

# the Villager

The newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth

March 2026



Christmas Service, St John the Baptist Church  
(page 17)



Women's Institute (page 11)



Cricket Club (page 23)



Yarnbombers (page 13)



Music Festival  
(page 25)

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# the Villager

The Newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Published quarterly in March, June, September and December  
Distributed free to every household in the parish of  
Holywell-cum-Needingworth **Spring Issue, March 2026**

## EDITORIAL



I am sure everyone will be looking forward to the spring, to get out and about in warmer weather after the recent cold and wet days, interspersed with a few bright sunny ones! As I write this, snowdrops, daffodils and primroses already herald new growth. It's a little early to return to the bowling green, but the Bowls Club have kept active in the winter with short mat bowling in the village hall (see page 23), the Cricket Club are keen to attract new members ready for the summer season starting in May (see page 23) and the Tennis Club report their activities on page 24. This issue of the Villager contains advance information on the Needingworth Music Festival (NFEST), this year with a new format opening on Friday evening and throughout Saturday, details on page 25. New faces would be very welcome to contribute to the community spirit of the Village by applying to join the Parish Council or to become Trustees of the village hall (contact details for these posts on pages 7 and 9) or in getting involved in the running of NFEST. Please also help to maintain an interesting village magazine by sending in your articles, stories, poems, reports and photographs for inclusion in the next issue of the Villager; the copy date is 1st May. I look forward to hearing from you.

The editor, **Jennifer**

### Editor and Advertising:

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### Next issue deadline:

1st May for June, July and August 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.

## Happy Easter!

(Two cute bunnies decorate the post-box, courtesy of the Yarnbombers)



## '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 [needingworthvillager.org.uk](http://needingworthvillager.org.uk)

**To advertise in the Villager** please contact the editor.

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(Adverts start at £12.50. per issue for a 1/10th page ad.)

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# PARISH COUNCIL

## Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

## Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council Councillors 1<sup>st</sup> February 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
Mr D Jackson	c/o Parish Office, Needingworth Village Hall	c/o 468451
Mrs E Macpherson	6 Priory Road	07765 214200
Mrs E McNeill	Green Trees, Back Lane, Holywell	467212
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
Mrs S Martin	21 Bramley Avenue	07818 888182
<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: <b>07970 217970</b>		
<b>MILLFIELDS BOOKINGS</b>		
Miss J Bowd Needingworth Village Hall Tel: <b>01480 468451</b>		



Cllr A Whyte



Cllr C Pearce



Cllr R Fountain



Cllr D Jackson



Cllr E MacPherson



Cllr S Martin



Cllr N Dyne



Cllr S Mortlock



Cllr J Neish



Cllr C Norman



Cllr G Norman



Cllr E McNeill

### 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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## Parish Council Report March 2026

At the **November** meeting, County Councillor Alex Bulat spoke regarding the upcoming A141 consultations and also the ongoing plans for Local Government Reorganisation and her vote against option A due to lack of information. Her comments regarding the A141 consultation were echoed by District Councillors P Hodgson Jones and Councillor J Neish all of whom are unsure of what the proposal is trying to achieve.

Payments totalling £15,511.58 were approved for the period 8<sup>th</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025

The contract for the annual service of the cableway was awarded to OLP and will be completed in the near future.

Core Synergy were asked to carry out an accessibility review of the website in order to comply with upcoming changes in legislation. The cost for the work was £240 plus VAT.

Council considered the findings of the recent resident survey regarding the possibility of applying to CCC for a 20mph speed limit around the village. A separate report on the findings is available in this edition of the magazine (page 6).

The final item on the agenda was to discuss the future management of the village hall should new trustees not come forward.

A robust discussion took place regarding the situation the Trust is in including discussion of:

- Implications to the precept for running costs of the Village Hall
- Staff
- Refurbishment of the Village Hall
- Legal fees
- Impact on Council rates - Village Hall and Millfields will increase to circa £10k
- Councillor workload and time

Due to time restraints, it was resolved that a working party be set up to discuss matters further with the current Trustees with the working party reporting back to the December full Council meeting.

The **December** meeting opened with a report from CCC Highways officer on the upcoming road closure to install a Toucan crossing on the A1123 between Morrisons roundabout and BP roundabout – It was confirmed that the Morrisons roundabout will remain open throughout the works.

There will be 4-6 weeks of overnight closures 8pm – 6am, which will be phased 8pm – 12am one lane closed & lane out of St Ives will remain open. 12am – 6am – full road closure. The official diversion will be via A1307.

CCC Cllr A Bulat reported that the Bus way is experiencing increased journey times due to the reduction in speed whilst the safety work is completed which will be up to 2 years.

A141 improvements: Cllr Bulat has sent a joint letter to oppose the bus gates and to pause and rethink the improvements using more up-to-date traffic information.

District Councillor J Neish reported on Local Government reorganisation that HDC has supported option E at the recent cabinet meeting.

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – CCC are still responsible for some areas, the Police are responsible for dangerous and obstructive parking including disabled parking. The penalties are set nationally.

On 27/8/25 a breach of conditions was served on Sunrise Meadows which gives 6 months to comply with the order. The agreed number of caravans on the site is 11 and currently circa 70 in situ.

Moving onto Finance & Risk payments totalling £7667.76 were approved. Along with the December salaries.

Council agreed to submit an application for a Local Highway Improvement Bid to CCC for traffic calming measures on Bluntisham Road as you leave the A1123 entering the village.

Reports on the recent Parish Councillor surgery were noted along with a verbal update on the CAPALC AGM

3 planning applications were considered and supported.

As applications for capitally funded highway maintenance schemes were being sought by CCC it was resolved that the lighting at the junction of Brice Aggregates with A1123 be put forward for consideration.

The final agenda item, to consider the future management of the village hall was taken in closed session for legal reasons.

The Chairman opened the **January** meeting wishing all present a Happy New Year.

A representative of Needingworth Tennis club spoke in public forum regarding the request for BBQ's being held on two occasions during the 2026 season.

CCC Cllr A Bulat reported on debates currently being undertaken regarding the busway works. Cllr Bulat further reported on the budget meeting to be held in February and the upcoming works to install a Toucan crossing between the Morrisons and BP garage roundabouts.

