

the Villager

The newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth September 2025



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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

Autumn Issue, September 2025

EDITORIAL



Thank you to everyone who contributes to helping make this magazine a success. We now print 1300 copies of the newsletter to cover the increasing size of the village but still have a few spares should anyone with a special interest ask for extra copies. This issue contains reports on successful events held over the summer - such as the return of Nfest, celebrations of 400 years of the church bells and 150 years of the Holywell C of E School. The gardening club have had a challenging year so far (see page 15) but kept up with their growing efforts.

Remember that, if you have an interesting story, topical photographs or events to advertise, please send them in by the 1st November for consideration for inclusion in the next issue of the Villager which will be circulated to every household in the village by 1st December. It is up to you, the readers to keep the magazine varied and entertaining as well as informative. I look forward to hearing from you.

The editor, **Jennifer**

Editor and Advertising:

Jennifer Horn,
16 Willow Green, Needingworth, St Ives, PE27 4SW
Tel: 01480 468952 Email: needingworth@aol.com

Next issue deadline:

1st November for December 2025, January and February 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.

EAGLE SONG

I ride the air and
hang

motionless above my desert land
a Kingdom bound by endless sky
my food beneath picked out as I fly
from reptiles basking on rocks below
lizards and chameleons who change and grow
to match the colour of sand formations
Nature's way to separate all nations
with kaleidoscopic colours and hues
beiges and browns; cream and blues
my Canyon's cliffs in horizontal stripes
are sandwiched in layers of orange and white.

At dawn a Shaman beats his drum
to summon up the new day's sun
slow steps in circles round and round
wakes his tribe with rhythm and sound
and tells my story in dance not words
for I am Eagle and King of birds
I follow his dance by beating my wings
and when I take flight the Canyon sings.

© **Jean Fairbairn** Scribblers Writing Group
(First published in Jean's latest collection of poems *Dawn to Dusk*)

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PARISH COUNCIL

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council 3rd April 2025

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CLERK Miss Jane Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall, Overcote Lane, Needingworth	468451
PARISH COUNCILLORS		
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 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		
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS		
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green, Needingworth	01480 466110
Mr P Hodgson-Jones	Bluntisham House, Rectory Road, Bluntisham	01487 740778
COUNTY COUNCILLOR		
Cllr Alex Bulat (elected 2nd May)	Email: alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	07745 908661
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS		
Jane Banks Email: bookings@needingworthvillagehall.com Tel: 07970 217970		
MILLFIELDS BOOKINGS		
Miss J Bowd Needingworth Village Hall Tel: 468451		

Meet Your Parish Councillors

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council consists of 13 Councillors. There are currently 2 vacancies, please contact the Clerk for details on co-option.

Councillor Coral Norman



I am Coral Norman I serve on Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council. I have lived in Needingworth for over 60 years and have raised my family here, both my daughter and granddaughter attended Holywell C of E School. I have previously worked as a mid-day supervisor at the school and assisted at the St. Ives Day Care Centre. Both my husband and I support many of the village activities such as quizzes for Magpas. I am a great believer in community spirit within

the village i.e all sporting activities, the RSPB Nature Reserve, the Wellworth Players, the Music Festival. I also enjoy debating and putting my (non-political) opinion across. In my opinion, it is a very sought-after village to live in and suits people of all ages.

Committees: Environment, Planning & Finance

Councillor Geoff Norman



My name is Geoff Norman married to Coral we have one daughter and one granddaughter. We have lived in the village for over 60 years. I previously served on Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council for 7 years and am pleased to have been co-opted back on to the Council. I was also a founder member of Holywell-cum-Needingworth Bowls Club. I run various quizzes including my special quiz for Magpas which is held every fortnight at the Queen's Head Public House.

Committees: Environment, Planning & Finance

Councillor Colin Pearce



I have lived in the village most of my life and I am a self-employed civil engineer.

I have been a Councillor for the Parish Council for over 25 years, having served several years as Chairman. I was heavily involved in the establishment of Millfields and the Village Hall both of which are focal points of the village used by a wide cross section of the community. In my spare time I am a keen golfer.

Committees: Appeals, HR, Leisure Facilities (Chairman), Planning & Finance

Councillor Andrew Whyte, Chairman



I was born in the village in 1955 and have lived here since then. I have worked in horticulture since leaving school and I have always had an interest in wildlife and the environment. This interest is of great help with my work on the Environment Committee.

I am pleased to have been re-elected for my second term as Councillor on Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council following the May elections.

Committees: Consultation, Disciplinary & Grievance, Environment, HR (Chairman), Leisure Facilities, Planning & Finance (Chairman)

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
to book an appointment.

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Parish Council Report

The first business of the May meeting was to elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr A Whyte was unanimously elected with Cllr S Mortlock being appointed as Vice Chairman.

A resident stated that in his opinion DMC had failed in their duty by passing the Lodel Farm development prior to obtaining a proper environmental assessment of the new chicken farm. A second resident spoke in support of the self-store application.

County Councillor A Bulat introduced herself as the new County Councillor for Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Reynolds thanking him for all his support over the years as a County Councillor.

Payments for the period 1st April 2025 – 6th May 2025 totalling £19781.32 were approved.

Members discussed the reinspection of the Village Hall and advised that the outstanding issues would need to be addressed by 1st September 2025. Moving forward the Parish Council will carry out an annual landlord inspection of the Village Hall.

Council agreed to the purchase of land Mill Way Needlingworth at a cost of £4792.50 from CCC.

Four planning applications were considered and supported by the Parish Council.

Members considered the Community Payback Service and requested the Clerk to arrange for the co-ordinator to attend a site visit to discuss possible works and schedule.

Three policies were approved.

At the June meeting the Parish Council groundsman addressed Council providing the background to the mowers and the improvements in their work since Council had invested in J Deere mowers.

Needlingworth Tennis Club secretary spoke regarding the request for a hard standing to permit BBQ's and the Village Hall extension stating the Tennis Club fully support the extension project.

The District Councillor reported that the food waste collection will start March 2026.

Payments for the period 7th May 2025.-3rd June 2025 totalling £11396.98 were approved.

Members congratulated the Clerk on an excellent Internal Audit report.

Cllr E MacPherson reported that the VE Day was a great success, and Council approved the purchase of a wreath to lay on the war memorial on 15th August 2025 in recognition of VJ Day 80.

Council approved the purchase of a John Deere ride on mower.

The quote from Cambs Electrical for a 5-year electrical inspection at Millfield's was approved.

Following a lengthy consultation with the insurance company and Sovereign, the original installers of the Space net and surfacing where neither would accept liability, Council approved the quote from OLP to repair the surfacing, funding the repair from CIL monies. A claim for reimbursement will be pursued.

Two planning applications were considered and supported by the Council.

Three policies were reviewed and approved.

The Annual Accounting and Governance Return was completed and approved for submission to the external auditors.

Council considered the findings of the Village Hall extension survey and as a result the plan for a stage extension was rejected. Council will work with both the Village Hall Trustees on major repairs/changes to the building and with the Tennis Club in facilitating a club house.

