was a race against time. Taking baby Clayton to the back of a heated road ambulance, Dr Liam and CCP Jon began treating Clayton immediately, providing critical care in the moments he needed it most.

Dr Liam explains, "Babies born this prematurely struggle to adapt to the outside world and often need help with their breathing. Even in a hospital setting, children this premature are at risk of dying. Being born at home increases this risk. The odds really were against Clayton, and we needed to do all we could to help him."

Clayton's tiny body was fighting hard, but he was barely breathing, so Dr Liam and CCP Jon inserted a breathing tube so they could inflate his lungs.

Dr Liam continues. "He was so small he could fit in the palm of my hand. It was a real test of our equipment and skills on somebody so tiny. We got him breathing again, then supported this until he reached the hospital specialists. It was one of the most challenging jobs I've ever been to."

"They worked so hard to keep Clayton alive," Mia says.

Against all the odds, Clayton survived.

#### We need your help to relocate and build a new base

24/7 365 days a year, our crews deliver hospital-level care to people facing sudden medical emergencies. We're not just a fast transfer to hospital; we bring the emergency department to the scene, giving people the best possible chance when every second counts. But right now, this lifesaving service is under threat.

With no Cambridge site, our air ambulance service will be cut in half – leaving just one base in Norfolk. With no crew in the centre of the region, tasking times to patients, like Baby Clayton, who are facing time-sensitive, life-threatening emergencies, will increase dramatically – putting local lives at risk.

As a charity, every mission we attend is only possible thanks to public donations. **Please act now and donate £30 to protect the future of lifesaving care in East Anglia: [eaaa.org.uk/base](http://eaaa.org.uk/base)**



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## Needingworth Baptist Church

High Street, Needingworth, PE27 4SB

Elder – David Mann

Website – [www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk](http://www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk)

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Services are held each Sunday morning in the chapel at 10.30am. We warmly invite you to join us. We assure you of a warm welcome. Just come as you are!

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.” (Psalm 34:3)

Services are recorded and posted on our website on Sunday afternoon for those unable to make the in-person services. You can find the recorded services here:

[www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk/recorded-services](http://www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk/recorded-services)

### PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

This is held every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm on Zoom and all are welcome. Do contact us if you would like to join us. We are currently studying the book of Genesis and are in the midst of the life of Abraham – very interesting and instructive.

### TEA AND TIME TO THINK

We seek to provide a friendly home for those with time on their hands to come for a cup of tea and a chat. But more than that, we want to encourage folk to think about important issues that may touch us or those we love. We often watch a short video. And we finish each meeting with a brief look at a passage from the Bible. Do come and join us at 2.30 - 4.00pm at 29 Priory Road on the third Thursday of each month as follows: 18 June, 16 July, 17 September (no meeting in August).

### WHAT IS A BAPTIST CHURCH?

Our church is a Baptist Church. What does that mean? Why are we called that?

A Baptist church is not a national church, but a local church, made up of Christian believers who hold to

Christian teaching, based on the Bible. This Bible message, or Gospel, is the good news that, though God is perfectly holy, and though all people are inherently sinners – descendants of Adam who disobeyed and rebelled against God, God has provided a way of salvation. This salvation brings forgiveness for our sins, a new heart, and reconciliation with God, who is now our Father.

This is not something we merit or earn by trying to be good. It is not something that is given by God in response to baptism or any ceremony that we can do. This salvation is entirely God’s free gift. It comes by grace to those who are sorry for their sins, desire to come to God and put their trust in Jesus.

We believe that when Jesus died on the cross, He took our sins on Himself and paid the punishment for sins that we deserve – death. This is what all true Christians, of whatever church, believe. The distinctive teaching of Baptist churches is that when someone turns from sin and comes to believe in Jesus, they should be baptised. This is in obedience to Jesus’s command, and is the door of admission into the membership of the local church. We do not baptise children, but only those who are personally trusting in Jesus Christ.

Baptism is practised by total immersion, symbolising both cleansing from the guilt of sin and dying to the power of sin. Baptism itself is just a sign and does not make anyone a Christian. The essential thing is to be truly sorry for our sins, and to put our trust in Jesus. Those who are baptised are making public profession of their repentance and faith.

