



# East Bergholt

parish magazine

May 2026

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Police, fire, ambulance .....	999
Police (non-emergency) .....	101
Police (Capel St Mary station, non-emergency, limited hours) .....	01473 613500
Electricity .....	105
Gas .....	0800 111999
Water .....	03457 145145
Samaritans .....	116123

## HEALTHCARE

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Constable Country Medical Practice, Heath Road .....	01206 298272
Dentists: Capel Dental, Capel St Mary .....	01473 311130
Manningtree Dental Practice .....	01206 391065
Day Lewis Pharmacy, Gaston Street .....	01206 298267
Hospitals: Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, Heath Road, Ipswich .....	01473 712233
Colchester District General Hospital, Turner Road, Colchester .....	01206 747474
Highcliff Veterinary Practice, Brantham .....	01206 391511
Defibrillator locations: <i>East Bergholt</i> : Constable Memorial Hall, CO7 6TP; East End Butchers, Broom Knoll, CO7 6XN; The Grange Country Park, CO7 6UX; KMC garage, Heath Road, CO7 6RL; telephone box by The Lion, The Street, CO7 6TB; The Royal Oak, East End, CO7 6XA; <i>Flatford</i> : Tourist information; National Trust upper car park. <i>Note</i> : You must call 999 for a defibrillator code in order to use any of these devices.	

## SCHOOLS

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East Bergholt C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School, School Lane. Headteacher: Clare Sampson .....	01206 298202
East Bergholt High School, Heath Road. Headteacher: Dan Woodcock .....	01206 298200

## CHURCHES

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<b>St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt</b> (Church of England)	
Rev Chris Willis, The Rectory, Brantham .....	<a href="mailto:revchris@constablebenefice.org">revchris@constablebenefice.org</a> /07566 871270
Churchwarden: Fiona Trott .....	<a href="mailto:fiona.trott13@gmail.com">fiona.trott13@gmail.com</a> /01206 298205
Churchwarden: Jackie Reeves .....	<a href="mailto:jackiereeves23@hotmail.com">jackiereeves23@hotmail.com</a> /01206 299973
Benefice administrator .....	<a href="mailto:michelle@constablebenefice.org">michelle@constablebenefice.org</a>
<b>Congregational Church, East Bergholt</b>	
Church secretary: John Jeffreys .....	<a href="mailto:jeffreysjohn186@gmail.com">jeffreysjohn186@gmail.com</a> /01206 298737
<b>Methodist Church, Brantham</b>	
Church council secretary: Jackie Cooledge .....	<a href="mailto:jcooledge25@gmail.com">jcooledge25@gmail.com</a>
<b>Church of the Holy Family, Brantham</b> (Roman Catholic)	
Rev Fr Luke Goymour .....	<a href="mailto:revgoymour@googlemail.com">revgoymour@googlemail.com</a> /01473 684963

## LIBRARIES

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Capel St Mary Library, Community Centre, The Street, Capel St Mary .....	01473 311699
Manningtree Library, High Street, Manningtree .....	01206 392747
Mobile library: Ipswich Mobile Library Route 4 visits East Bergholt every 4 weeks, on a Friday. Locations and times at <a href="http://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk">suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk</a> .....	01473 263838

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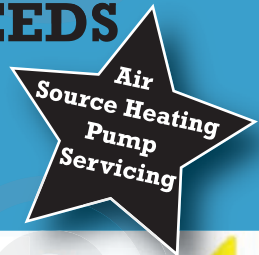


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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, EAST BERGHOLT

The Street, East Bergholt, Suffolk CO7 6TA

Rector: Rev Chris Willis [revchris@constablebenefice.org](mailto:revchris@constablebenefice.org)

Benefice website: [www.ConstableCountryChurches.co.uk](http://www.ConstableCountryChurches.co.uk)

Facebook: stmaryseastbergholt

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## PANTRY IN THE PORCH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Thank you to all who expressed indignation and disappointment at the events reported in last month's magazine involving the theft of food donated for those in need. It was indeed very disheartening to find all the food taken so soon after it had been very kindly donated by the East Bergholt Community Council, and clearly not for the purpose intended.

The church council discussed various options at their meeting in March. Obviously it would not be possible to continue as before. It has therefore been decided that instead of stocking large quantities of food, the Pantry in the Porch will stock primarily toiletries, baby food and small-sized household items (such as washing-up liquid and washing powder) along with just a few tins of food, which will be regularly topped up. The situation will be reviewed again in three months to see what the response has been.

Please continue to give what you can, directly to the church porch or at the village Co-op store collection point. We will still accept nonperishable foods but are mainly concentrating on the items listed above.

