

# the Villager

The newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needlingworth    Autumn 2026



*Needlingworth WI celebrate their 105th birthday*



*Needlingworth Bowls Club*

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## EDITORIAL

As we are approaching autumn, most people will be delighted that the days are getting cooler, and the gardeners among us are looking hopefully towards some wet days - Cambridgeshire had little on no measurable rainfall for the whole of July, with hosepipe bans in force from mid July. Apparently the summer of 2025 was the UK's hottest summer on record, and 2026 is well on it's way to equalling or exceeding that record. However you will see from the articles in *the Villager* that the hot weather did not stop the Gardening Club enjoying days out (page 13), the Bowls Club being active (page 22), the Tennis Club participating in tournaments (page 23) and the Guides cooling off with water based activities (page 21). You will find events planned for the coming months on the What's On pages 24 and 25, and don't overlook the Wellworth Players production advertised on page 26. There are plenty of options to choose from.

I have had a busy few days pulling all the information together for this issue of *the Villager*; It helps if as many contributors as possible can get their articles or adverts to me before the copy date - for the Winter edition of the magazine this will be 1st November. This will be out in nice time for publicising Christmas events and anything starting up in the New Year in January or February.

I have been asked to offer the opportunity of using section of this magazine for villagers to convey Christmas and New Year greetings to their friends and neighbours through the magazine to save them trotting around the village delivering cards. If you would like to do this please send your message, and any picture or logo you would like to include, to [needingworth@aol.com](mailto:needingworth@aol.com). The price for a 6cm x 6cm box will be £10. (or pro-rata if

you would like a larger space). We have to cover the printing costs, but 30% of any funds raised by this method will be donated to the Magpas charity. Entries need to be emailed to me by 1st November.



The editor, **Jennifer**



### Editor and Advertising:

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

### Next issue deadline:

1st November for December 2026, January and Feb. 2027

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.

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# PARISH COUNCIL

## Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

| NAME                                                                                                                                            | ADDRESS                                                                                                                            | PHONE           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
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| Cllr Alex Bulat                                                                                                                                 | <a href="mailto:Alex.Bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Alex.Bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a><br>Tel: 07745 908661                        |                 |
| <b>VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS</b>                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                    |                 |
| Jane Banks<br>Email: <a href="mailto:bookings@needingworthvillagehall.com">bookings@needingworthvillagehall.com</a><br>Tel: <b>07970 217970</b> |                                                                                                                                    |                 |
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| Miss J Bowd<br>Needingworth Village Hall Tel: <b>01480 468451</b>                                                                               |                                                                                                                                    |                 |

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council consists of 13 Councillors. Below are introductions of the 3 recently co-opted Councillors.

### Councillor Geoffrey Fisher

I have lived in Holywell cum Needingworth for the best part of 40 years. During that time, I have been a coach in the Colts for ten years, played tennis at the old courts, enjoyed a garden plot and walked my dog at Millfield's. In other words, activities that enable me to be part of many areas of the community. I will therefore always keep at heart the best interests of as much of the village as possible.



**Committees:** Consultation, Environment, Planning & Finance

### Councillor Lesley Fisher

I have lived in the village since the 1980's and so have been part of the community for about 40 years.



I would like the opportunity to give back to the village and help the Council address local priorities and projects. My professional background is in teaching where I enjoyed working as part of a team, where sometimes difficult decisions had to be taken.

I think of myself as a good listener and open minded to all aspects of debates, skills required to help make the right decisions for our village. I believe Needingworth, or to give it, its full title Holywell-cum-Needingworth is facing huge challenges not to be swallowed up by St Ives and would give all my effort to make sure it remains a great place to live.

**Committees:** Consultation, Leisure, Planning & Finance

### Councillor Matthew Wetherfield



I have called Needingworth home for over 20 years. I was raised in the village and attended Holywell Primary School. I studied Politics at the University of East Anglia and have experience working in local government, including in customer services for Cambridgeshire County Council.

I am excited to join the Parish Council and work together with people to address community issues. Growing up here, I have always appreciated community spaces like the village hall and playing fields and want to make sure the

village continues to be a vibrant place that has something to offer everyone.

**Committees:** Environment, Planning & Finance

### 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.

## Parish Council Report September 2026

Due to Parish elections being held in May 2026 the Parish Council meeting was moved to the 19<sup>th</sup> May. The election of Cllr Whyte as Chairman was the opening item on the agenda. Cllr Pearce was duly elected as Vice Chairman and then the committee members and representatives on outside bodies were appointed.

Following reports from County Councillor Bulat and District Councillors, payments totalling £8745.76 were approved.

The clerk was directed to arrange a quote for works to the seesaw in the under 12's play area which had been highlighted in the RoSPA report as requiring attention.

In total 5 policies were reviewed and adopted.

A request for use of the MUGA for a basketball competition was approved with a date to be confirmed in due course.

Following request from BBC for community projects for inclusion in a future series of the Repair Shop the village milestone was put forward for consideration.

The June meeting reverted back to the first Tuesday of the month.

Payments totalling £9670.74 were approved, a quote for repair to one of the CCTV cameras was accepted and 2 further policies adopted.

The general power of competence was also adopted for the new administration.

It was resolved that Parish Council surgeries would continue. These are held on the second Thursday of each month between 1pm - 2pm in the village hall.

Following an application for co-option Matthew Wetherfield was duly co-opted onto the Council.

Neither County or District Councillors were able to attend the July meeting, but written reports were submitted and are included in the minutes published on the Parish Council website.

Payments totalling £11,738.08 were approved and a quote of £836.51 of for repairs to the seesaw accepted.

Members reviewed and accepted the Council risk report for 2026/27.

An update from Messrs Copleys on the purchase of the woodland Mill Way was considered and it was agreed that searches would be carried out as these may assist with some of the matters currently under review.

Council was advised that planning application Ref: 26/00274/PIP Permission in Principle for 7 to 9 dwellings, Land South Of Lodel Farm Overcote Lane Needingworth had gone to appeal.

The cemetery regulations went under scrutiny with several amendments being made. The newly adopted version is available on the Parish Council website.

Council considered the options for style of bus shelters to be installed on Bluntisham Road as part of the David Wilson homes development agreement and CCC Highways have been duly advised.

2 applications for co-option were considered, and Mrs Lesley Fisher and Mr Geoff Fisher were duly

Co-opted to Council.