Baptist churches are local fellowships of believers, independent, self-governing and self-supporting. Our church is linked to an association of about 100 similar churches in south-east England called Grace Baptist Association, but each church is independent and decisions affecting the church are taken by the members and not imposed on them by the Association.

### COME AND WITNESS A BAPTISM

On Sunday 28 June our service will be at 3pm and will include the baptism, by total immersion, of a man who has recently become a Christian. We would like to invite you to come and hear his testimony and observe the baptism. You will be very welcome. Just come as you are!

If we can be of help to anyone, or pray for you, please feel free to contact us.

David Mann – Tel. 300382

Email: [david.mann@cantab.net](mailto:david.mann@cantab.net)

Website: [www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk](http://www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk)



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or email [membership@stives-photoclub.org.uk](mailto:membership@stives-photoclub.org.uk)



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 Needingworth, Cambs. PE27 4TA

*The world is growing darker every day*  
**BUT GOD** offers HOPE through salvation. It's as easy as...

**A ADMIT you're a sinner**  
 Romans 3:10 - "There is no one righteous, no, not one."  
 Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."  
 Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**B BELIEVE Jesus is Lord**  
 John 14:6 - "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'  
 Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

**C CALL upon His name**  
 Romans 10:13 - "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
 Psalm 145:18-19 - "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him. To all who call upon Him in truth."

## Hi from the Bowls Club

We are looking forward to a very busy and hopefully very successful summer.

We are now bowling and the weather has been kind, we hope that will continue. Our green keepers have had a challenging winter and spring but the green bowls well so our thanks to them for all their efforts.

This year is our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1986 the club started and now 40 years on we are one of very few clubs thriving with new players coming through the gate almost on a daily basis. We welcome all at every ability level. The game is a gentle but surprisingly competitive way of spending a few hours in the summer.

This summer we are happily hosting the Acorn Cancer support group which will also mean a visit from the town mayor. The club have actively supported the group over the years. We are also proud to host a team from Disability Bowls England in July when we are also holding our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Then in mid August the village will be filled with the unmistakable voice of the King of Rock n Roll himself. Our club President's day is on August 16<sup>th</sup>, the day Elvis passed away. To commemorate both occasions the president's day will have an Elvis theme.

With music and bowling, and not a small bit of dressing up.

We have a great club with a fantastic all inclusive attitude if you wanna come and get involved just pop in through the gate and speak to us. Or our new bowlers day is May 24<sup>th</sup> 2pm if you prefer something a bit more structured.

Either way, Come and give it a go

**Alan**



## Needingworth Tennis Club

As the summer season gets underway, there's a real buzz around Needingworth Tennis Club with our league teams back in action and ready for another competitive and enjoyable campaign. Players of all ages and abilities have been making the most of the longer evenings and warmer weather, with great support both on and off the courts.

Congratulations also goes to Brad, who was crowned the latest Division 1 Fast 4 champion after a series of impressive performances. The Fast 4 format continues to be a huge hit at the club, providing fast-paced, exciting matches and plenty of entertaining tennis for players and spectators alike. With league fixtures now in full swing, it promises to be another fantastic summer for the club.

**Isaac Brindley**

[www.needingworthtennis.co.uk](http://www.needingworthtennis.co.uk)



T.A.S.K.

## Needingworth Karate Club

A lot of hard work and training has taken place this year, many club members have passed their grading exams and have shiny new belts – very high

standards were upheld by the Needingworth club.

### Notable achievements:

Ben Webb has now taken and passed his intermediate Black belt – All the club would like to congratulate him on this very difficult achievement and the start of his journey.

We accept beginners of all ages (+7 years) into a friendly supportive environment – no kit initially required

Pop along or contact the highly experienced instructors and follow in Ben's footsteps and you could become the next black belt.....



**Thursday evening 6:30pm to 8:00pm / £5 per session**

Kyoshi Burton 7<sup>th</sup> Dan - 07770685608  
Sensei Morris 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan - 07917155254

## Free History Walks



In July 2026 you can join two free guided history walks in Needingworth. Numbers are limited so booking is advisable – search for “**Eventbrite hcnhistory**”, or use QR code.

**Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Needingworth West**



We see the site of a dovecote, two old ponds, a butcher's shop, a drovers' pound, two roads to Holywell, the Huts, chapel, parkland, “Institute”, and the only thatched cottage in Needingworth.

Have you seen “WMT” and know what means?

**Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Needingworth Baptists**



We see homes of several notable Needingworth Baptist families, sites of three chapels (one destroyed in a gale), and graves of Baptists in a little-known Needingworth cemetery.

Did you know that Needingworth Baptists used to worship in Rothwell?  
***This is a new walk.***

All walks are about 1 mile, start at 7 pm, and take up to 1½ hours. They start and end at the Queen's Head in Needingworth.

For more information, please contact Peter on [peter@pcooper.me.uk](mailto:peter@pcooper.me.uk) or 07974 961301.

*These are just a few of the different guided history walks we have designed and led (see Village/Walks on [hcnhistory.org.uk](http://hcnhistory.org.uk)).*



## Buckden Repair Café

**Buckden Village Hall, PE19 5UY  
13.30-16.30 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

Don't go out and buy something new this Fathers' Day – mend something he already has! Perhaps a dodgy cable on his beard trimmer, slipping gears on his bicycle, a hole in the pocket of his favourite trousers or maybe the garden tools need sharpening? Our talented repairers are ready to help fix it for free, while you treat your wonderful Dad to a cup of tea and a slice of cake from our café.

Bookings open on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Complete our booking form at: <https://bit.ly/BuckdenRepairCafe> or paper copies will be available in Buckden Library or the Village Hall. Not sure if we can fix it? Get in touch with us [RepairCafe@buckdenpc.org.uk](mailto:RepairCafe@buckdenpc.org.uk) with as much detail as you can and photos. You can just turn up on the day, but may have to wait.

If you've nothing to be mended, please do join us for a cuppa.

If you would be interested in joining the team of helpers or would like to become a volunteer repairer please get in touch.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CHURCH  
HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH  
WELCOMES YOU TO THE

# 2026 WELL DRESSING & FLOWER FESTIVAL

WE'RE CELEBRATING THE SEA!  
FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

**Friday 6 pm**  
Service and Blessing of the Holy Well  
followed by refreshments

**Saturday 12–4 pm**  
Flower Festival, stalls, teas, raffle

**Sunday 2–5 pm**  
3 pm Concert by Fen Shanty Folk  
followed by refreshments



## Songs from a Big Country

**The Meridian Singers**

and guests

Conducted by our MD **Simon Kirk MA Oxf. FRGO**

**Saturday 11 July at 7pm**

**At St Mary's Parish Church**

**Rectory Road Bluntisham PE28 3LW**

**Tickets £10 each at the door**

Including light refreshments

The charities we are supporting this year are Little Miracles  
and St. Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group.

# NEEDINGWORTH SPORTS OPEN DAY



Sunday 7th June

2 PM - 4 PM

@ OVERCOTE LANE

Try new sports, meet the coaches & join the fun!

## DROP-IN ACTIVITIES

Join us anytime between 2-4pm

- TENNIS
- PICKLEBALL
- BOWLS
- CRICKET
- KARATE



No booking required – just turn up and join in!

## DEMONSTRATIONS



**KARATE DEMONSTRATION**  
3:30 - 3:45 pm  
Main Stage, Village Hall

## COACHING

With Head Coach Toby Jackson  
(Game Set Tennis)

● Tennis Kids Coaching  
2:30 - 2:45 pm (5-8 yrs)  
3:45 - 4:00 pm (9-16 yrs)



● Tennis Adult Cardio  
3:00 - 3:15 pm

LIMITED SPACES –  
PRE-REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED  
SCAN TO SIGN UP



EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE ON:  
[CLUBSPARK.LTA.ORG.UK/NEEDINGWORTHTENNIS](http://CLUBSPARK.LTA.ORG.UK/NEEDINGWORTHTENNIS)  
CHECK THE EVENTS PAGE

Equipment provided. Sign-up required for coaching sessions.  
Pickleball: Ages 7+ only. Have a question? Get in touch at [info@needingworthtennis.co.uk](mailto:info@needingworthtennis.co.uk).