Cllr Bulat also advised that the dates of her surgery within the village have changed to the second Thursday of the month between 12-1pm

District Councillor Neish wished everyone a Happy New Year and reported that HDC will be holding a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to decide whether or not district elections will be held in May 2026. A decision not to hold them will have significant financial implications for the Parish.

The payments made within the Clerk's delegated powers totalling £498.51 along with invoices totalling £1256.51 were approved.

Membership of Cambs Acre and also the Clerk's membership of the SLCC were also approved.

Following the collapse of Tomato energy the Clerk reported on 2 quotes received but as the members felt there was insufficient information to place the contract for the un-metered electric supply for the streetlights with another supplier the item was held over for the planning & finance committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Quotes for the annual servicing of the ground's maintenance equipment were accepted.

Approval was given for the open sports day to be held at Overcote Lane playing field on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and the layout was also approved for NFest 2026.

3 Planning applications were considered with 2 being supported but an objection raised against the third.

A closed session was held to further discuss the options for the future management of the village hall. Once completed the meeting was re-opened to the public and the final item of setting the precept for 2026/27 was held with Council resolving to set the precept at £148012.00 equating to a Band D property £133.20 per annum an increase of £5.24.

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

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

or contact the Parish Clerk.

# PARISH COUNCIL



## 20 mph speed survey outcomes

A big thank you to those of you who completed the recent survey.

We received 148 responses with 52% in favour and 46% against applying for a 20mph limit across the villages.

Many of you supplied supporting statements for your decision all of which were considered by Council when it discussed the findings.

With there being no overwhelming majority either way Council took the decision not to apply to CCC Highways for implementation of a 20mph scheme beyond that which is already in place on Church Street outside of the school.

Council will continue to consider specific projects for local highway improvements funding and apply as and when applicable.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council  
Tel: 01480 468451

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



## New defibrillator for Turnpike Close

After a fantastic fundraising effort by residents of the estate on Bluntisham Road and a successful grant application to the Co-Op community fund a new defibrillator has been installed at Turnpike Close.

Whilst the cabinet may look the same as the others around the village, the lack of

electricity to the site meant thinking of an alternative solution. Community Heartbeat as suppliers fully understood the challenge and pointed the Council in the direction of equipment that is protected from freezing temperatures by a thermal blanket located in the housing.

The defibrillator is now fully operational, registered with The Circuit and being checked regularly by Parish Council staff to ensure it remains operational.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

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

## Christmas 2025

Once again, the Parish Council arranged for a Christmas tree to be erected on Pound Hill Needingworth. This year the lights were sponsored by Needingworth Self Store and successfully ran throughout the festive season on solar power!

Green Room Gardens were contracted to erect, decorate and dismantle the tree, which looked colourful and festive.

The Parish Council also took the opportunity to engage with residents when they took a stall at the village Christmas bazaar held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

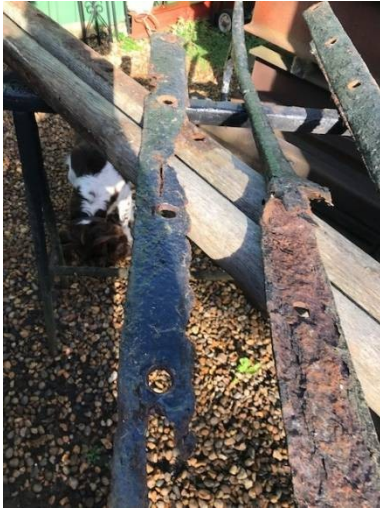
With so much potential change within local government, the new local plan and the forthcoming local elections in May 2026 there was much to talk about with those who attended. Representatives for the Village Hall Trust were also present on the day to speak to potential new Trustees.

Should you not have been able to attend either event and wish to discuss any matters promoted please do contact the

Parish office on **01480468451**

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





## Fire Hooks

They're Back!

After almost 12 months being away for restoration the fire hooks are now back in their rightful home on the wall at the corner of Silver Lane.

The work turned out to be more extensive than expected as much of the metal work had corroded but Mr G Bevan has done a fantastic job retaining the hooks authenticity whilst repairing them for future generations as part of the village history.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council, Tel: **01480 468451**

Email: [clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov](mailto:clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov).



# Parish Elections 2026



## Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council Needs YOU!

A person is qualified to become a council member if he/she is a Commonwealth citizen and is an elector over the age of 18 years old. In addition he/she must, for twelve months prior to nomination, have either: resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it; or occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises there; or had his/her principal or only place of work there. All councillors have to sign up to the 'Parish Councils Code of Conduct'. Details of which are available from the Parish Clerk.

### **Elections and Meetings**

The Parish Council is made up of 13 Councillors and all 13 Parish Council seats are up for election on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Councillors are voluntary and serve for a term of 4 years. The Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the evening with committees meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday monthly.

### **Responsibilities**

Our Parish Council deals with many aspects of village life including:

- Management of recreation grounds and play areas
- Organisation of grass cutting
- Maintenance of the bus shelter and provision of seats
- Provision and maintenance of Mill Way cemetery
- Provision and maintenance of the garden plots
- Act as an employer – employing a Parish Clerk, assistant to the Parish Clerk, Groundsman, Assistant groundsman and Cleaner.

We are also consulted by Huntingdonshire District Council about planning and development within the parish and work closely with both the County Council and District Council on many varied issues.

### **What do Parish Councillors do?**

Speak at council meetings - all views are important, you need to join in with what's going on in the community and understand what local people think, make decisions on behalf of parishioners including how much money the Council should raise from tax and ensuring that the money is then wisely spent.

**If you are interested and want to know more about the work of the Council or how to stand for election please contact the Parish Clerk on 01480 468451 or email [clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk)**

**You are also welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting or committee. There is a 10-minute public forum at the start of each Council meeting.**

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## Your Village Hall – Powered by Community

Following the recent flyer about the future of Needingworth Village Hall, I'd like to thank everyone who has been in touch. It has been really encouraging to hear from people who are interested in helping when the current Trustee committee steps down in May.