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 Surgeries



Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council are running surgeries at Chatters on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month:

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026 1pm-2pm

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026 1pm-2pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2026 1pm-2pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2026 1pm-2pm

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



### Overcote Lane playing field – 'No Dogs' allowed reminder.



We previously reported in the Villager about evidence that dogs are being walked/ exercised on the playing field **please note that this is a 'NO DOG' area.**

There are 'No Dogs' signs on every entrance to the playing field along with further signage on the wooden gates on the entrance to the top part of the car park to raise the awareness.

However, there is still evidence dog owners are walking/ exercising their dogs on the playing field. This is a polite reminder to use Falklands Walk or other dog walking routes around the village and not Overcote playing field which is used by many young people and other residents and visitors to the village.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Email: [clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holywell-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. **01480 468952**

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

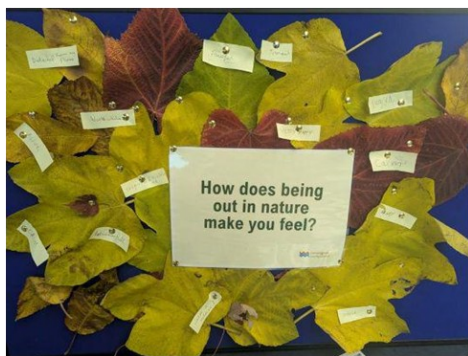
**WEBSITE:** back issues of the Villager magazine can be found on the Villager website [needingworthvillager.org.uk](http://needingworthvillager.org.uk)

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

Email: [needingworth@aol.com](mailto:needingworth@aol.com) telephone 01480 468952

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

## CCC Nature Recovery from the Ground Up Project



Do you appreciate the Environment?

Holywell and Needingworth have been selected by Cambridgeshire County Council to be part of CCC's Nature Recovery From

the Ground Up Project which is a collaborative initiative for the community to get involved with.

Do you have a few hours free time to spare?

Would you be interested in working on some new environmental projects within the Parish?

If you have answered "yes", please can you register your interest with the Parish Clerk either by telephone 01480468451 or email [clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holywell-cum-needingworth-pc.gov.uk) by the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

## Heritage Open Day

Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-12 noon

Do you know anything about the history of this building which is located on the junction of the High Street and Overcote Lane?



Have you ever wondered what it is like inside the village Lock-Up? Following the Parish Council renovation of this community asset the lock-up will be open as part of Heritage

Open day 2026 so please come along and take a look inside, perhaps have your photograph taken behind bars!

Everyone is welcome and Council looks forward to meeting some of the Parishioners.

**Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council**

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



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**Outdoor gyms** are designed to offer physical, mental, social and community benefits while being free and accessible to all. In Holywell-cum-Needingworth, we have great facilities that include a mix of equipment to support a full body workout, with options for cardio, strength and functionality. The equipment is easy-to-use and suitable for all ability levels. The Active Lifestyles team from Huntingdonshire District Council have produced a selection of programmes to try alongside some tutorial videos to demonstrate how to use equipment safely and effectively. You can follow a structured routine or simply use the equipment in a way that suits your needs to improve your health and wellbeing.

To learn more, please visit [www.oneleisure.net/outdoorgym](http://www.oneleisure.net/outdoorgym)

[www.oneleisure.net/outdoorgym](http://www.oneleisure.net/outdoorgym)



**STAY SAFE, HAVE FUN, SEE YOU OUTDOORS!**



## Recycling at the Village Hall.

Did you know that the village has recycling facilities at the Village Hall Overcote Lane?

Located at the entrance to the hard surface car park you will find facilities for small electrical recycling or WEEE bins and also a textile recycling bank.

### What can be placed in the recycle pink WEEE bins

The pink bins can accept items smaller than a microwave.

Items you can put in these bins include:



- Chargers and cables
- Adaptors and extension lead
- Laptops and tablets
- Electric razors
- Electric toothbrushes
- Hairdryers, curlers and straighteners
- Kitchen appliances
- Anything with a plug, battery or cable.

### What items can't be placed in the recycle pink bins

Please do not put any of the following items in the small electrical recycling bin:

- Vapes
- Loose batteries
- Lightbulbs
- Plastic bags or black bags
- General waste
- Recyclable

### Textile/Clothing bin:



All materials collected from the clothing banks are re-used, with textiles providing reusable clothing for the UK and developing countries. This helps reduce waste from going into landfill. To report a full or damaged bank, please call ASTCO on **01507 466159**. The recycling banks can accept clothing and textiles such as sheets, pillow-cases and blankets.

Please do not leave bags of items outside of the bin. If it is full, please report to either ASTCO directly or the Parish Council on 01480 468451

## JUST MOVED IN?

Get your free 'WELCOME PACK' from Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council  
Tel: **01480 468451**  
or email: [clerk@hollywell-cum-needlingworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hollywell-cum-needlingworth-pc.gov.uk) with your address details.

## Village Hall Trustees Report

This is your new team!

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Paul Littler    | Chair      |
| Andy Littley    | Vice Chair |
| Marie Gleed     | Treasurer  |
| Lindsey Freeman | Secretary  |
| Margi Fosh      |            |
| Roy Fountain    |            |
| Roger Beaman    |            |

All except Roy are newbies so go easy on us please until feet firmly under the table.



**NFEST26:** The last 3 months saw our annual NFEST event which is always a popular event. Everyone enjoyed a very hot Friday night and Saturday with great music and excellent offerings of food and drink. The new token system seemed to work well and feedback on this from the actual 'consumers' would be welcome.

The new Trustees are already getting busy with:

**Hall make over:** Next month the hall will be having a new coat of paint, the forerunner to our plans for sprucing up the village hall and enhancing users' enjoyment.

**Wifi Upgrade:** A faster fibre link is also being installed in August, an essential upgrade to the Wi-Fi access.

If you have any ideas/suggestions for events or activities, please let us know and we will see what we can support.

Coming Events:

Quiz Night 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026 Start 7:30, doors open 7:00pm

Christmas Bazaar Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Stalls open 9:00am

Lindsey Freeman  
Secretary, Needingworth Village Hall Charitable Trust  
[secretary@needingworthvillagehall.com](mailto:secretary@needingworthvillagehall.com)

PS, We are a small team and will always welcome help; if anyone would like to contribute, in any way, to the running of the trust, please make contact.