The Environmental Permit Application for a Cement Batching Plant in Needlingworth Quarry was objected to.

The request from Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre for a grant/donation will be taken to the Relief in Need Charity for consideration.

Council agreed that a trial area be sought and permission for 1 BBQ for the Tennis Club to hold so any feedback can be reviewed. Tennis club to provide dates, times and numbers.

Cllr Mortlock offered apologies for the July meeting which was attended by 9 Councillors.

Members asked the Clerk to contact the community Policing team with a view to arranging a "coffee with a cop" event after the school holidays.

The Clerks report advised that repair work to the surface under the Spacenet had been completed and that the invoice was awaited.

Payments totalling £8768.88 were approved and the bank reconciliation and budget report noted.

Copleys were appointed as solicitors for the Parish Council purchase of the Falklands Walk and Engineers Wood.

1 planning application was considered and approved by the Parish Council.

A draft of the Annual report was approved along with a contractor for printing, the final report to be distributed with the September edition of the Villager.

Council reviewed the consultation on local government reorganisation and Councillors were asked to return their copies to the Clerk by 16th July 2025.

A second consultation on the public rights of way hierarchy was also considered with the Clerk being asked to point out some errors on the maps and that Council consider all rights of way equally important and in need of regular maintenance.

A final report on plans for NFest 25 were considered and approved with Council wishing the organisers a successful event.

The official record of all meetings are the minutes which are available on the Parish Council website

www.holywell-cum-needlingworth-pc.gov.uk

Do you want a 20mph speed limit in Needingworth and Holywell?

With this edition of the Villager, you will have a questionnaire asking your opinion on whether or not the Parish Council should make application to Cambridgeshire County Council for all, or part of the villages within the Parish to have 20mph speed limits.

Council is looking forward to hearing what you have to say so please complete the form and return to the Parish Office by 30th September 2025.



Chicken Farm, Overcote lane

On 29th May a group of 35 residents, Councillors and Parish Council staff met at Overcote Farm for a site visit post the site redevelopment but pre its commissioning as a working poultry farm.



Mr Richard Bowers from the construction team welcomed everyone and thanked residents for their tolerance whilst the work had been ongoing. He went on to give an

overview of the new site highlighting the bio security measures that will be in place and details of the 6–7-week crop cycle. Residents were then able to ask questions before going out to view the inside of one of the new sheds.

The visit lasted an hour and a half and those present found it informative and a useful insight into the industry.

Civil Parking Enforcement is Coming to Huntingdonshire.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is set to gain new powers to enforce parking rules locally, following confirmation from the Minister for the Future of Roads, Lilian Greenwood MP.

From 28 July 2025, Huntingdonshire will become a Civil Enforcement Area. While this does not change where people can or cannot park, it does mean that powers to enforce existing parking restrictions will be available to the local authority.

Until now, responsibility for parking enforcement has rested with the police. With Civil Parking Enforcement in place, council-employed Civil Enforcement Officers will be able to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for offences such as parking on double yellow lines or in disabled bays without a valid blue badge. This change is aimed at improving traffic flow, boosting compliance, and ensuring parking spaces are used fairly and safely.

The police will retain powers to enforce dangerous or obstructive parking, parking on pedestrian crossings and zig-zag lines and moving traffic offences such as speeding or driving through 'no entry' zones.

The legal designation for the Civil Enforcement and Special Enforcement Areas take effect on 28 July 2025, with an initial period of warning notices issued on-street commencing in August.

HDC Local Plan – Call for sites. Your Parish needs you!

A display has been available in the foyer of the village hall showing sites that have come forward for development around the Parish.

This is an ongoing matter that will be subject to further consultation with the Parish but potentially, if all sites were to be approved, Holywell-cum-Needingworth would be looking at development of just over 3000 homes plus industrial and retail.

The current consultation is closed but that does not mean that as a resident you cannot make representation to HDC on your thoughts. Potentially, this will have a major effect on the villages in which you live so please do have your say.

Monitor the HDC website and also the Parish Council website and social media pages for further updates and in the meantime please write/email HDC.

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/have-your-say/customer-feedback/

Parish Council website:
www.holywell-cum-needingsworth-pc.gov.uk



New weekly food waste collections to start next year.

After 31st March 2026 local Councils will begin to offer weekly food waste collections to households.

As part of the drive to educate residents about the new service CCC are running a project to recruit volunteers across the 5 district Councils.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer contact CCC Waste management. Telephone 0345 045 5207 or scan the QR code





Parish Council Surgeries



Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council are running surgeries throughout 2025 at Chatters on the 2nd Thursday of each month:

Thursday 11th September 2025 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Thursday 9th October 2025 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Thursday 13th November 2025 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Thursday 11th December 2025 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Come and speak to a Parish Councillor to give your views, ideas and opinions on any matters relating to your villages.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Tel: **01480 468451**

Email: clerk@hollywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Litter Pick is back!



Have you had enough of other people's litter?

Are you willing to do something about it?

Then join us on: **Friday 5th September 2025, 9.30am**

Meet at: **Needingworth Village Hall**

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council are looking for volunteers to take part in the Community Litter Pick

If you require any further information, please contact the Parish Council Office on Tel: 01480 468451 or email:

clerk@hollywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk

'the Villager'

Extra copies of this quarterly magazine can be obtained from the editor, **Jennifer Horn**, 16 Willow Green, tel. **468952** or from **Roger Beaman**, 17 Willow Green, tel. **462379**.

WEBSITE: back issues of the Villager Magazine can be found on the Villager website needingworthvillager.org.uk

To advertise in the Villager please contact the editor.

Email: needingworth@aol.com or telephone 01480 468952

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

WELLWORTH PLAYERS

Wellworth Players' Autumn Production:

"Good Things" by Liz Lochhead.
A romantic comedy for the middle aged, set in a charity shop! Come and see this funny, heartwarming play.

October 30th, 31st and November 1st
7.30 pm

Needingworth Village Hall

Licensed bar

Tickets available from Ticketsource
£8



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.

We look forward to seeing you there.

sue.martin22@btinternet.com

Remember

It's quiet here, no rush, just hush.
People walking up and down,

Sometimes a smile,
Sometimes a frown.

No guns, no mud, no limbs, no blood.
This field was once a sea of men, guns,
horses, mud.
But now it's rows of crosses, poppies as red
as blood.

These men all lie in foreign ground
They died to keep us free,
They did it then,
They do it still,
And all for you and me.

Margaret Parsons

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Needingworth Village Hall News!

NFEST 2025: Community, Casks & Captivating Music – A Resounding Success

This summer, Needingworth's much-loved free-to-enter Music & Real Ale Festival (NFEST) returned in full force, bringing a weekend of fantastic live music, local food, and unbeatable community spirit.

Held on July 5–6th, the festival featured alternating stages under a lively marquee, keeping the entertainment flowing no matter the weather.

With a refreshed team of lead volunteers at the helm and a fully digital programme to build early buzz, this year's NFEST was one of the best yet. The eclectic lineup of local acts and regional favourites drew in enthusiastic crowds, with the atmosphere enhanced by an excellent range of real ales and delicious food stalls.