## WHAT'S ON in the Village

May 2026 Sat. 30th, Gardening Club Plant Sale (see page 10)

### June 2026

Mon. 1st & every Monday morning, Yarnbombers at the Ferryboat (see p 11)

Mon. 1st WI, Zoo stories with Helen Foster

Sun. 7th Sports Open Day

Sun. 7th Strawberry Cream Tea (see below)

Tue. 9th & second Tuesday of each month, Gardening Club (see p13)

Fri. 12th Ouse Valley Scribblers (page 11)

19th - 21st St John the Baptist Church Patronal Festival and Well Dressing (Flaunching and petalling on 6th and 16th June) (page 17)

Sun. 21st Fen Shanty Folk (see this page)

Wed. 24th Gardening Club visit to Deene Park and Cottesbrooke Hall (p13)

26th - 27th NFEST (pages 14 & 15)

### July 2026

Mon. 6th Needingworth West History Walk

Mon. 6th WI, Shakespear Groupies (page 9)

Fri. 10th Ouse Valley Scribblers

Sat. 11th Meridian Singers, Bluntisham Church (see opposite)

Wed. 15th Needingworth Baptists History Walk

### August 2026

Mon. 3rd WI Summer Party in the Village Hall

### Advance Notices:

If your organisation would like any future planned events listed here in the next issue of the Villager, to help avoid clashes, please send me details by the next copy date (1st August)

*St John the Baptist Parish Church  
Holywell-cum-Needingworth  
invites you to a concert by*

# FEN SHANTY FOLK

TRADITIONAL

SEA SHANTIES

Sunday 21st June at 3 pm

*followed by refreshments*

*Donations towards the work of the church*

## Strawberry Cream Tea

Sunday 7 June at 3pm  
67 High Street Needingworth



*Entry by donation  
Raffle and Children's Games  
All welcome*

*In aid of St John the Baptist parish church*

## Bus Times Dews Service No. 301

### Monday to Friday—Needingworth to St Ives

NEEDINGWORTH, Church St.	06.32	07.17	10.05	11.17	16.47
St Ives Bus Station	06.42	07.27	10.15	11.27	16.57

### Monday to Friday—St Ives to Needingworth

St Ives Bus Station	11.45	13.45	16.30	17.30	19.00
NEEDINGWORTH, Church St.	11.54	13.55	16.39	17.39	19.09

### Saturdays—Needingworth to St Ives

NEEDINGWORTH, Church Street	07.32	10.05	13.32
St Ives Bus Station	07.42	10.30	13.57

### Saturdays—St Ives to Needingworth

St Ives Bus Station	11.30	14.30	16.30
NEEDINGWORTH, Church St.	12.00	15.00	16.39

The bus service between Needingworth and St Ives is run by Dews Coaches. If you are not a regular bus user, you can check the current times by going to Dews Coaches' web page [www.dews-coaches.com](http://www.dews-coaches.com) or by telephoning **01487 740241**

## Village Hall Trustees Report

When this report goes to press you will have a new set of village hall trustees. Many long-serving and hard-working trustees are stepping down in May, namely the Chair (Debbie Williams), Vice Chair (Adrian Dobbyne), Treasurer (Ian Madden), former Treasurer (Margaret Fountain) and myself (Secretary). I joined the committee seven years ago, not expecting or comprehending quite how much work is done by trustees on behalf of the community. We would like to pay tribute to the trustees, past, present and future for this commitment.

There will be much continuity going forward, since Meena Biczysko and Roy Fountain intend to remain. They will bring much expertise to the new committee. Importantly Helen Perryman will continue keeping the hall spic and span while Jane Banks will stay in her vital role with bookings (and that does not cover half what she does!).

This is not a sudden exodus of trustees – all the departing members gave notice more than 6 months ago that they

intended to retire in May. Margaret has been worth her weight in gold for this village. There is not a lot that she does not know about the running of the hall, and Ian can vouch firsthand for the immensity of the Treasurer's role. We are extremely grateful to them both. Adrian has assisted Debbie with good humour and quiet dedication. Debbie has brought a considerable amount of business-like discipline to our proceedings. She has established a strong basis for the Trust going forward. Thank you so much Debbie, you have been inspirational!