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](mailto:sue.martin22@btinternet.com)**

# DDB HOME SOLUTIONS

We are a company based in Needingworth specialising in kitchen and bathroom installations and we can also supply the following services:

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We are a member of the Institute of Carpenters and also the Guild of Master Craftsmen with over twenty years experience

Visit our website for more information - [www.ddbhomesolutions.co.uk](http://www.ddbhomesolutions.co.uk)

For an informal discussion or quote please contact Darren or Jo Turnbull

Tel: 01480 495984, or email us at [Darren@ddbhomesolutions.co.uk](mailto:Darren@ddbhomesolutions.co.uk)



## CORE FACTOR PILATES

### NEEDINGWORTH CLASSES

### NEEDINGWORTH VILLAGE HALL & Zoom

### FRIDAYS 10-11am

[corefactorpilates.co.uk](http://corefactorpilates.co.uk)

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## Holywell-cum-Needingworth WI

The Holywell cum Needingworth WI celebrates its 105<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and to mark this milestone we were presented with a certificate from our Federation, and our group photograph on the front cover of the Federation News, quite an achievement. We continue to prosper with over 50 members enjoying our monthly meetings, plus the various clubs which include Scrabble, Knit and Natter and the ever-popular monthly lunch club.

Over the past 3 months we have enjoyed really interesting meetings. In May we heard all about 'Holt Island' such a beautiful and historical nature reserve in the heart of St Ives. In June the topic was Zoonique, who knew you could stay the night at London Zoo, sleep in cabins close to the lion enclosure, to be woken up to the sound of lions roaring! And then for a bit of culture in July a talk from a Shakespeare Groupie, regaling us with tales of the bard.

For the Patronal Festival, where the theme was the Sea.



The WI window in the church was absolutely lovely; our thanks go to Bobbie Weston who created a beautiful window display depicting 'Jonah and the Whale'. Helen & Sandra manned our Book Stall, raising funds for both the church and our WI Charities, many thanks to them for braving the very hot weather.



As well as all our usual monthly activities we are visiting the Manor House in Hemingford Grey for a tour of the house followed by afternoon tea in the gardens of this beautiful house; thank you to Christine for organising this.

Coming up in the next few months preparations are under way for the August Summer Party held in the Village Hall, with a supper, and fun and games, In September we are going to learn 'British Sign Language' and in October (Monday 5<sup>th</sup>) we will have a 'Sea Shanty Singalong' this will be an open meeting so if you fancy a Singalong please join us; we start at 7.30 and tickets will be £5.00, a bargain for a great Sing a Long and refreshments (lovely cakes).

The Christmas Bazaar is on, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall, and is being organised by the WI this year; if you would be interested in having a stall for this event, please get in touch, details are below.

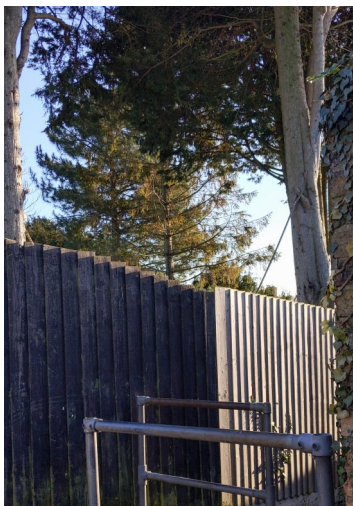
We meet in the Village Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7.30pm with the exception of Bank Holidays, when we move to the following week, new members and visitors are always most welcome.

**Jackie Norris – WI**

**Tel: 01480 465997**

## Where in the Village

was this photograph taken?



Answer in the next issue of the Villager.

In the June issue I asked where this photograph was taken - answer in the Baptist Graveyard, Meeting Lane.





# JACKSON

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Electric vehicle charge points  
Consumer unit upgrades  
Data cabling  
EIC Reports  
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## Beer and Wine Club

Sixteen members attended the Annual BBQ hosted by Danny and Sally. Chicken burgers and sausages with assorted salads followed by a small sweet treat were enjoyed by all, washed down with beer for the men and Pimms for the ladies.

**August 15th** is the pubs walk with a pot-luck supper at Dannys.

**September 25th** is the Beer Competition to be hosted by Sandra.

**October 16th**, bring your favourite wine and tell us why. There will be a selection of cheese to nibble while tasting.

You can get in touch with me on **01480 466239** or Sandra on **01487 825669**.

**Petronella Britton**

## YARNBOMBERS

We managed a round up of the animals we made to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. As luck would have it Anne Bannell received a request from Hinchingsbrooke Hospital for knitted animals for Alzheimer patients, so we gave them all a brush up and then the cuddlier ones were passed on to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, so they have all gone to good homes. Being able to support the hospital really inspired us, so, as well as decorating the village, we are now making soft toy animals and teddies for the hospital, in our spare time!!!!



We hope you like our 'Classic TV Toy' theme, it was lovely going down memory lane and creating some much-loved characters. Unfortunately, poor Scoobie & Scrappy were taken from the post box at the bus stop and thrown into some bushes, luckily they were found by Nathalie Lemey's husband whilst he was out on his morning run, they have been returned to the post box, many thanks to Nathalie and her husband for their help.

We are busily making a group of Cosy Ladies to grace our village through the last weeks of summer.

If you fancy a chat and cuppa, we meet every Monday morning at the Ferryboat, from 10.00 to 12.00, please join us.

Jackie Norris

01480 465997



## Ouse Valley Scribblers

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

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

for more information.

## ART CLUB

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

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

please telephone Paul on **01480 465536**

## "Bridge Bunch"

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

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

For more information call Hannah Dickinson 01480 460132

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## Blooming Hot Gardening Club Summer

Despite the less than perfect conditions for gardening that we have all experienced for the past few months the Gardening Club has had a wonderfully enjoyable and varied summer of activities and events.

The highlight was the extremely busy but rewarding Plant Sale that was held at the end of May. We say that this is by far the largest in the area and every year we hope to maintain the size and quality of plants on offer grown by our members. This year we exceeded expectations!!

The Village Hall was packed to the gills with a huge range of really good, well grown plants. We could not have found room for more.

We priced them at very reasonable prices and when we opened the doors at 10.00 sharp the huge queue flowed in to snap up the best bargains.

Amazingly by about 11.15 when the rush had begun to die down we had taken approx £2,500 in sales which largely funds the year's events for the Gardening Club.

This is all achieved by the hard work of a large group of members and friends both on the day and for many weeks before. It was a hectic but great day.

Our first coach trip was on an exceptionally hot day in June when for the first time we went to two gardens in one day, both in Northamptonshire.

The first was the delightful Lamport Hall where a central courtyard with cafe led into the gardens spread around the house. Its claim to fame is that it was the site of the first rockery garden as well as the first sighting of a garden gnome. It also had a huge and beautiful formal walled garden and parkland to wander into. There was sufficient shade for members to keep cool all over the garden.