A massive thank you goes out to the incredible volunteers who gave their time, energy, and passion to make NFest possible. From logistics to litter-picking, stage setup to bar shifts—your efforts did not go unnoticed, and the whole community is grateful.

Powerful Purpose:

More than just a great weekend out, NFest 2025 had a powerful purpose: raising funds for Needingworth Village Hall, **we are in need of help**. We're currently seeking new Village Hall Trustees to join the Trust as three long-serving Trustees step down.

Band Night 4th October 2025

"Thunder only happens when it's raining," but this night is guaranteed to shine.

Step into a landslide of dreams as 'Don't Stop' brings the magic of Fleetwood Mac to life — from the haunting harmonies of "Rhiannon", to the electric energy of "The Chain", and the irresistible groove of "Everywhere". Dance with your Gypsy heart. Rewind the clock to a time when love, heartbreak, and wild rhythm ruled. Sing along to the songs that made legends.

You can't break the chain — not when it sounds this good.

Tickets going fast! Don't stop — get yours now and join us for a night you'll never forget.

Quiz Night 22nd Novmeber 2025

Think you've got what it takes to crack the trivia crown? Or maybe you're just in it for the laughs, snacks, and bragging rights? Either way — it's Quiz Night, and you're invited!

Expect questions on everything from MoviesMusic, Geography, Weird facts you didn't know you knew!

Bar open, snacks flowing, and good vibes only.

"Use your heads — and bring your friends!"

Book your table now, it's going to be a full house!

All proceeds from NFEST, Band Nights and Quiz Nights go directly toward important projects including a new roof for the Pavilion and the installation of solar panels—ensuring the hall remains a sustainable and well-equipped space for all.

Jane Banks

Village Hall Bookings Secretary
and NFEST Committee Member

Calling All Community Champions: Join the Needingworth Village Hall Trustee Team!



Needingworth Village Hall is at an exciting turning point — we need *you* to help shape our future! Three of our long-standing trustees—dedicated volunteers who have steered the hall's growth and success—will be stepping down

at the end of this year. This presents an incredible opportunity for fresh energy, new perspectives, and continued community vitality. By the AGM in May 2026 we will have 8 vacancies, so room for all.

Why Become a Trustee?

As a trustee, you'll help guide the strategic direction of the village hall, ensuring it becomes an environmentally friendly, energy efficient, sustainable, hub for events, classes, social gatherings, and charitable initiatives.

A recent Charity Commission report states that *'Over half of young trustees said trusteeship supported their career development, while older trustees said it gave them the opportunity to give back.'*

You'll collaborate with a friendly team, manage finances responsibly, plan exciting new activities, oversee facility upkeep, and maintain strong ties with village residents—helping ensure the hall continues to serve as a vibrant community nucleus.

What We're Looking For

- Charity Commission report findings suggest *'some boards could benefit from more people with certain skills including legal, finance, anti-fraud measures, administrative excellence and marketing'*, that is certainly us!
- Enthusiasm for community involvement – Have ideas? Great—help us bring them to life!
- Commitment to a team ethos – Trustees meet several times a year, plus occasional event support.
- A positive outlook and concerns for the environment – We're seeking proactive problem-solvers who champion inclusivity and community impact.

Time Required

Trustee duties are voluntary and deeply rewarding. Expect a few hours per month for meetings, planning, and occasional event presence.

Get Involved Today!

We are seeking three new trustees to begin in January, or earlier. If you care about Needingworth's future and want to contribute in a tangible way, please reach out by October 31. To learn more or apply, visit our website (needingworthvillagehall.com) or email us at chair@needingworthvillagehall.com.

Help ensure our Village Hall remains a warm, welcoming, and active centre for all. Join us in building the next chapter of community spirit!

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CLUBS and SOCIETIES

WI

At our May meeting our speaker gave us an interesting talk on Statins. We had also asked members to mark V E Day by bringing photographs of their loved ones who fought in the war, and memories of wartime occupations. We had a lovely display which was enjoyed by everyone, admiring and remembering their loved ones. There were photographs of some very handsome Dads, Brothers, and Uncles from all the forces.



June was a lovely affair, as well as enjoying some 'Millinery Ma-larky' where we all had the opportunity to make a hat, with lots of flair and much laughter, there were some brilliant creations and they will have another airing at our 'Garden Party Meeting in August'. We also held a competition depicting 'June in a Mug'; Cathy Lajbrok made a beautiful cake in a mug and was chosen as the winner, Nuala Gillard, was runner up with the floral display in a

mug, there were lots of terrific entries.

The Lunch Club tried out 'Blue Diamond Garden Centre' for a change of venue; there were 20 of us and we all enjoyed a lovely lunch, with the usual lots of chat and laughter, and the opportunity for a bit of retail therapy.

July was a busy meeting; our speaker gave us an interesting talk on 'Lasting Power of Attorney' which gave some of us food for thought. We then had the pleasure in presenting



cheques to our two chosen charities for this year – Property Angels (supporting homeless families setting up a new and safe home) & SERV – Blood bikers (volunteers delivering emergency supplies of blood and baby milk). They each received a cheque for £500.00 and then gave us a brief overview on the work of their charities.

On 29th July 10 of us are going on an outing to 'Skegness' not only for the sun, sea and sand, Skegness also has the largest wool warehouse in Europe, so a spot of retail therapy will be on the cards.

We are busily preparing for our August Summer Tea Party, where we also mark VJ Day, and in September we are looking forward to a talk on 'Hell on Wheels, tales of a Driving Instructor'.

If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome, come along as a visitor and see what you think.



Jackie Norris – President 01480465997



Do you enjoy taking photographs?

St Ives Photographic Club meets every Tuesday during the autumn/winter season at 8pm in the Free Church, St Ives. The first indoor meeting this autumn is on 2nd September. We would be delighted to welcome new members, beginners and experienced photographers alike. For more information see our website

www.stives-photoclub.org.uk

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Bryan Mutter TREE SURGEON

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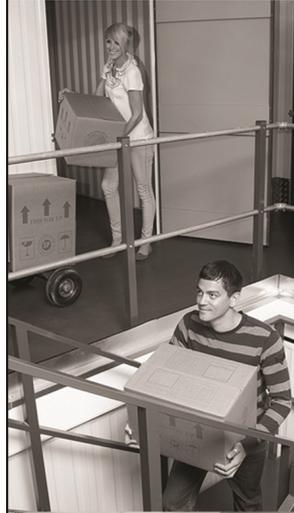
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blackberries, elderflower, roses, strawberries, lettuce, raisin, lychees(not a success), elderberries, gooseberries and several kit wines. So when we came to live in Needingworth 50 years ago we joined the Wine Club. We have enjoyed many wonderful evenings and made some very good friends. If you come along to one of our meetings you can

sample some wines made by our members, or get advice on making your own wine.

26th September is the Beer competition to be held at Sandra's.

17th October make our own liqueurs.

21st November is our annual show.