These early conversations are a positive step, but to build a strong, balanced and sustainable Trustee team, we still need more people to get involved. The Village Hall works best when responsibility is shared, with a mix of skills, ideas and enthusiasm helping to shape its future.

The Hall is much more than a building. A registered charity, it's a vital space for many local clubs, classes, celebrations and community events throughout the year. And of course, keeping our Hall open and well-maintained is one of the reasons we host **NFEST** - Needingworth's annual, free Community Music and Real Ale Festival: local live music, great food, real ales and most importantly - community spirit. Every drink, meal or donation at NFEST directly supports the Hall's running costs. Since 2015, NFEST has raised over £50,000 to support the Hall.

The Hall continues to grow and be well-used. It has been great to welcome some new regular groups recently - *Use it or Lose it* (fitness for older adults) on Monday mornings, *Classic Pilates* (with Time for Health) on Tuesdays, and *Yoga* (also with Time for Health) on Thursday mornings. We've also welcomed monthly Resin Workshops, which runs on a Wednesday. Together, these activities show how the Hall and Pavilion support our collective health, wellbeing, creativity and social connection across the village.

So if considering serving as a **Trustee** on The Hall's Board, playing a vital role in our governance and planning, why not come along to one of our events and take the opportunity to talk to one of the current Trustees. Our upcoming **Quiz Night** (14<sup>th</sup> March) will be a fun and relaxed evening - an opportunity to support the Hall while enjoying yourself with friends and neighbours.

Alternatively, perhaps you're interested in becoming a volunteer organiser with our annual festival. NFEST is run entirely by volunteers - some of whom are also Trustees, but there are others who simply focus on the Festival itself. As you'll see elsewhere (page 25) in this copy of The Villager, NFEST continues to go from strength to strength, and we've got an exciting new Friday/Saturday format this year that we can't wait to share with you.

Our Village Hall is a wonderful local asset - and one we need to protect. If you care about its future and could spare a few hours a month to help keep it thriving, please do get in touch for an informal chat. The more people who step forward, the lighter the load - and the stronger our community will be.

*Deborah Williams*

Chair, Needingworth Village Hall Charitable Trust  
[chair@needingworthvillagehall.com](mailto:chair@needingworthvillagehall.com)  
07767 608753

## Your Village Hall STILL Needs YOU!



A huge Thank You to those lovely people who answered our call and came forward to ensure that our Village Hall will continue to function.

We have already had one informal meeting with another one scheduled. It is all very positive but to build that strong, sustainable team, we still need more people to get involved. Please ring one of the numbers below, have a chat and even come along to the next informal meeting to find out more. You will be given a very warm welcome.

**Debbie Williams – Village Hall Chair 07767 608753**  
**Eda MacPherson – Parish Council 07765214200**

This is a fantastic opportunity to become a part of an exciting community at the heart of our villages.



Chatters is held in the Village Hall Pavilion

every **Thursday** afternoon

**Opens at 11.30 am**  
**Last orders 4 pm**

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you. Come and try our varied menu of lite bites, snacks, cakes and drinks.

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# CLUBS and SOCIETIES

## WI

The WI had a very busy build up to the festive season, starting in November where we had a really entertaining and enlightening talk by David Fletcher of (Bargain Hunt, Flog- it and The Antiques Road Show) telling us about 'Behind the scenes at the sale room'. Lots of funny stories, plus guidance on buying at an auction.

We also voted for our charity projects for next year, we will be supporting EACH & Arthur Rank Hospice.

At our December Christmas meeting we served a 'Fish & Chip Supper' provided by The Bluntisham Fryer, excellent service, and a great meal enjoyed by all 50 of us. There was a hotly fought table quiz competition, followed by some mind reading magic from Magic Man David Bale. Then for the highlight of the meeting a pantomime, Jack & the Beanstalk starring members, Sally, Joy, Kathy and Carol produced and directed by Eda, it was a great and hilarious end to a lovely evening.

We then turned our thoughts to the Christmas Bazaar where we had two tables, one selling our lucky dip gift bags, and the other selling Christmas Wreaths, thank you to the members who donated bags and to Bobbie, Anna, Linda for making the wreaths, we made £318.00 for our charities.

A beautiful festive lunch organised by Lynne was held at the Ferryboat, as always they gave us a warm welcome, excellent service and food which got everyone into the Christmas Spirit.

The Annual dinner was on January 5<sup>th</sup> the coldest night of the year, but ice and snow could not spoil what turned out to be a lovely evening at Slepe Hall, the first time we have used this venue, it was really a great choice; they made us very welcome and served an excellent meal. As well as the usual table quiz, lots of chat and laughter, there was a Secret Santa followed by a 'Singalong' organised by Bobbi from Walkeoke.

In February our speaker is telling us about 'Mindfulness & Yoga' a chance for us all to get in the zone after a few hectic weeks. For our crafter members we will also have a competition based on Valentines Day, flowers, cards, cakes or anything pink.

We are up to 55 members, but will always be pleased to welcome new members; why not come as a visitor and see what you think.

We meet in the Village Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month; the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

**Jackie Norris** Tel. **01480 465997**  
Email: [jackienorris@btinternet.com](mailto:jackienorris@btinternet.com)



Do you enjoy taking photographs?  
St Ives Photographic Club meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Free Church, St Ives up until end April. Over the summer, outdoor photography sessions are organised. We would be delighted to welcome new members, beginners and experienced photographers alike. For more information see our website [www.stives-photoclub.org.uk](http://www.stives-photoclub.org.uk) or email [membership@stives-photoclub.org.uk](mailto:membership@stives-photoclub.org.uk)



## From Our County Councillor, Alex Bulat

### Potholes, patches and patience: An update on county highways and transport issues

As I write this article, the Government has confirmed that elections will go ahead in Huntingdonshire in May 2026 for the District Council. I was pleased to see local district councillors from all parties, including my own, supporting this decision in their council meeting. Whatever our political differences, it was good to see that democracy won in our area.

Although any 2026 district councillor will have a shorter term, with unitary councils due to replace the current two-tier system in 2027-28, there is still important work to be done. I look forward to working constructively with whoever is elected in May. And if you are not yet registered to vote, there is still time to do so (and it only takes five minutes).