We then rejoined our air conditioned coach to move to the equally impressive Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens where again a shaded courtyard and cafe led into the garden which was composed of various areas all with their own character and personality but all beautiful.

The huge wild garden area with its meandering stream and succulent vegetation was a gentle contrast to the more formal gardens.

Our penultimate trip was an evening visit to the magnificent Abbots Ripton Hall Gardens where we were given a private and informative tour by the Head Gardener, Gavin and Jacob. The gardens were just stunning and we were privileged to have this special time when we were also met by Lord and Lady De Ramsey. A great evening.

One disappointment has been that due to the drought we have had to cancel our planned social afternoon in early August. The main feature was to be a widest sunflower head competition but nobody's grew!!



Our final trip of the year will be on 10<sup>th</sup> September to Pensthorpe Gardens and nature reserve.

Our next monthly meeting will be at the Village Hall at 7.45 on 8<sup>th</sup> September when we will have a talk entitled "Foliage first, Flowers a bonus!"

You would be most welcome to join us.

**Grant Williamson**



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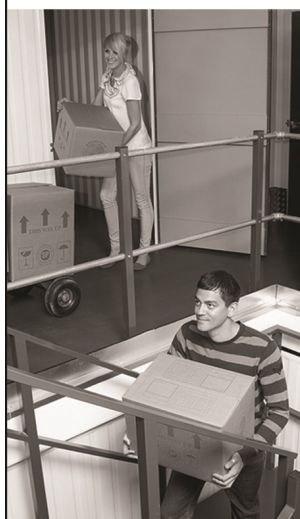
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### The Local Plan is coming - but we cannot build the jobs and homes of tomorrow on yesterday's infrastructure

In my last article, I promised to share some thoughts on development and infrastructure. A lot has happened since the summer issue of *The Villager*, both locally and nationally. The last few months have been packed with meetings at both district and county level, a wide range of debates and announcements, and even a change of Prime Minister!

#### A "finely balanced" Huntingdonshire district council

Following the Huntingdonshire District Council elections, the two district councillors for Holywell-cum-Needlingworth were re-elected, and I was also elected as one of the two district councillors for St Ives South, alongside my existing role as county councillor for St Ives South and Needlingworth.

It's certainly an interesting time on the council. The administration is made up of 20 Liberal Democrats, together with four Independents and two Green councillors, while the opposition consists of 15 Conservatives, 10 Reform councillors (depending on a summer by election result following a resignation) and myself as the sole Labour and Co-operative councillor. With the numbers of administration vs. opposition evenly balanced, the Chair's casting vote has already proved important on a few occasions - and is likely to do so again.

Although there is plenty of constructive cross-party working, there are also genuine differences of opinion on the council. One example is the district administration's decision to introduce an 18-month "trial of free parking" between 4pm and 6pm, Monday to Friday, in St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon. The scheme is funded by the Combined Authority and aims to encourage more people into our town centres. Some see it as worthwhile support for local businesses, while others, including myself, question whether it represents good value for public money, and whether other schemes such as one hour free parking or limited free parking on Saturdays would be more effective. I'd be interested to hear what local residents and businesses think on this matter.

#### What is happening with local government reorganisation?

Just before Parliament rose for the summer, the then Minister Steve Reed announced that the Government needed more time before deciding the future structure of local councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Following the change of Prime Minister, responsibility has now passed to Angela Rayner to make the decision in the autumn.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is one of two areas where a decision has been delayed. While some councillors were quick to express outrage, I believe taking a little more time is worthwhile if it leads to a better, evidence-based outcome. I also continue to believe that Huntingdonshire should remain together rather than being divided between different authorities, and I will continue to support Option E for a stand-alone council.

#### The Local Plan is coming – and infrastructure must come first

While local government reorganisation continues, attention is also turning to the new Local Plan, which will be discussed at September's Full Council meeting.

At July's district council meeting, I seconded a cross-party motion proposed by Cllr David Keane calling for clearer information and stronger evidence on infrastructure before decisions are made about future development. The motion received good local media coverage over the summer and, I hope, helped move the debate forward.

Our role as councillors is to raise the issues that matter most to local residents. In St Ives South and Needlingworth, one subject that filled my inbox more than almost any other, especially last year, was the A141 and St Ives Improvements Study.

Very few people are opposed to new homes or jobs if the necessary infrastructure is provided alongside them. However, when a project begins in 2018 and, after eight years and around £6 million

of public money, has still not reached the outline business case stage, it is understandable that people begin to lose confidence in the process.

A great deal has changed since this work first began. The evidence needs to reflect today's circumstances, and options that may not have been considered viable several years ago could now deserve another look given the scale of planned growth. Re-viewing the options may now be essential.

I welcomed the publication of the A141 consultation report in July. It acknowledged many of the concerns raised by local residents and confirmed that the proposed bus gate on Meadow Lane would no longer be taken forward. That is positive progress responding to the representations of local councillors and residents. However, important questions remain. Does the scheme properly address HGV movements through St Ives? Does it match the scale and timing of the local plan? And does it provide the road capacity our area needs over the coming decades?

I am not persuaded the answer to any of these questions is positive, and this is why I proposed a motion at County Council in July calling for a broader look at the A141 project. Although the motion was not supported by the administration, it prompted an important discussion about whether current plans are ambitious enough to meet the needs of St Ives, Needlingworth and surrounding villages.

My view is that infrastructure cannot be an afterthought. If significant development is planned, transport improvements need to keep pace. I am continuing to work with councillors from different political parties to encourage the Combined Authority to consider its A141 plans in light of the emerging Local Plan and the Government's proposals at Wyton under Project FAIRFAX.

These decisions will shape our area for many years to come, so I'd genuinely welcome your views. Do you think the current proposals strike the right balance? Are there local issues you think the local councils or Combined Authority are overlooking? Hearing from residents directly always helps me represent our local communities more effectively.

#### Local issue? Ask Alex

My regular Needlingworth surgeries continue at Chatters Café, but now take place on the last Thursday of each month from midday until 1pm. No appointment is necessary, so please come along if there's anything you'd like to discuss. I also hold monthly Saturday surgeries in St Ives at the Library, where dates are advertised.

For any local issue or feedback, you can also contact me by email at [alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:alex.bulat@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). And as always, if there are local issues or topics you'd like me to cover in a future edition of *The Villager*, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

#### Cllr Alex Bulat

County Councillor for St Ives South and Needlingworth



Alex Bulat with Councillor Keane

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

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

Thank you to everyone who supported our summer events. Despite the high temperatures, it was such a joy to welcome so many of you to our Strawberry Tea, a lovely afternoon spent in Daphne Stocker's garden (thank you to Daphne and to the Baptist Chapel for use of the carpark), and later in June to our Well Dressing Patronal weekend.