Looking forward to seeing some new faces

Petronella

I can be contacted on 01480466239

or Sandra on 01487825669

YARNBOMBERS

We meet every Monday morning at the Ferry Boat where they make us all very welcome. Everyone has been busy working on various projects, some personal and some for our displays or for charity.

Joy Beasley who organised the making of 'Innocent Bottle Toppers', received a lovely thank you card from Innocent for the toppers we had made, look out for them on Innocent bottles in the Autumn, thank you to everyone who made them, our efforts should raise over £85.00 for charity.

We are still making blankets for the Chemo units of Addenbrooks and Hinchingsbrook hospitals, this is organised by Lynne & Jenny, with squares being made by Mavis, Jan, Pam, and Carol, Lynne & Jenny, the squares are all put together by Lynne & Jenny and every one is a different design, when finished, they are greatly appreciated by both hospitals.

The Post Box Toppers theme for the next couple of months is 'Under the Sea', we hope you have all enjoyed our efforts., special thanks to Carol & Jill for the display at Needingworth, Pam for the shop post box & Bus Stop, Joy for the bus stop post box, Jenny for Ashton Close, & Anne for Holywell. A little boy from the school asked if David Attenborough would be in the display for the school entrance, I told him David would be in his Scuba diving equipment. All were masterpieces.

We are still working on the 12" granny squares, to help towards making a giant tea cosy for a Fire Engine, they are hoping to create a world record, watch this space.

We are currently working on our new displays for the return to school after the summer holidays, and the children will see that they are not the only ones starting school or returning to school, as a clue, unlike the displays, they won't have to go through 'Platform 9 ¾, learn to fly a broomstick, or arrive at school by train, or receive letters by owl mail.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, and to the kind people who have donated wool to us, it is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to join us we meet every Monday at 10.30am at the Ferry Boat, you would be most welcome.

Jackie Norris 01480 465997



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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Stressful Gardening

Gardening is supposed to be a calming and relaxing occupation when gentle but regular effort yields beautiful flowers, plants and vegetables. It is recommended as positive therapy for old and young alike.

However, this year along with events in recent years, the variable and unusual weather has created a great deal of mystification and frustration which is hardly conducive to a zen like state.

We have suffered at various times from flooding and drought, heat waves and frosts, warm when it should be cool and freezing when we want the heat of sunshine to bring plants on and many plants have been growing or flowering at completely the wrong time. I assume that these extremes are due to Global Warming but it plays havoc with the planning of our garden works.

However, people tell me that this is one of the enjoyable challenges of the hobby of gardening. I must remember that.

Despite all these problems we have had some truly glorious displays in many of the gardens around the village. These do so much to make our village an enjoyable place to live and it is a joy to see.



The Gardening Club has had a very busy summer already with some fascinating talks as well as an excellent coach trip to the beautiful Helmingham Hall near Bury St Edmunds which was coupled with visiting the lovely, council maintained Abbey Gardens in the centre of Bury.



The big highlight of our club year has been the fantastic "Spud in a Bucket Day" which was held on August 9th.

This involves providing approximately 85 members with a



bucket and a standard potato in March and then carefully weighing the resulting crop to see who has been able to have the most successful harvest. We also have a prize for the heaviest potato.

This year we had a twist to the usual competition in that we provided members with three seeds from the famous enormous runner beans that the well known village gardener, the late Charlie Stocker, used to grow.

These were planted by members and the person with the longest bean was named the Clubs "Mr Bean" to great hilarity.

The whole day is a real highlight of our club year with about 110 people in attendance in the chairman's garden with wine or soft drinks and cake provided. We even had the local ukelele band providing excellent musical entertainment.

It was an enjoyable fun day for all who attended.

In early September we have our final event of the year which is an exciting afternoon visit to a local member's large and fascinating garden and, once more, drinks and food will feature to make the day even more enjoyable.



Our speaker at 7.45 pm on September 9th in the Village Hall will give a talk on the popular plants, Dahlias so we anticipate a good turnout.

The Gardening Club is a large and welcoming group with many such varied and entertaining events through the year.

Come along on this evening and see what it is all about. You will be welcome!

Grant Williamson



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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."

Psalms 145:18-19 - "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.
To all who call upon Him in truth."

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News from Alex Bulat, County Councillor for Needingworth and St Ives South

It's hard to believe it's already been three months since I introduced myself in *The Villager* as your County Councillor following the May elections. Over the summer, I've enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of you — whether at my monthly surgeries in the Village Hall, out on the doorstep, or at a number of excellent local events that showcase the strength and spirit of our community.

A sincere thank you to all those involved in making these summer events possible — from the Needingworth Music Festival, the scenic Great Ouse River Walk to the impressive 600th anniversary Civil War re-enactment in St Ives. Events like these not only celebrate our local history and identity but bring together residents of all ages from Needingworth, Holywell, St Ives and beyond.

I serve as a Labour and Co-operative councillor, but I believe in working constructively across party lines to deliver on the practical concerns that matter most to residents — from highways and public transport to flood defences and reliable local services. Since the new Liberal Democrat administration took office at the County Council in May, I have been appointed to a few committees and working groups as an opposition councillor and I will always work constructively to highlight local views and concerns. I currently sit on the Highways & Transport Committee, where many of the concerns raised by local residents — potholes, road safety, and public transport reliability — are front and centre. One important decision made at the first Highways Committee in June was to fund a package of improvements to the guided busway, with a focus on increasing safety and reducing the impact of flooding. I am always happy to feed back your views as this work progresses to detailed design stages.

Speaking about flooding, I was also appointed on the Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, where I will be making sure that our voices are heard in decisions around long-term flood prevention, especially with the Government's consultation on flood funding ongoing.



County Councillor Kevin Reynolds discussed in previous issues of *The Villager*, are ongoing. Alongside the three options announced a couple of months ago, "Option D", put forward by the Members of Parliament for Peterborough and North-West Cambridgeshire, proposes to divide the county into three separate councils, instead of two. This would place St Ives and Needingworth into a "Mid Cambridgeshire" unitary authority, while Huntingdon would be grouped into "Greater Peterborough". While I have not expressed support for any specific option yet, I am following developments closely. I believe any reform must be evidence-based, deliver long-term financial sustainability, and strengthen local accountability — not undermine it. This is not a decision to be rushed given its long-term implications, and I will be arguing for careful consideration, comparing the business cases and reflecting local views.

There is a lot going on at the county council alongside highways and local government reform, so if you'd like me to update you on a specific topic, please do send me an email with your suggestions for the next issue. If you'd prefer a face-to-face conversation, please come along to my regular surgery at Chatters Café at the Village Hall, held on the last Thursday of every month from 12–2pm.

Warm regards, **Alex**
alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Landlines will be upgraded with digital technology - the **Digital Switchover** will mean that landline calls will be made over the internet instead of the old telephone network. Telephone providers are responsible for switching customers to

the upgraded service, but everyone is encouraged to check if and how the change will affect them, especially those who rely on their landline or use a telecare device.