But democracy should not only happen at election time. As your County Councillor, I make a point of listening to residents all year round - through emails, regular canvassing, and local surgeries - so that I can raise concerns effectively on your behalf. By far the most common issue people raise with me is the condition of our roads and footpaths, and the need to see real, lasting improvements.

With that in mind, I wanted to use this article in *The Villager* to share some practical updates on highways and transport and reflect on some of the challenges the County Council faces.

Everyone relies on our highways network in one way or another - whether driving, walking, cycling, or using public transport. It often surprises people to learn that only around 10% of the County Council's budget is spent on "place and sustainability" (this includes highways, infrastructure, and waste services). The majority of funding, including central government grants, goes towards statutory services for vulnerable adults and children. These services have faced rising demand and costs in recent years, placing real pressure on council finances, amongst other factors such as government funding settlements.

I sit on the Highways and Transport Committee as an Opposition councillor, where I raise local concerns and scrutinise how services are delivered. This includes pressing for better planning of works to reduce disruption, and questioning whether some maintenance services could deliver better value for money if provided differently, such as in-house. Below are some key updates.

#### Government funding for Cambridgeshire

There is some welcome news. The Labour Government has confirmed its funding allocations for local highways maintenance, providing greater clarity for councils planning ahead. In 2026-27, Cambridgeshire will receive £38.7 million, representing a real-terms increase compared with previous years.

While decisions on how this funding is allocated sit with the Combined Authority, it is encouraging to see renewed national focus on infrastructure and the condition of local roads. The priority now is to ensure this money is spent on the right things and delivers visible improvements for residents.

#### Pothole repairs

Did you know that over the past five years, the County Council has repaired an average of around 55,400 potholes each year? Despite this, many residents understandably feel that repairs are not keeping pace. The issue is not only the number of potholes repaired, but whether repairs are done properly and last.

## DROP IN SURGERIES VILLAGE HALL

Are you a resident in St Ives South and Needingworth?

If you have an issue you'd like to raise with your County Councillor Alex Bulat, feel free to attend one of the monthly local surgeries at Chatters Cafe - no appointment needed.

If you'd like to request an appointment outside surgery times, please email Alex on alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with your issue and preferred times and location.



12 FEB	COUNTY COUNCILLOR SURGERY 12:00-1:00 PM
12 MAR	COUNTY COUNCILLOR SURGERY 12:00-1:00 PM
9 APR	COUNTY COUNCILLOR SURGERY 12:00-1:00 PM
14 MAY	COUNTY COUNCILLOR SURGERY 12:00-1:00 PM
11 JUN	COUNTY COUNCILLOR SURGERY 12:00-1:00 PM

Powered by B.Jones on behalf of Alex Bulat, both via the Highway 01 Stourton PC1333.

This year provides an opportunity for the Council to review its highways maintenance contract, including whether new conditions are needed and whether bringing some services in-house could deliver better value for money and more durable repairs. I will continue to press for improvements and higher standards.

#### Capital maintenance programme

In December last year, councillors were invited to suggest roads and footpaths that should be prioritised for resurfacing. I

raised several locations, including Needingworth Road in St Ives, Overcote Lane, and the A1123 between Needingworth and St Ives.

The proposed programme for this year is due to be discussed at the Highways Committee in March, and I will be making sure local priorities are properly considered.

#### A141 and St Ives transport improvements

Many residents contacted me about the proposals for the A141, particularly concerns about the suggested bus gate on Meadow Lane. Alongside County Councillor colleagues from St Ives and neighbouring villages, I responded to the consultation on a cross-party basis, asking for the scheme to be paused and reviewed using up-to-date traffic data and in light of the Huntingdonshire local plan.

An update had been expected in March but has now been moved to October's Highways Committee. I hope this reflects a willingness by the Combined Authority to listen to residents' feedback and reassess the proposals carefully.

#### Guided busway safety works

The disruption on the guided busway has been frustrating for many people, including myself, as I regularly use it to travel into Cambridge. However, the safety works are necessary to prevent the tragic accidents we have seen in recent years.

The fencing is now being installed, additional workers have been brought in, and the Council expects the southern section to be completed by the end of May, earlier than originally planned in August. Work can then move on to the northern section. Regular updates are available on the Council's website. If the delays are affecting you, please do get in touch, as I am keen to feed residents' experiences into ongoing discussions.

#### Have your say – monthly surgeries

My monthly surgeries in Needingworth now take place on the second Thursday of each month at Chatters Café, between 12 and 1pm. No appointment is needed - please feel free to drop in if you would like to raise any County Council issue in person. I also hold monthly surgeries at St Ives Library. You can contact me at any time by email: alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Finally, I would welcome your thoughts on what you would like me to cover in future articles for *The Villager*. From flooding and drainage, to social care, schools, or updates on local government reorganisation, there is plenty to discuss. Please let me know what matters most to you.

# CLUBS and SOCIETIES

## Beer and Wine Club

Since my last news we have held our annual show. There was a good turn out with 20 bottles presented. It was hard to judge as all the wines were of a very high standard. After the tasting, 4 bottles were picked out and from these the best in show prize was awarded to Roy.

Our February meeting was wine whist hosted by Richard and Helena.

**March** is the AGM to be held in the pavilion at 8pm.

**April** we dine out TBN.

**May** is a wine Competition.

**Petronella**

I can be contacted on 01480 466239 or Sandra on 01487 825669



## YARNBOMBERS

The Yarnbombers have been as busy as ever making wonderful creations. There was the Village Pantomime Trail in December, consisting of 14 displays located around the village. Thank you to those who contributed to the displays, they include:

Hansel & Gretal	Lynne
Snow White	Jenny & Joy
Cinderella	Lynne & Jackie
Sleeping Beauty	Anne
Jack & Beanstalk	Pam, Carol, Jackie

Thanks also go out to the Queen's Head and the Ferry Boat for making windows available for some of the displays.

A Christmas Dinner was thoroughly enjoyed at the Ferry Boat. A Secret Santa and corny jokes were added to the mix.

More thanks, this time to those who supported the Yarnbombers stall at the Christmas Bazaar.