This year we celebrated the sea. The church was filled with nautical-themed displays by village groups, and art by pupils from our school. The well-dressing was a colourful representation of sea creatures created by a large team of volunteer 'petallers'. Highlights included the whole school Well Blessing by the well in the company of Bishop Sharma and Revd. Jared from the Vellore Diocese in Southern India, and the fabulous concert by the Fen Shanty Folk in church on Sunday.

Music is such an important part of our church life and worship at St John's. We have small but keen and dedicated choir but sadly no organist. If there is anyone who is able to play keyboard and would like to help support the music at church, we would love to hear from you. Please contact churchwarden Ben Peilow for a chat.

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

The Autumn months bring a series of additional special services to which you are all warmly invited. We start by giving thanks for God's creation on:

**Sunday 27 September: Harvest Thanksgiving Communion Service** (see poster page 25). 09.30 am

**Saturday 10 October: Pet and Toy Blessing Service** at midday in the churchyard. Followed by refreshments. (see poster page 25)

**Sunday 1 November: All Souls' Service** at 3pm. A reflec-

tive 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 8 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.

### 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. (See poster p 25)

**Sunday 11 October – Autumn Afternoon Tea** in the Village Hall. Bring friends and relatives! Look out for details in the October Herald and on social media.

**Saturday 28 November – Christmas Wreath Making workshop** at the Village Hall (Pavilion) from 10am to 12 noon. All materials and delicious refreshments provided. See poster page 24 for details.

We will be holding our popular annual **Christmas Draw** in December. Tickets will be available from late September; details of where you can purchase them from (including the Village Christmas Fair on Saturday 6 December) will be promulgated soon.



Montage by Willow Class

Contacts:

Revd. Valmor Pimenta

01487 829882

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

Churchwardens

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### SUNDAY SERVICES

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

"I rejoiced with those who said to me: 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'." (Psalm 122:1)

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

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

### PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

This is held every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm on Zoom and all are welcome. Do contact us if you would like to join us. We are currently studying the book of Genesis, and have reached the stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. What an amazing account, with so many lessons for our day!

### TEA AND TIME TO THINK

We seek to provide a friendly home for those with time on their hands to come for a cup of tea, home-made cakes 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: 17 September, 15 October, 19 November, 17 December.

### DOES CHRISTIANITY HAVE ANY RELEVANCE IN 2026?

We were grateful to the local History Society for a very interesting recent walk entitled "Needingworth Baptists." We were led to various sites in the village, including the place in Meeting Lane where the Baptist Church first met in the 'Meeting House' in 1767 where they were known as the

'Society of Protestant Dissenters.' We also learnt of a group which met in a chapel in what is now Chapel Close, decades prior to that. The graves of many Needingworth families associated with the Baptist Church were pointed out to us in the Meeting Lane Baptist cemetery. We saw pictures of the first chapel in the High Street which was destroyed in a violent storm in 1928 and the subsequent building of the present 'Providence Chapel.' All very fascinating!

But the question is – does any of this have any real relevance to us and our lives in 2026? The Bible, words from which are quoted on many of the old gravestones, and which influenced our nation so much in the past, has been rejected by many as not only old-fashioned, but even bigoted and unworthy of our attention.

There is no doubt that our society is much more prosperous than in bygone days. Communications, information, travel, health – there have been so many advances that our country would be unrecognizable to those of an earlier era. And yet it is surprising how dissatisfied people seem to be. Marriage and family breakdown, crime, greed, blame and selfishness abound, with no apparent answers. Hope for the future seems to have gone, and of course, the big D – death, is not something we care to contemplate.

But in 2026 there seems to be a fresh interest in 'spiritual things' among some of those in their teenage years and twenties. There is a dissatisfaction with the hopelessness and negativity that our society offers. People are reading the Bible, and coming to church in search of answers to the big questions of life, in search of hope and meaning.

And the great thing is that they are finding that the Bible does have answers, Christianity does have relevance, in 2026. We are not surprised – because Jesus said "Seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened." The God of heaven, who made us all, has shown the way. We believe He has made the way - indeed Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life."

So we would like to invite you to come and join us in the chapel at 10.30am each Sunday to find out more. Or feel free to contact us by phone or email.

David Mann – Tel. **07948 809068**

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

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

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## PUZZLE CORNER

### WORD SEARCH

Have you been to one of our local zoos this summer (Johnson's, Hamerton, Shepreth or Linton). If so you will probably have seen many of the 18 animals and birds hidden in this word search. How many can you find? To make it easier I have given you the first letter of each animal or bird and the length of the word.

Answers on page 20

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| A - - - - - | R - - - - |
| B - -       | S - - -   |
| B - -       | T - - - - |
| C - - - -   | T - - -   |
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Note: the words may go up or down, forwards or backwards, or diagonally.

## Needingworth Community Pre-School

### The End of an Era

Almost fifty years ago, a group of parents organized a playgroup for children in the village. That playgroup grew into the pre-school we know today, supported over the years by various dedicated groups of parent volunteers, and run by amazing members of staff. Together, they have created a nurturing, thriving setting for generations of local families.

In 2006 a huge campaign raised £37,000 to refurbish part of the school into the space we have today. This new purpose-built space enabled our fantastic staff to earn an Outstanding Ofsted rating the following year. For two decades that rating has been renewed and remained as a testament to "the power of play"—our core principle—and to the amazing milestones reached in pre-school every day. Twenty years of outstanding Ofsted is well deserved recognition of everything that our fantastic staff do.

We are incredibly fortunate to have been based within the school grounds, benefiting from years of collaboration and a strong sense of community. Various parent volunteers have managed pre-school over this time, which has become more challenging in recent years with changes in legislation, increasing administrative responsibilities and parents stretched for time like never before! Building on our close relationship with school and to ensure the ongoing future of pre-school we are excited that school will take on the running and management of the pre-school from September, providing a secure and sustainable future while preserving everything that makes pre-school so special.

As we pass the baton, we would like to acknowledge every member of staff, past and present, and every committee member in our long history who gave their time and energy to building the wonderful place that we now entrust to the school. Thank you!

*Our first Outstanding Ofsted rating, almost 20 years ago*

### Pre-school bids goodbye to Angela Maxwell and Cathy Biddle

Forest school is the most popular day of the pre-school week and this is in large part thanks to Cathy Biddle, who puts so much into planning and running sessions that immerse our children in the wonders of nature. Her warmth and enthusiasm and her ability to bring out the best in every child will be sorely missed.