Departing trustees are keen to continue where they can, doing practical stuff, particularly at events such as NFest and fund-raising nights. Running the bar, checking tickets, selling raffle tickets, setting up tables and chairs or erecting the stage (as we have no permanent stage). So, you have not quite seen the back of us yet! We wish the new committee every success.

**Mark Hebert**

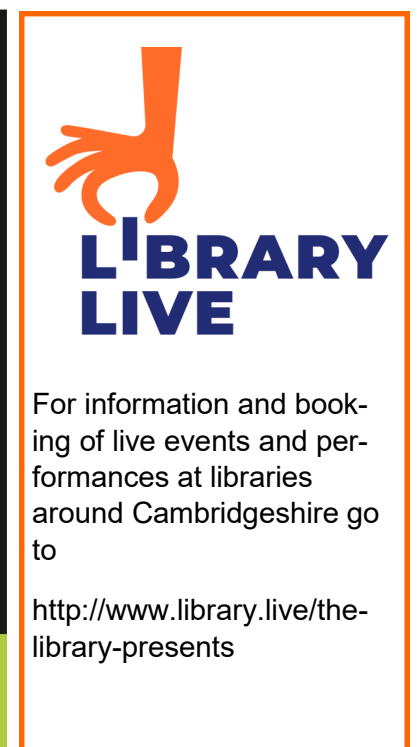


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**LIBRARY LIVE**

For information and booking of live events and performances at libraries around Cambridgeshire go to <http://www.library.live/the-library-presents>

Winner of Ouse Valley Scribblers' short story competition which took place on the 10th of April at Needingworth Village Hall.

## **The Fisherman's Child**

Joshua tethered his boat to the headland and secured the oars. This was the time of day he loved most, after his son had taken home the catch and he was free to roam the beach. He liked to look into the crystal-clear rock pools through the swaying seaweed and watch the tiny fish dart around, or sometimes spot a crab hiding in a crevice.

As he approached a nearby rock pool, he noticed something strange, like a cocoon of dried seaweed held aloft on a large pebble. He was about to turn away, when he thought he saw it move. Joshua took off his boots and socks and waded into the pool. It moved again, and he was just in time to catch the bundle before it rolled into the water. Holding it tightly to his chest he made his way back to dry land and laid it gently on the sand. He began to unravel the cocoon, and first uncovered a moon-shaped face with eyes that blinked at him and a mouth that was curved like a tiny fish but made no sound.

*How can this be? Every night I wished for a daughter. Whenever I passed a well, I dropped in a coin. But longing doesn't make something happen. Is this a vision; am I ill? But no, I see her curled-up hands and her kicking limbs. I'm holding her and know she's real. But now I must decide what to do, and what to tell the others.*

The cobbled grey cottage was at the end of a row of similar houses facing out to sea. When Joshua entered, he saw his son, Paul, at the kitchen table degutting fish, and his wife, Mary, stoking the fire, about to hang the cauldron full of laundry above the flames.

'What's that you've got there?'

Mary pulled aside the scarf he had wrapped around the child.

He heard her scream: 'Get that thing away from here...What? You found it on the beach? It's probably a changeling. It'll bring us bad luck, you'll see.'

Then her eyes narrowed: 'Wait a minute... how do I know the child isn't yours? You want me to bring up your bastard. It's that Jean... it's hers, isn't it?' She was crying now.

Paul soothed her: 'Look Mum, listen to Dad. Someone must have left the wee thing on the beach. It might have died

if he hadn't rescued it. Let Dad have his say.'

And so, it was resolved. The baby was to stay with them until someone came forward to claim it. But Mary had her way; Joshua agreed he would bring up the child, so there would be no extra work for her. They called her Angelina, and he made her a little wooden crib that swung from a beam of the room where they all lived and slept.

Every day he took the child with him on his boat. As Angelina's limbs grew stronger, she crawled to the side of the boat and pulled herself up, looking into the waves. Joshua was afraid she would fall into the water, so he made her leather reins to keep her secure. She seemed happy to watch him pull in the nets, and was fascinated by the shapes and colours of the fish. He loved to see her smile; she still didn't speak, but it seemed to him that she understood every word he said. Her hair had grown into tight, golden curls. She was still tiny for her age, but Mary put it down to the fact that she wouldn't eat fish.