For many, the change will be simple. All you will have to do is plug your landline phone into a broadband router instead of a traditional phone socket. But for others, especially those who rely on their landline for care alarms, medical devices, or staying in touch, it's important to understand what the change means and what action they need to take in order to stay connected.

Connecting Cambridgeshire is running the *Get Ready, Go Digital, Stay Connected* campaign to help local residents prepare for and feel confident about the change.

The switchover will mainly affect

- People without an **internet connection** at home
- Those who **rely on a traditional land line** not already upgraded to a digital phone service

- Users of telecare and personal alarm systems, e.g. fall monitors or lifelines.

3 things to do today

1. Contact your phone provider to find out if the change affects you.
2. Need support? Ask a trusted friend or family member to help.
3. Use a personal or fall alarm? Contact your provider to ensure it will still work with the new system.

Look out for scams

The switchover doesn't require upfront payments. If you get a suspicious call, hang up and contact your phone provider using the official number from a recent bill.

Support each other

Know someone who might need help? A quick conversation or offer to help them call their phone provider could make a big difference.

No one should be left behind. Whether it's you, a neighbour or a relative, now is the time to ask the question: *Is your landline ready?*

For more information, visit:
www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/digitalswitchover
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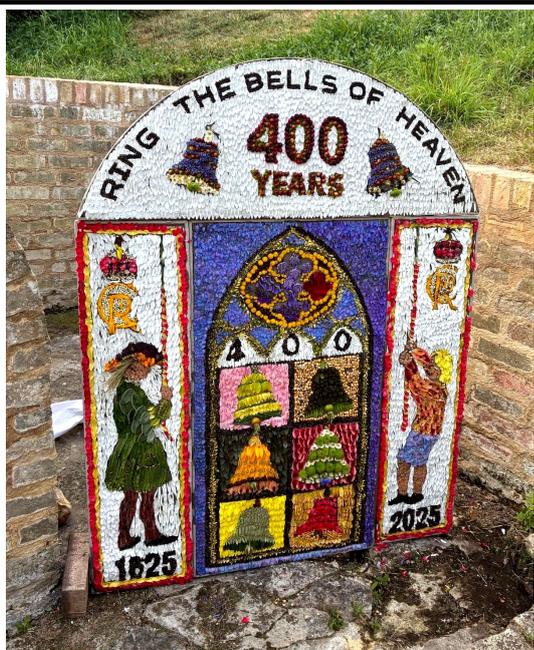
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The lovely summer, although perhaps too warm on occasion!, saw us welcoming many of you to our services and special events. It was a joy and privilege to share them with you. We must hold the record for the amount of cake consumed! Thank you to everyone who supported us in so many ways.

This year we are celebrating the 400th anniversary of four of our bells. In May our Tower Captain Roger Beaman gave a fascinating talk on the bells followed by a demonstration of bell ringing and tower tours. We continued the celebrations at our Patronal Festival in June – the theme of the Bells beautifully illustrated in our Well Dressing which was created by a large team of volunteers of all ages and reflected in the lovely displays in church by local organisations, including an amazing collage by Willow (Reception) class.

Holywell School is also holding a major celebration this year, 150 years since its founding. We welcomed Bishop Dagmar Winter (Acting Bishop of Ely) to a special assembly in May when she blessed the school. In June the church hosted a wonderful exhibition of pupils' artwork, and at the end of the month school gathered in the churchyard for their well blessing service, the beginning of the Patronal Festival.

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



Patronal School Artwork

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 midday on the first Tuesday of every month, and a service of Compline (the 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)

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

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

The Autumn months bring a series of additional special services to which you are all warmly invited. They are:

Sunday 14 September: Harvest Thanksgiving Communion Service at 09.30am (see poster).

Saturday 11 October: Pet and Toy Blessing Service at midday in the churchyard. Followed by refreshments. (see poster)

Sunday 2 November: All Souls Service at 3pm. A reflective service to remember those we have loved and who are no longer with us, and to light a candle. If you would like your loved ones' names read out at the service, please contact one of our churchwardens (details below). Followed by refreshments.

Sunday 9 November: Remembrance Sunday. We will hold a service at the school at **10 am** before parading to the Village War Memorial for the annual National commemoration which will start shortly before 11 am.

Sunday 23 November: Taizé Service at 4pm. A contemplative candlelit service of words and music. Look out for more details nearer the time.

FUND - RAISING AND EVENTS

We look forward to welcoming you to various events we are holding throughout Autumn. Here are the dates for your diaries:

Saturday 13 September – Harvest Coffee Morning. 10 am – Midday. Home baked goods, produce, stalls, raffle. In aid of St Ives foodbank and the church.

Saturday 22 November – A Gilbert and Sullivan Concert at 7.30 pm. We're delighted to welcome back the Wandering Minstrels for a wonderful evening of music. Tickets available from September. See poster for details.

Saturday 29 November – Christmas Wreath Making workshop at the Pavilion, Needingworth Village Hall from **9.30 am to 1pm**. More details will be available nearer the time.

We will be holding our annual **Christmas Draw** in December. Tickets will be available from late September; details of where you can purchase them from will be promulgated soon.

Contacts:

Revd Valmor Pimenta **01487 829882**

vicar@meridianbenefice.org.uk

Churchwardens Michael Williamson **465821**

Ben Peilow **496958**

hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk

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Needingworth Baptist Church

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Elder – David Mann

Website – www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

We meet each Sunday morning in the chapel at 10.30am to worship God, to pray and to listen to the teaching of the Bible. In the summer months (April to September), on the 4th Sunday of the month, we also meet at 6pm. We warmly invite you to join us.

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.needingworthbaptist.org.uk/recorded-services

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

This is held every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm and all are welcome. It may be in person or on Zoom, so do contact us if you would like to join us.

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, a piece of home-made cake 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 September, 16 October, 20 November.

BAPTIST GRAVEYARD IN MEETING LANE – GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

As mentioned last month, the area at the end of the graveyard has now been cleared and will be sown with grass seed in the autumn and a bench provided. It is intended to be a quiet place to come and think and pray and seek the Lord. Please feel free to use it for that. But please do not use it for dog-walking or as a children's playground.

HARVEST

Living in a village surrounded by fields, we are very aware of the joy of the harvest. It is the season the farmers have been waiting for, when all their efforts since last year will

come to fruition and be gathered in. God has sent the rain and the sunshine, He has given wisdom to the farmers, the crops have grown and there will be enough food for another year. This is why we hold a "Harvest Festival" service – to thank God for His goodness and faithfulness towards us. You are warmly invited to join us for our harvest service on Sunday 28 September at 10.30am.

Jesus used the farming theme of sowing, growing and harvesting, in several of His parables. There is a day of harvest coming – not a harvest of crops, but a harvest of people. Just as a wheat field has weeds among the wheat, even so, the world in which we live is composed of both those who are trusting Jesus and seeking to follow Him and others who have no time for God and see no need of Him. Jesus likens these latter ones to weeds. At the end of all things, at the harvest of which Jesus spoke, these weeds will be cast away from His presence for ever into a place that is indescribably bad. That is why we all need to come to the Lord for His forgiveness before it is too late.