The church will continue to work with the primary school as well as the Parish Council and Community Council. With the current economic situation probably only getting worse, support must be continued for those in our community who need help, especially those who cannot drive.

This adjustment to how we manage the Pantry in the Porch is intended to prevent the actions of the few who have acted selfishly from disadvantaging those who have a genuine need, by reducing the amount of food that is available at any one time but making sure there is still enough available for those who have a genuine need.

Please, if possible, support environmentally-friendly household items. These can be purchased locally from The Refill Shed in Orvis Lane as well as other retail outlets. - *Fiona Trott and Jackie Reeves*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

*Last chances - don't miss the opportunity:*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> May** Men's breakfast at 9.00am - book your place via [stmarysebevents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysebevents@gmail.com) and see flyer
- 6<sup>th</sup> May** Take a Break coffee 10.00am-12.00 noon in the West End
- 9<sup>th</sup> May** Quiz (at the Constable Hall) 7.00pm for 7.30pm - not all questions will be about John Constable!

*Over the summer:*

- 6<sup>th</sup> June** Brass & Ivories concert at 7.00pm. Baroque and summertime classics.
- 7<sup>th</sup> June** Festival tea party at 4.00pm to celebrate the start of the flower festival
- 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June** Flower festival celebrating Constable 250
- 11<sup>th</sup> June** Bells and Bubbles - bellringing peal at 6.30pm to celebrate Constable's actual birthday
- 21<sup>st</sup> June** Concert by Tim Pells at 4.00pm, featuring music from John Constable's period - part of Constable 250
- 4<sup>th</sup> July** Men's breakfast at 9.00am - book your place via [stmarysebevents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysebevents@gmail.com)
- 18<sup>th</sup> July** Blues jazz concert. See flyer for further details.
- 26<sup>th</sup> July-5<sup>th</sup> August** Knitted Bible exhibition - see article about how to get involved

*Later in the year:*

- 5<sup>th</sup> September** Men's breakfast at 9.00am - book your place via [stmarysebevents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysebevents@gmail.com)
- 7<sup>th</sup> November** Men's breakfast at 9.00am - book your place via [stmarysebevents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysebevents@gmail.com)
- 15<sup>th</sup> November** Jubilate choral evensong
- 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas tree festival



## KNITTED BIBLE EXHIBITION



St Mary's Church is hosting an exhibition of knitted scenes from the Bible, depicting 36 stories from the Old and New Testaments. Originating in Hartlepool, the exhibition tours churches around the country. We are delighted to have it at St Mary's from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August this year. There will be activities and refreshments for visitors to enjoy each day.

In association with this exhibition, we have a wordsearch for you to enjoy. Please bring your completed wordsearch to the knitted Bible exhibition at the end of July, where a small prize will be awaiting you!

You can also help by knitting bunting (see pattern below) or donating double knitting wool (please leave at the back of the church). There will be organised knitting sessions in the church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June between 10.00am and 12.00 noon.

### Bunting pattern


This easy-knit triangle bunting pattern uses DK yarn and 4 mm (US 6) needles; it's perfect for using up scraps. Knit flat in garter stitch; the classic method involves casting on ~30-40 stitches, then using decrease rows (K2tog or SSK) at each edge every few rows until 3-5 stitches remain.

**Method:** Typically knit from the top down (casting on 30-40 sts) and decreasing to a point, or bottom-up (increasing). **Techniques:** Garter stitch (knit every row), decreasing (K2tog/SSK), and eyelet holes for ribbon (row 2: K1, yarn over, K2tog, repeat to end of row).

**Sizes:** A standard flag is roughly 15-18 cm wide. **Finishing:** Thread ribbon or an i-cord through the top row to string them together. - Jackie Reeves

### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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



**WORD LIST**

ACTS	JOHN
DANIEL	JONAH
EZRA	LUKE
HOSEA	MARK
JOB	RUTH

*Homemade*  
GIFTS MADE EASY

## ST MARY'S BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Every Friday during term-time,  
9.30am to 11.30am.

*We're a relaxed and fun play group  
that meets in the West End of  
St Mary's Church, East Bergholt for  
informal play, tasty snack time, coffee,  
tea and chat.*

For more information, please contact  
either Liz Digby (07557 569192,  
[liz.digby@btopenworld.com](mailto:liz.digby@btopenworld.com)) or Gill  
Rattray ([gillrattray@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gillrattray@yahoo.co.uk)).