Once he had finished his work, they played together on the beach, collecting strangely shaped shells, driftwood and sea glass. She wore a polished shell necklace that he made her, and they sat together making patterns in the sand, and houses with seaweed floors and driftwood walls. He was fascinated by her deft hands and nails like mother of pearl. Angelina filled her pockets and took their best finds home with her. They spent so much time together beachcombing that Mary sometimes complained that he was neglecting his family.

*She is my family. I love her as a daughter, and she regards me as her father, he wanted to reply.*

But Joshua continued to worry that, although she was well into her fifth year, Angelina still didn't speak. He had noticed that her tongue was unusually small and had limited movement, so he decided to consult the local herbalist, who lived on the outskirts of the village. He held Angelina's hand and, in the other, carried a bag of fish, which the woman had agreed to accept as payment. The thatch of the cottage almost touched the ground, and as Joshua entered the narrow portal, he breathed in the scent of marjoram, lavender and chamomile, whilst pushing his way through bunches of dried herbs hanging from the beams. The woman looked into Angelina's mouth, confirmed that she was tongue-tied, and told him that the condition

was common in newborns, and could be remedied by a quick snip. Joshua couldn't watch as she picked up the scissors, but the child barely murmured, and as they walked home together, he heard her trying out new sounds.

Angelina learned quickly, and they talked and sang together on the boat. As she got older, she helped him haul in the catch. But she didn't like to see him kill the fish and turned her head away. Once he thought he saw her shedding tears.

One day, Mary said to Joshua, 'Angelina will be turning into a young woman soon. It's time she stayed at home to help me round the house.'

Joshua could see his wife was struggling so, reluctantly, he agreed.

The next day, as Joshua and Angelina walked across the beach, she removed her shoes to reveal the scales growing between her toes.

'Father, I must leave you and go back into the sea.'

'That cannot be. I must not lose you.'

'Then come with me,' she replied.

They climbed into the boat and he rowed far out into the sea. When she stood up, he tried to restrain her, but she jumped into the water and descended into its depths. Joshua pulled off his clothes, and his last thought, as he followed her was:

*I must save her.*

When Joshua didn't return home, Paul and Mary scoured the beach and followed footprints in the sand: small footprints dragging alongside prints of large boots. Sometime later, they found fragments of Joshua's clothes which had washed ashore. Weeks later Paul found wood smoothed by the tide, which he was convinced were remnants of his father's boat.

Mary sat at home darning socks. From time to time, she could be heard muttering;

*I knew that child would bring us bad luck.*

Every day, Paul went out to fish in a rented boat. Once he'd finished work, he built a memorial by the sea wall from the remains of his father's clothes and boat, decorated with sea thrift and sea grass.

Then, every evening as the sun went down, he sat beside it, looking out to sea, remembering his father and the lost child.

by Rowan Birch

## BUS TIMETABLES

Details of the Dews Coaches service no 301 are given on page 31 but we recommend checking the web site [www.dews-coaches.com](http://www.dews-coaches.com) before travelling or telephone 01487 740241.

For guided bus service from St Ives to Cambridge or Huntingdon telephone **01223 433 250** or go to web page

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/east/cambridgeshire>

### POST OFFICE (within One-Stop Shop)

Please note current Post Office opening hours are: **9 am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday** and **9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays)**

### POST COLLECTION TIMES

from the post Office:

Monday to Friday, 4.15 pm;

Saturday 9.45 am

(Sundays & Bank Holidays no collections)

### MOBILE LIBRARY

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month

**Holywell** - Ferry Boat car park  
3.40pm to 3.55pm

**Needingworth** - Playing field (Overcote Lane)  
4.00pm to 4.35pm

**For renewals or enquiries ring 0345 045 5225**

## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

To print a calendar of collection dates go to the following web site, enter your post code and click on your address.