If we can be of help to anyone, or pray for you, or if anyone would like help with beginning to study the Bible, please feel free to contact us.

David Mann – Tel. 300382

Email: david.mann@cantab.net

Website: www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk

TENNIS CLUB QUIZ

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1st Needingworth Guides

Adventures in the great outdoors

We spent a lot of time out and about in the summer term – at a County Outdoor Activities Day – which included kayaking, fire lighting, and building our own coracles before taking them out on the water! At Guides sessions, we practised more fire lighting and tent pitching, and had thoughtful discussions about road safety – especially the distractions caused by phones and headphones. Three of our Guides joined others from St Ives and Somersham for a camp at Copley, where they cooked on patrol fires and took on a pioneering challenge. Meanwhile, four Guides spent six evenings completing a canoeing course – a great achievement!

Ringling the changes

One memorable evening took us to Holywell Church, where we climbed the bell tower, had a go at ringing the main bells, and tried our hand at change ringing with handbells. This was the start of our badge challenge, *All About Bells*.



We followed this with a session baking bell-shaped biscuits to serve at the Well Blessing service, making vases to accompany our mini bells for the Flower Festival, and even learning about the dark origins of the nursery rhyme *Oranges and Lemons*.

The final part of the challenge was a fundraiser in memory of a Guide leader and bell ringer from Worcester. Our unit chose to support Bowel Cancer UK by creating a bell-themed quiz. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated – we raised £68.20 for the charity, and the winner was Rosie Greaves from Somersham Guides. Well done!

Exploring nature

As part of *St Ives Big Green Week*, we visited Holt Island Nature Reserve. Lexi wrote:

'I really enjoyed going to Holt Island because we got to fish for tadpoles, and learn about the difference between a dragonfly and a damsel fly. We did a scavenger hunt to find different types of them.'

It was a fun and informative trip that connected us with nature in a new way.

Summer games and teamwork!



Making the most of the summer weather, we built friction bridges and played games including boules, swingball, table tennis, and a Norwegian version of rounders called *burning ball*. One teamwork challenge involved guiding golf balls – and then water – from A to B using drainpipes. It was a lovely evening, and nobody minded getting a little wet in the process!

Celebrating achievements

At our final meeting of term, ten Guides received their *Bluebell Challenge* badge, and we were especially proud to present Hannah with her second *Theme Award*, earning her the *Guide Bronze Award*. Huge congratulations, Hannah!



A special farewell

Also at our end-of-term celebration, we were joined by Sue Clayton (Guide County President), Needingworth Brownies, and District leaders to honour Janet, who is stepping down after an incredible 50 years of Guiding service.

Janet began volunteering in Hertfordshire and has been a vital part of Needingworth Guides for the past nine years. The Guides presented her with a memory book and other special gifts to mark the occasion. Although Janet is stepping down from regular volunteering, she will continue as Chair of the local Trefoil Guild. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her for everything she has done.

If you are interested in finding out more about our unit, check out our website: gneedingworth.co.uk



Heat pumps will take centre stage this year for **Cambridge Carbon Footprint's Open Eco Homes: Winter Special**. From 26 Oct - 23 Nov, people from across the region are invited to discover for what it's like to get off gas and retrofit their

homes to increase comfort, reduce carbon emissions and enjoy cost savings. A fantastic opportunity to experience what it feels like to be in a Cambridgeshire eco home in winter: visit homes in Cambridge City and South Cambs equipped with heat pumps and

other low carbon technologies and hear directly from homeowners about their journey towards increased comfort, savings, and sustainability. Gain practical advice from experts on working with professionals, cutting energy use, saving water, installing solar PV, and making affordable DIY improvements. Whether you're planning your next retrofit or just curious, these events will help you to take the next step towards a greener, more efficient home.

Tours and talks are available in-person and online: all are FREE; advance booking required. For full event details and booking go to <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes/>



1st Needingworth Rainbows

Ringling in the celebrations

This term at Rainbows has been packed full of fun trips, exciting events and plenty of memorable moments. We were delighted to be part of the village's Well

Dressing, celebrating 400 years of the church bells. The Rainbows enjoyed a wonderful visit to the church, where they had a go at playing hand bells and even tried out the church bells themselves! Inspired by what they'd seen and heard, the girls created beautiful bell-themed bunting using natural treasures found around the church grounds – with a generous helping of glittery things, of course.

Soft play sleeper!

One of the most exciting events this term was our sleeper at a soft play centre – a big hit with all 20 Rainbows who came along! There was lots of climbing, giggling and snuggling down in sleeping bags after a very energetic evening. It was a brilliant experience and a big step for many of the girls spending a night away from home.



Bowls Club brilliance

We also had the chance to visit Needingworth Bowls Club for an evening of games, friendly competition and skill-building. The girls had a great time learning how to bowl and took to it with enthusiasm and determination! A huge thank you to the club and their volunteers for giving up their time to make the evening so special – we all came away smiling (and a little bit competitive!).

Badges galore

Rainbows have been working hard on two fantastic Skills Builder badges this term. For *Communicate*, we practised listening to each other, shared our opinions, explored facial expressions and even learned some Makaton to sing songs together. For *Make Change*, we thought about the people in our lives that help us, created beautiful potted plants to give away, and learned about different charities and the work they do.

A golden goodbye

As the term came to a close, we said a fond farewell to six of our Rainbows who are moving up to Brownies. One of them achieved her *Rainbow Gold Award* – the



highest award in Rainbows – after months of dedication, both at home and in the unit. We are so proud of her and can't wait to see what she achieves next!

Looking ahead

We're finishing the term on a high with our *TOPAZ Activity Day*, where we'll be finding out more about the Trefoil Guild (Girlguiding for adults) and their work with communities overseas. Our focus country is Lesotho, and the Rainbows will be trying out drumming, dancing, cooking and plenty of crafty fun as they explore the culture and traditions of this part of the world.

If you are interested in our unit and would like to find out more or get involved, check out our website:

ggneedingworth.co.uk or contact

Jules at: Needingworth.Rainbows@yahoo.com

PUZZLE CORNER

Word Search

If you visited a zoo over the summer period you may well have seen some, or all, of the animals hidden in this word search.

Some are forwards, some backwards, up or down or diagonal.

If you can find all 24, the remaining letters will spell out a popular breed of domestic dog.

(Answers on page 28.)



1st Needingworth Brownies

Adventurous spirits on pack holiday!

This term, we were thrilled to go on a two-night pack holiday to John Lowther in Kettering. The Brownies (and leaders) tackled an exciting

programme of adventurous activities, including rock climbing, tunnelling, the challenge course, tomahawk throwing, archery, curling and more.

We were incredibly proud of how brave everyone was, especially when stepping outside their comfort zones to try something new.

While we were lucky with the weather overall, we made the most of indoor time too, with tabletop air hockey and some wonderfully silly Taskmaster challenges – like “Make the best hat that isn’t a hat”! These gave the girls a chance to get creative and think outside the box. A huge thank you to Ladybird, who kept us brilliantly fuelled with delicious meals, from spaghetti bolognese to freshly baked cakes and ice cream cones. Many girls even said the food was tastier than their dinners at home!