Lynne, one of the founding members of the Yarnbombers sadly passed away in December 2025. Lynne was a very talented lady who used her skills to help others. With Lynne's guidance the Yarnbombers made a total of 39 blankets in 2025 for the Chemo unit, Fracture unit, Hinchingbrooke, and for a local hospice.

With her inspiration the Yarnbombers also crocheted over 150 12" squares towards a fundraiser for the Fire Brigade who are aiming for a world record with making a 'Tea cosy' for a Fire Engine, most of the squares were made by Jan Staples.



Lynne did all this as well as brightening the Village with creations throughout the year. Lynne was a great friend to the Yarnbombers and is deeply missed by all.

Je t'aime I hear you say, as you wonder round the village admiring the display for Valentine's Day. ♡

What wonderful displays will the Yarnbombers create next I hear you ask....wait and see!

As always, the Yarnbombers meet at the Ferry Boat from 10.30 until 12.00 every Monday morning if you would like to pop along.



## 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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### 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."



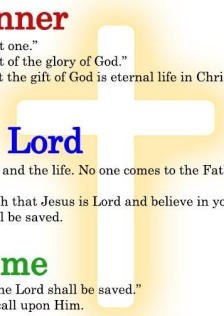
### BELIEVE Jesus is Lord

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."



### 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."



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Exciting Gardening Club year ahead

As we enter into our new Gardening Club year it is exciting to look forward to the many events and outings that the club has got planned.

We always have a great selection of speakers organised for our monthly meetings who bring a wide range of interesting and unusual subjects to address us on.

We book our speakers at least a year in advance so as to make sure we get the very best selection. We draw them from all over the East of England or even further some-times. We try to select speakers who are not only knowledgeable but are also entertaining and good presenters. Even if the particular topic may not be of interest, listening to a good speaker is always most rewarding.

For instance on **March 17<sup>th</sup>** we have a talk by a very witty expert speaker who has been to us before. Dr Ian Bedford, who has been on many TV programmes including Gardeners World and has also appeared with Harry Hill and Angela Ripon, comes from Norwich and is going to address a problem that effects us all with his talk “ **The Problem with Wasps**” It will be enjoyable and fascinating.

You can come along as a visitor and see what the club is all about. We meet in the Village Hall starting at 8.00 pm prompt.

The rest of the year is filled with similar high quality speakers for our monthly meetings.

In addition to these, we have various trips out to gardens etc. In June we have a coach trip to the lovely Deene Park and Cottesbrooke Hall and then in July we have a private conducted evening visit to Abbots Ripton Hall and Gardens. Our other trip in September is to Pensthorpe Gardens. They are all great and enjoyable days out.

The highlight of our fund-raising is the Huge Plant Sale which is held in the Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> May. This takes a lot of organising and resourcing but is a most rewarding event in the Village calendar for all the residents who attend looking for a high quality bargain.

The highlight of our social events is our summer fun day when we host a day in our garden in Holywell where we have a competition for the WIDEST sunflower from a two standard seeds provided by the club. It is great fun seeing the wide range of entries, good and bad, from the same seeds.

We are adding a Jane Austen Posy competition to mark her 250 th birthday last year. We have a lovely day with wine and cakes in the sunshine.

It is a packed and exciting year so why not come along and see how good it is!

Info in the Villager or our website  
[www.HcNgardening.weebly.com](http://www.HcNgardening.weebly.com)

**Grant Williamson**





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

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A busy end of 2025 saw us enjoy the Christmas celebrations and to welcome many of our community to join us in our beautiful parish church to celebrate the birth of Christ.

In late November we were delighted to welcome back the 'Wandering Minstrels' who gave a wonderful concert to a full church of songs by Gilbert and Sullivan. We followed this by a candle lit Taizé service of reflective music and prayer at the end of November to prepare us for the busy season ahead.

It was lovely to meet so many people at the Village Christmas Fair early in December, and we thank everyone who supported us by buying tickets for our Christmas Draw which raised funds for the upkeep of the church building.

Just before the end of term the whole school came to church in two groups to hold their Christingle services. Very happy occasions! We sang carols at Needingworth Park and in the school playground and our annual Carol Service of Lessons and Carols by candlelight proved as popular as



ever. On Christmas Eve we were joined by a large number of families for a joyous Crib Service; some children dressed up and all were given a Christingle. Some of us gathered on New Years Eve to give thanks for the old year and welcome in the New. We hope that this service

will become an annual event.

Our New Year has started quietly as we prepare for all the seasons to come. Having said that in late January the church was filled to the rafters as our community came together to give thanks for the life of Sally Beaman – loved and respected by so many.

We have a programme of events throughout the year which we will let you know about in due course and we will be holding a number of special services in addition to our regular pattern of worship.

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 9.30am. For those who like to worship according to the

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) there is a Holy Communion service at 8.00am 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 (the short Evening Prayer of the church) at 6.00pm 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)

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

As signs of Spring tentatively appear, we entered the season of Lent in mid-February, to prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter at the beginning of April. During this time, we will hold special services to which you are all warmly invited. They are:

Sunday 8 March: A Lent Taizé service of meditation, song and prayer by candlelight. 4.00pm in the parish church.

Sunday 15 March: Mothering Sunday Service at 9.30am in the parish church. A special service for everyone. Posies will be distributed and Simnel Cake will be available with tea and coffee afterwards.

Holy Week and Easter services will be as follows:

Sunday 29 March - Palm Sunday - 9.30am Procession from Mill Way/Back Lane junction followed by Holy Communion in the parish church.

Monday 30 March – Holy Monday – 7.00pm Service of Reflection

Tuesday 31 March – Holy Tuesday – 7.00pm Service of Reflection

Good Friday 3 April – Good Friday

- 10.00am Walk of Witness to St Mary's, Bluntisham
- 3.00pm Good Friday Service

Sunday 5 April – Easter Day – 6.15am Dawn Communion  
- 9.30am Holy Communion

### OUTREACH AND FUND - RAISING AND EVENTS – Dates for your diary!

We will be fundraising over the next few months as follows:

Sunday 7 June – Strawberry Tea from 3.00pm at 67 Needingworth High Street. An afternoon of strawberries, cream teas and cakes, in a lovely garden setting!