Through her tireless dedication, Angela Maxwell has kept the pre-school running in different capacities for many years but most recently as Manager. She has ensured the enrichment and wellbeing of every child through her deep commitment to Early Years education and the place will not be the same without her.

**Thank you so much, Cathy and Angela, from every child and every parent you have supported over the years. We wish you all the best!**

## YOUNG VILLAGER

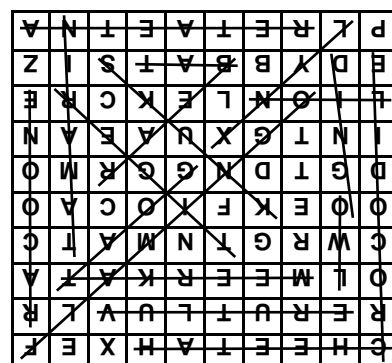
### PRE SCHOOL'S NEWS

**Pre-School celebrates receiving "Outstanding" in its Ofsted report.**



### Answers to Puzzle Corner

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| ANTEATER  | OTTER   |
| BAT       | OWL     |
| BEAR      | RACCOON |
| CHEETAH   | SKUNK   |
| CROCODILE | TAMARIN |
| DINGO     | TIGER   |
| FLAMINGO  | VULTURE |
| GOAT      |         |
| LION      |         |
| LYNX      |         |
| MEERKAT   |         |



## Needingworth Guides

The younger Guides started the term working for the Explore badge - looking at maps, travel, and very important this year – how to stay cool on a hot day !



The older Guides tackled a challenge about leadership skills, covering topics such as bringing the best out of a team, negotiating and resolving, all while keeping your cool. They also took the lead on a craft activity for the Unit, making keyrings.

All the Guides helped to prepare a sea-themed display for the church flower festival, some using their crochet skills to make a selection of octopuses.

During the St Ives Big Green Week, the whole unit took to the water with the St Ives Electric Riverboats, and tackled a nature spy challenge, spotting ducks, herons, coots, swans and cygnets.

Looking into the clear water, there were plenty of fish. On the return journey, some of

those in the first boat were lucky enough to spot an otter near Hemmingford Lock, and those in the second boat saw the blue flash of a kingfisher. Three of the Guides made their Promise while on board.

Three Guides took part in the Guide County Outdoor Activity Day - where they got very wet on paddleboards, and in coracles which they had to construct before they took them on the water. Some of the coracles sank, but most floated ! By comparison, the kayak sessions were relatively dry ! The day ended back on site with a spot of axe-throwing. The Guides' verdict –

“we loved meeting new people and taking new opportunities” and “we had great fun and would definitely go again”.

Towards the end of term, five Guides spent two evenings out on the river in kayaks improving their paddling skills, and helping each other cool down on hot evenings.

On our last evening we enjoyed a picnic and played some games, including one where everyone laid on their back with feet in the air, supporting a small bowl of water on one foot while trying to take off their shoes and socks without getting wet!

At the end of the meeting, a selection of Guide interest badges were given out and we were delighted to present one of our Guides with her Silver award.



Do you enjoy taking photographs?

St Ives Photographic Club resumes its programme of indoor meetings on **1st 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](http://www.stives-photoclub.org.uk)

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



Visit our exhibition to see what we do - Friday **6th** and Saturday **7th November** in the Free Church, St Ives



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Needlingworth, Cambs. PE27 4TA

## SPORT

### BOWLS CLUB - From the Green.

Hello all. Its been quite a year at the bowls club so far.

In July we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting a team from Disability Bowls England.

It was a truly enlightening day. Meeting some wonderful people who have overcome many difficult circumstances but still find they have something to offer the world through Bowls.

The team featured some previous commonwealth medallists and Para Olympic competitors.

A great game was played and then we all had a meal and swapped stories.

Also by the time this is out to the public Elvis will have visited the Bowls club. Our Presidents day this year was held on August 16<sup>th</sup> the anniversary of Elvis's passing. So to commemorate the day many of the club dressed as Elvis and we had some live singing from Elvis Blackley and guitar vocals from Rob Hyde. Good fun was had by all.

The club will be holding its Club finals day on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to come and watch the matches which promise some great bowls.

During the close season we operate the short mat bowls at the village hall on a Thursday at 2pm. Its open to anyone who wishes to come along. All equipment is provided. It will start mid October until mid April.

We also hold monthly Bingo sessions in the village hall. They start on Sat Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Eyes down at 7pm. For details call or text Alan on 07368422241.

We are busy busy all the year round. 2026 has been a great year for the club with various successes, not least Mike Russell & Melanie Duncan who won the county mixed pairs trophy Then Mike went and won the Senior Singles on his own and then Caitlin Jackson won the under 25 ladies county title also. They all went to national finals in Skegness mid August.

Who knows at time of going to press we could have 2 or 3 National Champions!!

See you on the green. Alan



## Needingworth Tennis Club – A Summer of Tennis and Looking Ahead to Autumn

The summer tennis season has been another busy and enjoyable one at Needingworth Tennis Club, with plenty of competitive matches, social tennis, and new faces joining us on court.

Our teams have once again been representing the club across the Cambridgeshire Summer League and Hunts & Peterborough competitions. A huge thank you goes to all our players who have turned out for the men's, ladies' and mixed teams throughout the season. Win, lose, or draw, it's been fantastic to see such strong support and team spirit across the club.

Away from league tennis, our weekly social sessions continue to be well attended, offering members the chance to enjoy competitive but friendly tennis in a welcoming environment. Whether you're picking up a racket for the first time or have been playing for years, there's always a game to join and a warm welcome waiting.

Our internal Fast4 Singles League remains a popular feature of club life, providing members with regular match play throughout the year. Congratulations to all those who have competed over the summer, with some closely contested matches producing excellent tennis across all divisions.

As we move into Autumn, tennis certainly doesn't stop. The Autumn months are often some of the best times to play, with cooler temperatures and plenty of opportunities to get on court before winter arrives. Club sessions will continue as normal, and we are already looking ahead to our winter programme and league fixtures.

One of the highlights of the summer was the Needingworth Village Sports Open Day. The event was a great success, attracting residents from across the village and providing an excellent opportunity for people to try tennis and pickleball in a relaxed and friendly environment. It was particularly encouraging to see so many families and new faces on court, helping showcase the welcoming community spirit that makes the club so special. We're grateful to everyone who supported the day and helped make it such an enjoyable event.