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins>

Most addresses in Holywell-cum-Needingworth have collections on the following days:

### GREY BINS (general waste)

June Thurs. 11th and 25th

July Thurs. 9th and 23rd

August Thurs. 6th and 20th

### GREEN BINS (garden waste)

June Wed. 3rd and 17th

July Wed. 1st, 15th and 29th

August Wed. 12th and 26th

### BLUE BINS (recycling)

June Thurs. 4th and 18th

July Thurs. 2nd, 16th and 30th

August Thurs. 13th and 27th

### FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Every Thursday



## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### 24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Hospital - Huntingdon (Hinchingsbrooke) 01480 416416

Hospital - Cambridge (Addenbrookes) 01223 805000 or 01223 245151

Gas Leaks (Any Supplier) Transco 0800 111 999

Electricity Power Cuts & Emergencies 105

Drinking Water - Supplies Failure/routine enquiries (Cambridge Water Co) 01223 706050

Sewerage, Services Failure (Anglian Water) 03457 145 145

Rivers - Pollution and Flooding (Environment Agency) 0800 807 060 or Floodline 0345 988 1188

### PUBLIC & IMPORTANT SERVICES - ROUTINE ENQUIRIES

Cambridgeshire Country Council 0345 045 5200

Electricity (UK Power Networks) 0800 029 4285

Sewerage Services (Anglian Water) 03457 145 145

Telephone Services (British Telecom) 0800 150 111

Police (non-emergency no.) 101

Trading Standards (business queries) 0345 045 5206

Age UK 0300 666 9860

To stop unwanted mail 03457 740 740

To stop unwanted phone calls 0345 070 0707

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# WHO'S WHO

**Baptist Church** David Mann **01480 300382**

*david.mann@cantab.net*

**Beavers** Aleta Watson

*aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk*

**Beer & Wine** Petronella Britton **01480 466239**

**Book Club** Sue Forrest **01480 464082**

*sueforrest42@gmail.com*

**Bowls** Alan Blackley **07368 422241**

*leetheflee@sky.com*

**Chatters Community Cafe**

Sue Martin *sue.martin22@btinternet.com*

**Church, Parish Church of St John the Baptist**

Revd Valmor Pimenta **01487 829882**

*vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk*

Churchwardens Michael Williamson **465821**

Ben Peilow **496958**

*hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk*

**Cricket Club** Tim Webb **07818 032164**

*twdecoratingservices@hotmail.co.uk*

**Cub Scouts**

*aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk*

**Football** Email via web site:

<https://needingworthcoltsfc.com/contact/>

**Gardening Club** Grant Williamson **493360**

*parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk*

*www.hcngardening.weebly.com*

**Guides** Helen Whitehead **460838**

*Needingworth.guides@yahoo.com*

**Holywell School Association** Andrea Walker

*Holywellschoolassociation@outlook.com*

**Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre,**

**St. Ives Branch** **01480 30146**

**Karate** Glenn Morris **07917155254**

*sensei\_morris@gmail.com*

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Mike Norris **465997**

*michaelnorris852@btinternet.com*

**Pre-School** Admissions **07592 919514**

*admissions@ncpreschool.uk*

*Website: https://www.ncpreschool.uk/*

**Scouts**

*chris.boddy@1stneedingworth-scouts.org.uk*

**Tennis Club** Debbie Yates

*dyates4physio@gmail.com*

*www.needingworthtennis.co.uk*

**Village Hall Trustees** Mark Hebert

*secretary@needingworthvillagehall.com*

**Village Hall Bookings** Jane Banks

**07970 217970**

*Email: bookings@needingworthvillagehall.com*

**Wellworth Players** Karen Bays **01480 463505**

*Website: www.wellworthplayers.co.uk*

*mailto:admin@wellworthplayers.co.uk*

**Women's Institute** Sally Hallwood

**07471 509890**

*sally.hallwood@hotmail.co.uk*

**Yarnbombers** *jackienorris@btinternet.com*

**Youth Cricket** Stephen Mitcham **301679**

**Chairman Parish Council**

Cllr Andrew Whyte **01480 468451**

**Parish Clerk** Jane Bowd **01480 468451**

*clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk*

*www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk*

**District** Jon Neish **01480 466110**

**Councillors** Mr P Hodgson-Jones **01487 740778**

**Post Office** **01480 462439**

**Village Hall tel:** Outgoing calls emergency line only

Incoming calls **01480 498351**