Friday 19 June – Sunday 21 June – Patronal Festival. This year we will be celebrating 'The Sea'. More details will follow in the April/May copy of the Herald and in the next edition of this Magazine. If you would like to help with the clay preparation for the panels Flaunching will take place on Saturday 6 June. Petalling of the panels which form the well dressing will start on Tuesday 16 June. You are most welcome to come and give it a try!

Contacts:

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

Churchwardens:

Michael Williamson 001480 465821  
Ben Peilow 01480 496958  
[hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk](mailto:hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk)

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## PUZZLE CORNER

Can you find the name of your street in the Wordsearch (the 'interesting' part e.g. if you live on Egret Close, it is the word EGRET that you are looking for)? Not all the streets in the village are there but can you find all 23 that are? To make it easier, the first two letters of each name are listed below.

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

Answers on page 25.



## Needingworth Baptist Church

High Street, Needingworth, PE27 4SB

Elder – David Mann

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

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Services are held each Sunday morning in the chapel at 10.30am. We warmly invite you to join us. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together." (Psalm 34:3) We assure you of a warm welcome. Just come as you are!

Not having a pastor at present, we are grateful to visiting preachers for leading our services. 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.needingsworthbaptist.org.uk/recorded-services](http://www.needingsworthbaptist.org.uk/recorded-services)

### EASTER

God's ways are unexpected. Christmas took place in a cowshed. Easter took place in a graveyard. But through them both, God was showing His great love for us. On Good Friday Jesus was cruelly killed. He died to take the punishment for our sins and to bring us forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Three days later, on Easter Day, He rose from the dead and left the grave in which His dead body had been placed. That is what the Bible account tells us. There were more than 500 eye-witnesses who bore testimony to His resurrection, and the literal truth of the resurrection is at the heart of the Christian message. The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus is overwhelmingly strong.

But resurrection is not something we are familiar with. Dead people do not come back to life. And the human race has found no answer to the bleak reality of death.

Evolution has no answer. Many people believe in evolution

– the advancement of life through mutation of genes and selection of the fittest. But all the evolution that its proponents know has not succeeded in selecting a person, or any living creature which is not mortal.

Medicine has advanced enormously in recent decades. Medicine can cure or slow the advance of many diseases. But no medicine has been found that can arrest death.

There have been some extraordinarily rich people down the ages – but the best they could do is to pay for elaborate tombs. No one has been able to purchase a remedy for death. Death is the grim end for us all.

But at Easter something utterly amazing has happened. A dead man returned to life. Not just to prolong his life for a few more years, but to live forever. He has never died again and never will. That is the Christian message at Easter. Jesus has conquered death, though it seemed invincible.

And one day Jesus will come again and all the dead will be raised to life. And those (this is the important point) – those who died trusting in Him, will be raised to everlasting life and joy with Him.

Do join us to learn more at our **Good Friday Service** on 3rd April at 10.30am, and on **Easter Sunday**, 5 April at 10.30am.

### 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.

### TEA AND TIME TO THINK

The aim of these meetings is 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 sometimes 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:

19 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May.

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

David Mann – Tel. **01480 300382**

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

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



## Where in the Village was this photograph taken?

Answer in the next issue of the Villager.

Now when I think of Easter  
I don't think of material things  
I use it as a reminder  
Of the joy it brings.

From a poem by Deacon Michael A. Burke Sr.  
March 23, 2008





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## Pre-School

### September 2026 Spaces Available!

Unusually for Needingworth Community Pre-School, we currently have a small number of spaces for 3-year-olds to start Pre-School in **September 2026**. It's never too early to add your child's name!

Needingworth Community Pre-School has been providing specialist Early Years education to children in our village and the surrounding area since **1978**. We are proud to hold **four consecutive Outstanding Ofsted ratings**, giving you confidence that your child will receive the very best start to their education.

While at pre-school, your child will be supported by experienced staff. They have the opportunity to take part in **Forest Schools, STEM learning, messy play, and music**, ensuring a rich, engaging, and well-rounded early learning experience.

Needingworth Community Pre-School accepts **government-funded childcare places**, which can help significantly reduce the cost of early years education. Depending on your family's eligibility, you may be entitled to **fund-ed childcare hours**, which can be used towards your child's pre-school sessions.

To be added to our waiting lists or for additional information, please email [admissions@ncpreschool.uk](mailto:admissions@ncpreschool.uk)



### 1<sup>st</sup> Needingworth Guides

In November 2025, Needingworth Guides celebrated 70 years since the official registration of the Unit at Guide Headquarters in November 1955. They tried some of the activities which would have been familiar to Guides back then,

such as reef knots and square lashing, and the composition of the Union Flag, which were all part of the Tenderfoot test.



Some of the previous leaders came along, and the guest of honour was Mrs Sheila Jakes who was one of Guides back in 1955, and still lives in the village today. She told the Guides of her special Guiding memory – shaking hands with the World Chief Guide, Lady Baden Powell, while attending a County Camp at Abbots Ripton.



In December the Guides raised funds at the village Christmas bazaar selling lavender bags they had filled with locally grown lavender, which was kindly donated.

2026 started with a visit to the Burgess Hall to see the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, which the Guides thought was very funny, enjoyable and entertaining.

The Guides celebrated the World Wildlife Foundation Penguin Awareness Day in January with many fun activities, which included



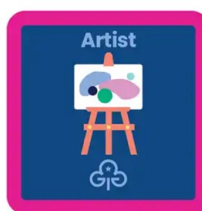
turning Oreo biscuits into penguins and a penguin knowledge quiz.

The unit has seen an increase in the number of badges completed by the girls since the recent introduction of some exciting new badges, with Stitcher and Bookworm being the first completed.

Guides are currently working on the Artist badge and the Interior Design badge, where they are invited to design a room of their own, and learn skills to transform spaces.

Others are looking at the Codebreaking badge with ways to share secrets and information, figure out codes and create their own.

Girls usually join the Unit soon after their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. To add someone to our waiting list to join the fun, please search 'Join girlguiding'.