**Join us on court:** Whether you're new to the area, returning to tennis after a break, or simply looking to play more regularly, we'd love to hear from you.

### 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: 10:30am-12:00pm - open to all standards

Keep an eye on our website for coaching opportunities and the latest club news: <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.

**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!



## Needingworth Karate Club



T.A.S.K.

Another productive 4 months of training and two members graded and passed. Congratulations to Tony and Sabastian on a well-deserved promotion to purple belt. Also, congrats to Ben Webb who received his intermediate Black belt certificate.



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

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

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

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



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or email: [johnw.electrical@gmail.com](mailto:johnw.electrical@gmail.com)

## The History and Culture of Ukraine

This is an introductory course to the country of Ukraine through its Arts, Literature, and Music. What do the country's landmarks and monuments tell us about its history? How Ukrainian national features are revealed through their language, traditions, food and songs? Ukraine is the largest country in Europe but was almost unknown to Europeans until recently.

Tutor: Marina Burrell



Fee for 10 weeks Autumn term course £50

Begins Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2026

At Bluntisham Baptist Church ~ 10.00am to 11.45pm

To register or for more information, please contact Marie Quick  
on 07905 911558

or email [marie\\_quick358@hotmail.com](mailto:marie_quick358@hotmail.com)

Try out the first session free

## CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP



Saturday 28 November 2026

10am – 12 noon

Needingworth Village Hall

£25.00 per person

Includes all materials and delicious refreshments  
Call 07807 543785 or email [Fan55@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Fan55@hotmail.co.uk)  
to reserve your place.

In aid of St John the Baptist parish church HcN

Needingworth Village Hall Charitable Trust

## \*\*BI-ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT\*\*

*Big Brains. Big Laughs. Bragging Rights.*

Saturday

28<sup>th</sup> November 2026

7.30pm start

(doors open 7.00pm)

£25 per team (plus booking fee)

Teams of up to 6

 Fully Licensed Bar - Raffle with great prizes

Think you know it all?

Music 🎵 | Movies 🎬 |

General Knowledge 📖 |

Surprise Rounds 🧐

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welcome  
All proceeds support  
Village Hall Trust

<https://www.ticketsource.com/needsworthvillagehall>



Holywell-cum-Needingworth

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

(being organised by the WI)

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

From 12 noon to 4pm

Needingworth Village Hall

Crafts, gifts, tombola, raffles, refreshments  
and lots more

To book a stall, please contact:  
Eda MacPherson [edamacpherson@aol.com](mailto:edamacpherson@aol.com)  
Tel: 07765214200



## Harvest Celebrations at St John the Baptist Parish Church

### HARVEST COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 10AM - MIDDAY

Delicious home baked goods, stalls, produce, raffle  
In aid of St Ives Foodbank and the church.

Everyone welcome!

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 9.30AM

Followed by refreshments



## ANNUAL PET AND TOY BLESSING SERVICE



Saturday 10 October  
12 noon

St John the Baptist churchyard Holywell

Bring your beloved pets, or their pictures,  
or a cherished toy  
For a special blessing

Everyone welcome  
Followed by refreshments



## WHAT'S ON in the Village

Every Monday morning, Yarnbombers  
at the Ferryboat (see p 11)

Every Thursday 11.30am to 4pm, Chatters  
Community Café (see page 7)

Every Thursday, mid October to mid April,  
Short Mat Bowls, 2pm in Village Hall (p 22)

Last Thursday of each month, County Councillor  
Surgeries, Chatters 12 noon to 1pm (p 15)

### Sept. 2026

- Sun. 6th Bowls Club finals, non-members  
welcome to come and watch  
(see page 22)
- Mon. 7th WI "Learn British sign language  
with Joan and friends" (Page 9)
- Tue. 8th Gardening Club "Foliage First,  
Flowers a Bonus" (see page 13)
- Thur. 10th Parish Council Surgery (page 5)
- Fri. 25th Beer & Wine Club beer competition,  
hosted by Sandra (see page 11)
- Sat. 26th Harvest Coffee Morning (see opposite)
- Sat. 26th Bowls Club Bingo, Village Hall (p 22)
- Sun. 27th Harvest Thanksgiving service  
(see opposite)

### Oct. 2026

- Mon. 5th WI, Sea Shanty Sing with Stuart  
Green (non-members welcome -  
see page 9)
- Thur. 8th Parish Council Surgery (page 5)
- Sat. 10th Pet and Toy blessing service
- Sun. 11th Autumn Afternoon Tea (page 17)
- Fri. 16th Beer & Wine Club - bring your  
favourite wine (see page 11)
- 29th to 31st Wellworth Players present  
"The Titfield Thunderbolt" (page 27)

### Nov. 2026

- Mon. 2nd WI, "Medieval Christmas", a talk  
by Stuart Orm from the Cromwell  
Museum
- Thur. 12th Parish Council Surgery (page 5)
- Sat. 28th Christmas Wreath Workshop
- Sat. 28th Village Hall Bi-annual Quiz Night

### Advance Notices:

**Saturday 5th December**, Christmas Bazaar (see  
opposite)

**Monday 7th December**, WI Christmas Party, with  
Entertainment from the Huntingdon Ukelele Group

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 November)

## Bus Times Dews Service No. 301

### Monday to Friday—Needlingworth to St Ives

NEEDLINGWORTH, 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 Needlingworth

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

### Saturdays—Needlingworth to St Ives

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

### Saturdays—St Ives to Needlingworth

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

The bus service between Needlingworth 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**



### Swavesey Camera Club

One of the leading clubs in East Anglia

### Swavesey Camera Club - WELCOME NIGHT

The club will start the new season on Thursday  
3rd September 2026 - 7pm - 9pm.

**The Welcome night is FREE** to attend to find out more about the club including the new season's programme, meet club members and see some images from over the summer break. There will be wine, soft drinks and nibbles !  
We are always keen to encourage new members to join and pride ourselves on being a very friendly, welcoming club. There will be 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 and club outings. There will also be members nights covering various topics such as camera gear, software, practical sessions and more - so something for everyone !

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

<https://swaveseycameraclub.co.uk/>

If you would like more information about the club or you are thinking about joining us please get in touch by using the club email -

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

Maggie O'Moore

Committee member, Swavesey Camera Club



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## DISCOVER HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Looking for somewhere new to visit, somewhere to eat or forthcoming events?