May: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

A poster for a music event. The background is green with a treble clef and musical notes. The text reads: "John Etheridge's Blue Spirits Trio with special guest Vimala Rowe". Below the text is a photograph of the two musicians. The event details are: Date: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026; Time: Doors at 6.30pm, concert starts at 7pm; Venue: St Mary's Church, The Street, East Bergholt CO7 6TG; Ticket price: £20 with concession for under 16's - £10. Tickets via ticketsource link: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-bergholt-pcc/t-glyayz](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-bergholt-pcc/t-glyayz). Bar available at the church for the purchase of wine and soft drinks, but bring your own snacks.

**John Etheridge's Blue Spirits Trio**  
with special guest **Vimala Rowe**

**Date:**  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
**Time:**  
Doors at 6.30pm, concert starts at 7pm  
**Venue:**  
St Mary's Church, The Street, East Bergholt CO7 6TG  
**Ticket price:**  
£20 with concession for under 16's - £10

Tickets via ticketsource link:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-bergholt-pcc/t-glyayz](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-bergholt-pcc/t-glyayz)

Bar available at the church for the purchase of wine and soft drinks,  
but bring your own snacks.

## CONSTABLE QUIZ WITH SIMON JAY

*9<sup>th</sup> May at the Constable Hall - in aid of church funds*

As part of the village's Constable 250 celebrations, we are delighted to welcome quizmaster extraordinaire Simon Jay to East Bergholt. He will be bringing his unique quiz brand to the Constable Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

The evening will start with heads and tails and finish with a raffle, so please bring some cash. Teams of up to six people can be registered by contacting [stmarysevents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysevents@gmail.com). Tickets are £12 per person, in aid of the work of the church. - Jackie Reeves and Fiona Trott

## MOTHERS' UNION



Everyone is invited to join MU members and Friends on  
**May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm for an**  
**Ascension Day Communion Service**  
**Venue: St Mary's Church, East Bergholt**  
President and Preacher: Rev Catherine Forsdike, Mothers'  
Union Diocesan Chaplain  
*Refreshments will be served after the service*



as part of the village's  
celebration of Constable 250

**St Mary's Church East Bergholt**  
invites you to a

# Constable themed quiz

**At the Constable Hall, Gandish Road**

**On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**at 7pm for 7.30pm start**



**We are delighted to  
welcome Simon Jay,  
the well known  
Suffolk quizmaster  
to East Bergholt**

**Tickets cost £12; teams of 6**



For further  
information and to  
book your tickets,  
visit [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

## ST MARY'S FLOWER ARRANGERS

*A floral celebration of John Constable's legacy in East Bergholt*

In the beautiful surroundings of the village church, the St Mary's flower arranging team will create a unique gallery inspired by the landscapes that made Constable famous. Drawing on the natural beauty of East Bergholt and its surroundings, the display will feature a blend of locally grown and wild flowers, to create a sustainable experience.

The church will be open daily from 7<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> June, welcoming guests to explore this exhibition at their own pace.

The flower arrangers hope that visitors will feel as though they are stepping directly into Constable's countryside scenes, wandering through floral "lanes" reminiscent of the views he painted so famously. Carefully arranged displays will frame a collection of Constable-inspired artwork created by local schools and community groups, including the village nursery and WI. - *Laura Roberts*

## ST MARY'S BELLRINGERS

*Ringin in Constable 250 with Bells and Bubbles!*

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm, the church bells will ring out in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Constable's birth.

The bellringers will perform an amazing 250 rounds of bells, filling the air with the uplifting and memorable sound that echoes across the village Constable once called home.

We'd love you to join us at the bell cage in St Mary's churchyard to celebrate the occasion with a refreshing glass of alcohol-free, sparkling elderflower cordial.

Do come along to celebrate the legacy of one of England's most beloved artists in the heart of his home village. - *Laura Roberts*

**BELLS & BUBBLES**  
250 Celebratory Birthday Bell Ring

**THURSDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**6:30 PM**

**St Mary's Church**  
**Bell Ringing Team**

**KINDLY SPONSORED BY:**  
**The Refill Shed**  
**The Planet**

PLEASE JOIN US AT ST MARY'S BELL CAGE FOR 250 RINGS OF OUR UNIQUE BELLS & SOME SPARKLING ELDERFLOWER CORDIAL TO CELEBRATE JOHN CONSTABLE'S 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**FREE ENTRY**  
**DONATIONS WELCOME**

# *Celebrating John Constable*



## St Mary's Church Flower Festival 7<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

OPEN DAILY  
ST MARY'S CHURCH  
EAST BERGHOLT

FLOWER DISPLAYS WITH  
ARTWORK BY LOCAL  
SCHOOLS & GROUPS

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
DAILY FROM 10 AM  
WITH AFTERNOON TEA  
4:00PM 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