# S. D. A.

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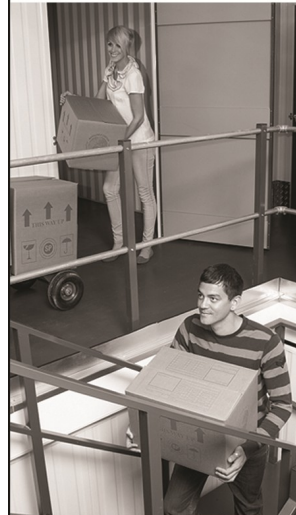
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## Bowls Club

Hello from the bowls green.

We are busy cutting and feeding the green to make sure it is in the best of order for the new season to start in April. The green gets looked after all through the winter months and is brought on to be at its best when we need it.

Its been a busy winter time at the club. We held short mat bowling in the village hall all through the winter; this will finish shortly.

We had a fabulous Christmas party held in the village hall this time. Lots of fun was had by all and Father Christmas even made an appearance.

We recently held our annual Presentation Dinner Dance at the Golf club. Very good evening. Food was good music was good. The company was the best.

Our competition winners got presented with their trophies. A very successful year for Jamie Jack meant he had to get Securicor to see him home.

The club tries its hand at another form of bowls as we go to Pidley Ten pin bowling in April before our season starts.

We continued to hold very well supported village bingo in the village hall. We had 80 people in January. Our next Bingo is Feb 28<sup>th</sup>; everyone is welcome to our bingo sessions.

March 7<sup>th</sup> sees our Race night social evening. Our biggest fund raising night of the year. A real fun evening of cine racing. With real tote betting, licenced Bar, Raffle Quiz and lots of fun.

Everyone is welcome but we only have a limited number of tickets left.

If you want more details call Alan on 07368422241

Its our 40<sup>th</sup> year this year and we have many celebration events planned. If you want to come and have a drink with us to toast our 40 years please come over anytime there's a game on, spectators are always welcome.

See you on the green

Alan Blackley, 2026 Club President

## Cricket Club

Needingworth Cricket Club are always on the look out for new members and players.

We are a small, welcoming club and everyone is welcome. Whether you've never picked up a bat or ball in your life and fancy a go, have not played for 20 years or have been playing all your life.

Last season was a mixed bag of results winning 6 games and losing 7 across a season full of milestones. Captain Reuan Williams amassed 830 runs at an average of over 103, including a high score of 150 not out. Young Harry Webb scored his first half century for the club with 74. And stalwart wicket keeper Neil Heron took his 100th catch for the club during the 2025 season.

Win or loose (and after nets in the week!) we always ended the evening in the Queens Head pub to recount the days play. The Queens Head pub also very kindly sponsor us, so a big thank you to them.

Moving forward. We will begin winter nets 4th March at St.Ives sports hub with outdoor nets starting at some point in April and the season the first weekend in May.

Please get in contact with us through our instagram which is needingworthcricket or contact our chairman Tim Webb, 07818 032164, twdecoratingservices@hotmail.co.uk



*Pictured are Neil, Reuan, and Harry*





### Needingworth Tennis Club – Spring into the new season

As the clocks go forward and the evenings grow lighter, it's the perfect moment to make the most of longer nights on court. Spring brings a fresh buzz of activity to the club, with events, competitions, and plenty of social tennis to look forward to.

With winter now behind us—and the winter league wrapping up—we're gearing up for an exciting run of tennis over the coming months. Our attention now turns to the summer season, featuring the Cambs Summer League and Hunts & Peterborough competitions, where we proudly field men's, ladies', and mixed teams.

Our internal Fast4 Singles League continues to be a big hit. Congratulations to Marcus Watling, our latest Division 1 champion!

#### Upcoming Events:

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Fun Tournament & BBQ (Ages 14+): A relaxed, friendly competition open to players of all abilities, rounded off with a classic club BBQ. It's always one of the early-season favourites - great tennis, great food, great company.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Needingworth Village Sports Open Day:

Join us for a welcoming afternoon showcasing the best of village sport. We'll be running tennis and pickleball taster sessions, alongside activities from the Bowls and Karate clubs. A perfect day for all ages and abilities.

#### Join us on court:

Whether you're new to tennis, returning after a break, or keen to play more regularly, you'll find a warm welcome at Needingworth Tennis Club.

Weekly club sessions (free to try):

- Wednesday Morning: 9:00–11:00am  
– our most social session
- Wednesday Evening: 6:30–8:30pm  
– open to all standards
- Sunday Morning: 10:30–12:00pm  
– open to all standards

Do keep an eye on our website for additional coaching programmes as this gets updated on a regular basis.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NeedingworthTennisClub>

#### Membership

Needingworth Tennis Club offers both competitive and social tennis in a friendly, welcoming environment. New members of all ages and abilities are always encouraged to join. For membership details, visit our website or contact Debbie.

#### Contacts

Chair – Sue Pandey ([info@needingworthtennis.co.uk](mailto:info@needingworthtennis.co.uk))

Membership – Debbie Yates

([info@needingworthtennis.co.uk](mailto:info@needingworthtennis.co.uk))

Secretary – Jim Hunter ([j.hunter2011@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hunter2011@btinternet.com))

Visit us online:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NeedingworthTennisClub>

Follow us on social media to keep up with club news, events, and updates!



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<b>Location</b>	<b>Class Time</b>
Needingworth Village Hall PE27 4TU	Thursday 6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Contact**  
Kyoshi Burton, 7th Dan – 07770 685608  
Sensei Morris, 3rd Dan – 07917 152524

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# TAIZE

Join us for a special time of meditation,  
song and prayer to mark the season of Lent

St John the Baptist parish church  
Sunday 8 March, 4pm



## Save the date! NFEST returns – with an exciting twist for 2026

The NFEST Organising Committee is delighted to confirm that Needingworth's much-loved Community Music & Real Ale Festival will return on the last weekend of June – and with an exciting new format.

For the first time ever, NFEST will run across a Friday and Saturday, rather than the traditional Saturday-Sunday weekend. We hope this change opens up some brilliant new possibilities for the Festival - helping us shape two distinctive days of fun, whilst keeping everything you love about NFEST firmly at its heart.

### Friday and Saturday: new format, classic NFEST

Join us on Friday evening as the Festival kicks off with a lively, after-work atmosphere: great music, food trucks and drinks (including a new bar inside the marquee) – a chance to start the weekend together on the field in style.