Huntingdonshire's new website

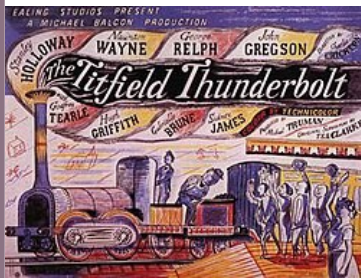
**[www.discoverhuntingdonshire.co.uk](http://www.discoverhuntingdonshire.co.uk)**

has collected information for both visitors and locals alike.

Covers St Neots, Huntingdon, St Ives, Ramsey and surrounding villages

# WELLWORTH PLAYERS

Wellworth Players Autumn Production is



## The Titfield Thunderbolt

by Philip Goulding,  
a comedy based on the  
original Ealing comedy  
screenplay.

Come and see this funny (and at times outlandish) play.

October 29th, 30th and 31st at 7.30pm

at Needingworth Village Hall.

Licensed bar

Tickets available from Ticketsource - £8

# STEPHEN GEORGE YORK



It is with much regret that we record the sudden, tragic death of Stephen York of Holywell on 11 May, who was well-known to many of us.

Stephen and his wife June moved to Holywell in March 1985 having found a plot of derelict land and built their house. Born in Nottingham in August 1949, Stephen gained a degree in Classics from London University and worked initially as a librarian before becoming editor of the Library Association's professional magazine, giving him an entry to editing and publishing which he remained with all his life, moving to Woodhead-Faulkner in Cambridge in the mid-1970s, Thomas Cook in Peterborough in 1990 and as a freelance editor from 2005. He and June met while both were working at the Library Association and were married in January 1975.

There are many areas across our two villages where Stephen was a great supporter and influence in his quiet, unassuming way with wisdom and good humour. He had a deep Christian faith and commitment to our Parish Church of St John the Baptist. He was a much appreciated and dedicated Churchwarden for 20 years, standing down in 2024. A dedicated member of the choir, involved with all aspects of the annual Well-Dressing for many years, he was also a founder member of the 'Open the Book' team, bringing the acting out of bible stories to the School weekly during term-time. This involvement in singing and acting led to his involvement in the village fundraising drive with at least six variety shows, playing the parts of Fagin, Blackadder, George Formby, René from 'Allo Allo' and many more. Other areas included Chatters where he could be seen in an apron taking orders, and the Gardening Club, initially as Secretary then later as a Steward.

Stephen's funeral took place on 23 June and the Parish Church where he worshipped and which he served so loyally, was full of family, friends from near and far, including many from Holywell and Needingworth. It was a fitting farewell to a life well lived and a generous heart. He would have loved the brief technical fault with Blue-tooth!

We offer our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to June.

## Shopping Locally in Huntingdon

If you are looking for unique and handmade crafts do visit the WI Craft Shop in Huntingdon Town Centre.

There is a wide variety of crafts, all made by WI members which include greeting cards for all occasions, jewellery, bags, papercraft, knitting and crochet. A selection of handmade preserves featuring marmalade, jam and chutneys are available. Paintings, embroidered pictures and home textiles can also be found.

The shop is situated at the WI office at 6a Walden Road, Huntingdon PE29 3AZ

Opening hours: Tuesday -Thursday 10am – 12 pm with free parking for visitors to the shop.

Contact us. Tel: **01480 453137**.

Email [office@hpfwi.org.uk](mailto:office@hpfwi.org.uk)

Website [hpfwi.org.uk](http://hpfwi.org.uk)



## HUNTS ART GROUP

Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, England

The Hunts Art Group will be holding their

### Annual Art Exhibition

on

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November

Open from 10am to 4pm

**St Ives Free Church**

## 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)

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 10.30 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)

Sept. Thurs. 3rd and 17th

October Thurs. 1st, 15th and 29th

Nov. Thurs. 12th and 26th

### GREEN BINS (garden waste)

Sept. Wed. 9th and 23rd

October Wed. 7th and 21st

Nov. Wed. 4th and 18th

### BLUE BINS (recycling)

Sept. Thurs. 10th and 24th

October Thurs. 8th and 22nd

Nov. Thurs. 5th and 19th

### FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Every Thursday



## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### 24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Hospital - Huntingdon (Hinchbrook) 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 0800 3167676

Routine enquiries (Cambridge Water Co) 01223 706050

Sewerage, Services Failure (Anglian Water) 03457 145 145

Rivers - Pollution and Flooding (Environment Agency) 0800 807 060

or Floodline 0345 988 1188

### PUBLIC & IMPORTANT SERVICES - ROUTINE ENQUIRIES

Cambridgeshire Country Council 0345 045 5200

Electricity (UK Power Networks) 0800 029 4285

Sewerage Services (Anglian Water) 03457 145 145

Telephone Services (British Telecom) 0800 150 111

Police (non-emergency no.) 101

Trading Standards (business queries) 0345 045 5206

Age UK 0300 666 9860

To stop unwanted mail 03457 740 740

To stop unwanted phone calls 0345 070 0707

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## WHO'S WHO

**Baptist Church** David Mann **07948 809068**

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

**Beavers** Aleta Watson

[aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk](mailto:aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk)

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

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

[sueforrest42@gmail.com](mailto:sueforrest42@gmail.com)

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

[leetheflee@sky.com](mailto:leetheflee@sky.com)

### Chatters Community Cafe

Sue Martin [sue.martin22@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.martin22@btinternet.com)

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

Revd Valmor Pimenta **01487 829882**

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

Churchwardens Ben Peilow **07803 937503**

Gillian Deller **07821 387193**

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

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

[twdecoratingservices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:twdecoratingservices@hotmail.co.uk)

### Cub Scouts

[aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk](mailto:aleta.watson@1st-needingworth-scouts.org.uk)

**Football** Email via web site:

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

### Gardening Club

Grant Williamson **01480 493360**

[parkingcare68@gmail.com](mailto:parkingcare68@gmail.com)

[www.hcngardening.weebly.com](http://www.hcngardening.weebly.com)

**Guides** Helen Whitehead **01480 460838**

[Needingworth.guides@yahoo.com](mailto:Needingworth.guides@yahoo.com)

**Holywell School Association** Andrea Walker

[Holywellschoolassociation@outlook.com](mailto:Holywellschoolassociation@outlook.com)

### Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre,

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

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

[sensei\\_morris@gmail.com](mailto:sensei_morris@gmail.com)

### Neighbourhood Watch

Mike Norris **01480 465997**

[michaelnorris852@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelnorris852@btinternet.com)

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

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### Scouts

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### Chairman Parish Council

Cllr Andrew Whyte **01480 468451**

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

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Mr P Hodgson-Jones **01487 740778**

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