A visit with new friends

One highlight this term was a joint trip with St Ives Brownies to Copley. The girls made lots of new friends and enjoyed a brilliant range of activities including building campfires (with marshmallows, of course!), orienteering, and creating cosy bug hotels. It was such a positive experience that we’re already looking forward to more joint adventures together in the future.



Building skills and making change

During our regular meetings, the Brownies have been working hard on two brilliant Skills Builder badges: *Live Smart* and *Make Change*. Through *Live Smart*, we learned how to use different tools safely, talked about money, and practised road safety. For *Make Change*, the girls explored how to change people’s minds (safely!), finding ways to make our environment a better place and create an ideal world.



Gold award achievers

We’re incredibly proud of three of our Brownies who completed their Gold Awards this term – the highest achievement a Brownie can earn! This is no small challenge; the girls achieving at least six interest badges, developing 6 skills across 4-5 activities and completing a minimum of 1080 minutes of unit meeting activities. Brownies need to have also made their promise, been to Guides for a visit and lead an activity.

On our final evening of term, our Gold Award Brownies ran fantastic sessions teaching boxercise, other fitness exercises and crafts. Their confidence, leadership and enthusiasm were inspiring – and we think they’ll make wonderful Young Leaders in the future!

Fundraising fun

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our stalls at the Flower Festival and NFest. We were delighted to raise over £200, which will be shared between our Brownie and Rainbow units. This will help subsidise even more exciting events, sleepovers and holidays in the months ahead!

If you are interested in finding out more about our unit, check out our website:

ggneedingworth.co.uk or contact

Jules at: Needingworth.Brownies@yahoo.com or 07597 569582

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

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ST. IVES

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Steve Anderson
Fully Qualified BPCA

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Mobile: 07850 658805

Long Acre, Bluntisham Road,
Needingworth, Cambs. PE27 4TA



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Bowls Club

It's been an exciting summer at the bowls club. We have had success in both Ladies and Men's County competitions.

Sue Brooks, who was HWBF County President this year, won the Ladies senior singles to become Hunts County Champion for the first time.

Alongside this Jamie Jack (the most aptly named bowler ever) won the Men's senior singles to become Hunts County Champion.

Its been many years since we have boasted two county champions. But to add to this Sue Preston, Melanie Duncan & Sue Johnson were members of the Ladies Silver Vase team who qualified for the National finals at Skegness. This was the first time for 12 years that Hunts had qualified for Nationals.

So over all lots of success. Also, as we go to print before the end of the season, our Men's league team sit top of the Division 2 table 12.5 points ahead of 2nd place. So we hope to get promoted to Division 1 for the first time for 6 years.

In the C&D league we have two teams who will have consolidated their positions in Div 1 & Div 3 respectively. The ladies league team are in Div 1.

So Needingworth Bowls club is up there with the best.

We boasted one of the best-looking greens in the county, and our green keeping team worked tirelessly during the hot weather to keep it going and so, as always, our thanks to them.

Our season will end in September and the bowling moves into the village hall in the form of short mat bowling. Its open to all and you just have to turn up on a Thursday 2pm starting mid October.

We will continue our Cash Bingo through the winter once a month starting on 20th September in the clubhouse and then in the village hall from October. Again, it's open to all; if you want more details text or call Alan 07368422241.

We are always looking for new members to come and try our game; you never know you may fall in love with it like we did.

Alan, Club Secretary



Needingworth Karate Club

We are always on the look out for beginners to join our small, friendly but successful club.

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

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

Pop along or contact the highly experienced instructors:

**Kyoshi Burton 7th Dan – 07770685608
Sensei Morris 3rd Dan - 07917155254**



Needingworth Tennis Club

Thank you very much to all those that came along to the Needingworth Village Sports Event on Sunday 15th June to have a go at tennis and pickleball. We had a great turnout and really enjoyed the afternoon. It was also a successful day for the Bowls and Karate clubs, and we plan to continue it next year!

Upcoming event – Our Annual Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 11th October 2025 at 7.15 for 7.30pm start. It would be great to see you there – for more details and to book, contact Debbie Yates on info@needingworthtennis.co.uk.

Our league teams have been busy with summer fixtures. There are also lots of other opportunities to play tennis – our social club sessions on Wednesday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings continue to be well attended, and we have great participation in our Fast 4 competition, played on a monthly basis.

Our Club Championships has had a bumper number of entries this year – the finals of all categories, adults and juniors, will be played on Sunday 7th September, so please come along to cheer on our finalists!

Our coaching programme comprises sessions for adults and juniors, as well as cardio tennis sessions for those that want a work-out with a tennis theme. Do keep an eye on our website where details of our coaching programmes are regularly updated. You can easily book online too.

Non-members can book a court via our 'Pay to Play' option, giving the opportunity to everyone to play tennis. As a Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) affiliated club, we want tennis to be available to everyone and all are welcome at our club.

In addition to tennis, Pickleball is a newer racket sport that continues to grow – this is available on Thursdays at our club. Please see our website for details of dates and times.

MEMBERSHIP

At Needingworth Tennis Club we offer both competitive and social tennis, and pride ourselves on being a very friendly club that offers great value for money. We are always happy to welcome new players of all abilities. You can join on the website or contact Debbie for more details.

CONTACTS

Chair – Sue Pandey (info@needingworthtennis.co.uk)
Membership – Debbie Yates (info@needingworthtennis.co.uk)
Secretary – Jim Hunter (j.hunter2011@btinternet.com)

Head to our website to find out more about upcoming events and tournaments and how you can get involved:

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

You can also find us on social media!



Painters in Their Places

The course considers the overlap between art and gardens or artists and gardens in the 19th and early 20th century. Looking at specific artists across Europe and England, including such groups as the Bloomsbury. **Twigs Way** is a professional garden historian, known for her entertaining talks and wide-ranging approach to gardens and garden history.

Fee: £25

Early Autumn term course

Begins Monday 22nd September 2025 for 5 weeks
At Bluntisham Baptist Church ~ 10.00am to 11.45am



The Russian Revolution

The course will include the background history to 1914
The ideologies of Marxism and Leninism;
revolutions of 1917.

The Civil War and Stalin's revolution:
Collectivisation of Agriculture and Industrialisation.

Tutor: Stephen Corley

Fee: £25

Later Autumn term course

Begins Monday 3rd November 2025 for 5 weeks
At Bluntisham Baptist Church ~ **new times** of 10.30am to 12.15p



Bluntisham
Meridian
Learning
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To register of for more information, please contact Marie Quick on 07905 911558 or email marie_quick358@hotmail.com
[Try out the first sessions free](#)

Answers to Word Search

CROCODILE
DUCK
EAGLE
GNU
GOAT
KANGAROO
LEMUR
LION
LYNX
MOUSE
MEERKAT
OWL
RAT
SERVAL
TIGER
WALLABY
WOLF
WOMBAT
ZEBRA

The domestic dog is a **SPANIEL**.