Saturday then delivers our classic NFEST experience – a full day of great party music, community groups, family-friendly activities, real ales and relaxed village celebration, all centred around the Village Hall, Pavilion and playing fields.

You can read more about this year's festival and our changes on our website (links below).

### Supporting your Village Hall

As usual NFEST remains free to enter and designed for everyone – families and music fans of all ages. So whether

you're coming for the music, the food, the beer, or simply to enjoy the atmosphere with friends and neighbours, there's something for everyone.

Run entirely by volunteers, every drink, meal and donation at NFEST directly supports the running and maintenance of Needingworth's Village Hall - helping to keep it open and thriving for community use throughout the year.

Elsewhere in this issue, readers will also see an article about the future of the Village Hall. NFEST and the Hall are closely connected: the Festival exists to support the Hall, and the Hall provides the home and infrastructure that make NFEST possible. Like many community assets, both rely on people being willing to give a little time, energy and care to keep them going.

So, if you value NFEST and our Village Hall, please join us this year in making the Festival a success. And if you're interested in getting a bit more hands on, we'd love to hear from you. Every contribution helps ensure this much-loved part of village life continues for years to come.

Keep an eye on our Festival Facebook page for further details of our line-up, our community involvement and food and drink options. We'd also love to hear from local businesses interested in advertising or sponsoring parts of NFEST26. All contact details are on our website.

We can't wait to welcome you back to NFEST this summer – and to start the weekend together!

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NeedingworthFestival>

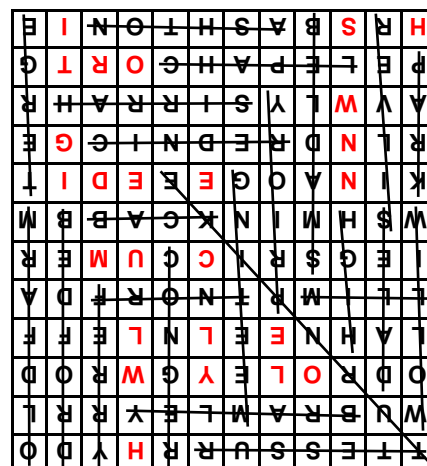
Website: [www.nfest.org](http://www.nfest.org)

## Holywell cum Needingworth History Walks

There will be two more free history walks in July 2026. Details will be given in the next Villager, but if you would like to receive advance notice about the walks, and are not already on the hcnhistory email list, please let me know on [peter@pcooper.me.uk](mailto:peter@pcooper.me.uk).

See also our website on <https://www.hcnhistory.org.uk/>

Peter Cooper



## Answers to Wordsearch

- MEETING
- HIGH
- HARRIS
- FRONT
- FERRY
- EGRET
- DALES
- WILLOW
- CONGER
- TURNPIKE
- CINDER
- CHAPEL
- SILVER
- RUSSETT
- BRAMLEY
- PRIORY
- BELDAMS
- PARK
- BEDFORD
- OLD FARM
- MILL
- ASHTON

## 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**

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Wildlife Trust for  
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& Northants

Huntingdonshire  
Local Group

City Wildlife Haven, St John's  
College Grounds

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome David Austrin on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

David is the Head Gardener at St. John's College, Cambridge. He will talk about the extensive college grounds which combine 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. John's College. This promises to be an interesting talk, demonstrating what can be achieved in this environment. We are hoping to follow up this talk with a visit to the college grounds in the late spring or early summer.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary.

The charge is £5.00 (£4.00 for Wildlife Trust members; under 18s free). Payment is by cash or card.


We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB.

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



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26 the Villager March 2026

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*Sunday 15 March*

**Mothering Sunday Service**



**9.30 am at**

*St John the Baptist parish church*

*Holywell-cum-Needingworth*

*Posies and Simnel cake*

*Everyone welcome!*

## WHAT'S ON in the Village

### March 2026

- Mon. 2nd WI AGM
- Fri. 6th Beer and Wine Club AGM (p13)
- Sat. 7th Bowls Club Race Night (page 23)
- Sat. 14th Village Hall Bi-annual Quiz Night
- Tues. 17th Gardening Club *The Problem with Wasps* by Dr Ian Bedford (page 15)

### April 2026

- Mon. 13th WI craft night

### May 2026

- Mon. 11th WI talk on Holt Island
- Sat. 30th Gardening Club Plant Sale (page 15)

### Advance Notices:

- 1st June** WI, Zoo stories with Helen Foster
- 7th June** Strawberry Tea (page 17)
- 7th June** Sports Open Day (see below & p24)
- 19th - 21st June** St John the Baptist Church Patronal Festival and Well Dressing (Flaunching and petalling on 6th and 16th June) (page 17)
- 26th - 27th June** NFEST (page 25)

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 February)

**NEEDINGWORTH SPORTS OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 7th June 2026**  
2 PM - 4 PM @ Overcote Lane

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

**KARATE - TENNIS - PICKLEBALL - BOWLS**

Free taster sessions for all ages

**No need to book — just pop along!**



Pickleball: Ages 7+ only. Have a question? Get in touch at [info@needingworthtennis.co.uk](mailto:info@needingworthtennis.co.uk). Scan the QR codes below to learn more about the participating clubs





## 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)

March Thurs. 5th and 19th  
April Thurs. 2nd, 16th and 30th  
May Thurs. 14th and 28th

### GREEN BINS (garden waste)

March Wed. 11th and 25th  
April Wed. 8th and 22nd  
May Wed. 6th and 20th

### BLUE BINS (recycling)

March Thurs. 12th and 26th  
April Thurs. 9th and 23rd  
May Thurs. 7th and 21st

### FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Every Thursday, starting  
2nd April



## 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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[www.eden-print.co.uk](http://www.eden-print.co.uk)

# 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*

**Brownies** Julie Swindells **07597 569582**  
*needingworth.brownies@yahoo.com*  
*https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/brownies/*

**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*  
*https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/guides/*

**Holywell School Association** Michelle Dolan  
*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/*

**Rainbows** Julie Swindells **07597 569582**  
*needingworth.rainbows@yahoo.com*  
*https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/rainbows/*

**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** Jackie Norris  
*jackienorris@btinternet.com*

**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**