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

TANTANTARARA-RARA-RARA
**WELCOME JOY,
ADIEU TO SADNESS**

All proceeds in aid of
Holywell Church,
Welcome Space Project

Generously sponsored
and supported by
many organisations and
individuals throughout
the Parish of
Holywell-cum-Needingworth.

The World of
**GILBERT &
SULLIVAN**

performed by
THE WANDERING MINSTRELS
One of the UK's foremost G&S performing groups

SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2025
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HOLYWELL - 7.30pm
TICKETS £15.00 INCLUDING LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

AVAILABLE FROM 1st SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM CHATTERS, THE QUEEN'S HEAD, THE FERRY BOAT
AND THROUGH THE CHURCH. TICKETS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED AND WILL BE NEEDED FOR ENTRY.

Harvest celebration
at St John the Baptist
parish church

HARVEST COFFEE MORNING
at the church
Saturday 13 September 10am – Midday

Delicious home baked goods, stalls, raffle
In aid of St Ives Foodbank and the church
Everyone welcome!

Family-friendly
HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Sunday 14 September at 9.30 am.

followed by refreshments.
Sale of produce (proceeds to St Ives Foodbank)

Needingworth Village Hall
Charitable Trust present:



The Fleetwood Mac Tribute

4th
October
2025
7.30pm
start



Doors open 7pm
Tickets now on sale
Fully Licensed Bar

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/needingworthvillagehall/t-xmgork>

Needingworth Village Hall
Charitable Trust present:

Bi ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

22nd November 2025

7.30pm start

£25 per team plus booking fee

Teams up to 6 people

Doors open 7pm

Tickets now on sale

Fully Licensed Bar & Raffle

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bookings/t-qjnlpny



Raffle Prize donations welcomed

WHAT'S ON in the Village

September 2025

- Mon. 1st WI 'It's Hell on Wheels - Tales of a Driving Instructor'
- Tue. 9th Gardening Club talk on dahlias (p15)
- Sat. 13th Harvest coffee morning, St John the Baptist Church (page 28)
- Fri. 26th Beer & Wine Club Beer Competition (see page 13)

October 2025

- Sat. 4th 'Don't Stop' – Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band (doors open at 7.30 pm)
- Mon. 6th 'WI WALKEOKE' with Bobbi, light fun and exercise to great music
- Sat. 11th Pet and toy blessing service, St John the Baptist Church (page 26)
- Sat. 11th Tennis Club Quiz Night (page 21)
- Fri. 17th Beer & Wine Club make our own liqueurs (page 13)
- 30th, 31st Oct. & 1st Nov. Wellworth Players (see page 7)

November 2025

- Sat. 1st Preschool Halloween Trail (page 22)
- Mon. 3rd WI 'Behind the scenes at the sale room'
- Sun. 9th Remembrance Sunday parade to war memorial (see page 19)
- Fri. 21st Beer & Wine Club annual show (p13)
- Sat. 22nd Village Hall Quiz Night (doors open at 7.00 pm) (page 29)
- Sat. 22nd 'The World of Gilbert & Sullivan' at St John the Baptist Church (p28)
- Sat.29th Christmas wreath making (page 19)

Advance Notices:

- WI Christmas Party - Monday 1st December
- Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 6th December (p22)

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)

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 or by telephoning **01487 740241**



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
Working together to improve community safety

Stay fire safe in your kitchen

More than half the fires our crews attend in the home start in the kitchen. This can be down to a number of things.

Below are some simple safety tips to help you stay fire safe in the kitchen:

Cooking safely

- Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking on the hob. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking.
- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out – so they don't get knocked off the stove.
- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls.

Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.

For more information log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.



Swavesey Camera Club

One of the leading clubs in East Anglia

WELCOME NIGHT -

The club will start the new season on Thursday 4th September 2025. The Welcome night is **FREE** to attend to find out more about the club, meet members, see some images from over the summer break. There will be wine and nibbles!

We are always keen to encourage new members to join and pride ourselves on being a very friendly, welcoming club with activities to suit all abilities. We will have guest speakers at some of our meetings covering a variety of subjects eg, wildlife, creative photography, landscapes and travel photography and more. We also have internal and external competitions. There will also be members nights covering various topics, camera gear, software, practical sessions and more - so something for everyone!

The full annual subscription this season (September 2025 - May 2026) is -
Adult £68
Concession £55 (Pension age)
Youth membership £20.
Guest visitor - £4 per meeting

Come along and try us out!

The Club meets in the 'Carol Shaw' room at Swavesey Village College every Thursday during College term time 7pm - 9pm.

For further info and to see some of our members photos check out our website -

www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk

If you would like more information about the club or you are thinking about joining us please get in touch by filling in the "Contact Us" form on the website.

Maggie O'Moore, Committee member
Swavesey Camera Club



To advertise in the Villager

Contact the editor by emailing

needingworth@aol.com

or telephone 01480 468952

Adverts start from £12.50 per issue for a one tenth page advert.

Holywell CofE Primary School

With the 150 anniversary this year of the school in mind, Guy Harvey found these photos; the first is from around 1923 and the other two from a hundred years ago.

Guy's father, Brian, aged about 8, and his Uncle Leslie feature in the photo from the 1920s, middle row, second and fourth from the left. The other children are:

Top row L/R -

H. White, R. Smith, R. Tabbitt, G.White, E. Turner, A. Mason, J. Charles, F Tabbitt.

Middle row -

H. Newell, Brian Harvey, G.Lee, Leslie Harvey, --Unknown-- C.Gilson, R. Playle, A. Cross, V. Skinner

Bottom Row -

I Beaton, H. Few, M.Dodson, W.Gouge, K.Radford, _ O'dell, M.Childs.



Guy's son, Louis, is now at the school - **exactly 100 years** after his Grandfather Brian and great uncle Les were there!



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 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

1st 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)

Sept. Thurs. 4th and 18th

October Thurs. 2nd, 16th and 30th

Nov. Thurs. 6th, and 20th

GREEN BINS (garden waste)

Sept. Wed. 10th and 24th

October Wed. 8th and 22nd

Nov. Wed. 12th and 26th

BLUE BINS (recycling)

Sept. Thurs. 11th and 25th

October Thurs. 9th and 23rd

Nov. Thurs. 13th and 27th



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

The Villager is printed by Eden Print Ltd.
www.eden-print.co.uk

WHO'S WHO

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Beer & Wine Petronella Britton **466239**

Book Club Sue Forrest **464082**

sueforrest65@hotmail.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**

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Cricket Club Tim Webb **07818 032164**

twdecoratingservices@hotmail.co.uk

Cub Scouts Chris Huddleston

agslfirstneedingworth@hotmail.com

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 301462**

Karate Glenn Morris **07917155254**

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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**

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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 **468451**

Parish Clerk Jane Bowd **468451**

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

www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk

District Jon Neish **466110**

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

Post Office **465121**

Village Hall tel: Outgoing calls emergency line only

Incoming calls **01480 498351**