**FREE ENTRY**  
**DONATIONS WELCOME**



# LOCAL CHURCHES

## ST MARK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

St Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ  
Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road, Brantham CO11 1TB

Parish priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour  
The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ  
Tel: 01473 684963 Email: [revgoymour@gmail.com](mailto:revgoymour@gmail.com)  
website: [stmarksparish.org.uk](http://stmarksparish.org.uk)

Father Luke's Sunday sermons are available at [anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour](http://anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour)

### The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a much-neglected member of the Holy Trinity. We receive the Holy Spirit at our baptism and confirmation, but for many of us it's a bit like we've plugged in the lamp and forgotten to turn on the switch. On 24<sup>th</sup> May this year we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles in the upper room and inspired them to go out with great boldness to preach the Good News.

We can spend our lives trying to do things in our own strength, but the Holy Spirit has many gifts to give us. In Isaiah (61:1) it says: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners." *Holy Spirit, fill me with all the gifts I need to be a true witness of the love that God has for His people. Give me the strength and inspiration to share God's love with all I meet.*

### Weekday and Sunday masses and devotions

Please consult noticeboards and the parish website in case of weekday mass changes.

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5.30pm</b> St Mark's vigil mass, with confessions from 5.00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.00am</b> Holy Family mass
	<b>11.15am</b> St Mark's mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Holy Family mass, with Adoration from 9.20am
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9.30am</b> St Mark's mass
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12.15pm</b> St Mark's mass, with Adoration from 11.40am

### The sick and housebound

Please let Father Luke know of anyone who is ill at home, housebound or in hospital, so that they may receive appropriate pastoral care; he can be contacted on 01473 684963. If you or a family member are in hospital you can also contact the Catholic lay chaplain to Ipswich Hospital at [hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk](mailto:hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk). - Kathy Pollard



## BRANTHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Steve Mann (minister)

8 Roundridge Road, Capel St Mary IP9 2UG

Tel: 01473 311178

Email: [irmaminister@methodistic.org.uk](mailto:irmaminister@methodistic.org.uk)

### One step after another

Are you aware of the first two steps in an Alcoholics Anonymous programme? The first step acknowledges a person's powerlessness in the face of alcohol and their inability to manage their situation. The second reads like this: "We come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

As a person of faith, that has always intrigued me because it implies that either a God exists or, if not, it would be a good thing for our own wellbeing to imagine that there is a God.

I was reminded of those steps when thinking about what to write this month. It's hard to feel anything other than powerless when thinking about the present state of the world. It's a shambles, with countries we thought of as "decent" friends behaving badly - as well as those we have traditionally mistrusted. Commentators have described our moving away from a rules-based system of international relations to one where there are no meaningful consequences for powerful countries acting in any way they like, just like bullies in a school playground.

As a Christian, I look back to the Easter story and see a God who, in raising Jesus from the dead, turned despair and helplessness into renewed hope. If that is possible then all things are possible.

But you may not share my faith. If that's the case - and if you feel unable to cope with the state of the world around you - why not humour me and try those first two steps? Why not imagine there is a Power, a God greater than ourselves? Why not acknowledge those feelings of powerlessness, put your concerns into the hands of that God and pray that this world will be restored to sanity? - *Steve Mann*

### Sunday services (at 11.00am unless otherwise stated)

3 <sup>rd</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Local arrangement
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm	Rev Steve Mann
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Rev Vivienne Smith, with Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Bryan Nichols

### Coffee morning

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am-12.00 noon

# CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

**EAST BERGHOLT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (founded 1895)**

*eastbergholthorticulturalsociety.onesuffolk.net*  
*ebhs.horti@gmail.com • find us on Facebook and Instagram*



This month we have two events for our calendars, with another fast approaching in early June.

**Constable trees event, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, Constable Hall, 7.00pm-9.00pm**

We can now confirm our revised date, time and venue for this event, being run in conjunction with the East Bergholt Society. Come along to find out about trees and why they matter to our village and its landscape with our guest David Appleton, of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network. We will be providing the opportunity for you to sponsor or acquire a tree. (Saplings can be ordered for delivery in February; these will include native trees such as black poplar, hazel and silver birch.) We will explain how to plant and care for them during our talk.

**Plant sale, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, Lambe School, 9.00am-11.00am**

East Bergholt Horticultural Society

**PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY**

**16th MAY**

**9 - 11am**

(no buying before 9am)

**LAMBE SCHOOL**

**EAST BERGHOLT**

**Come along to our annual sale where many shrubs, bedding and vegetable plants will be on offer.**

**If you have any plants to donate we would be pleased to receive them.**

**Please contact Steve Feeney on 07801 090780 or email ebhs.horti@gmail.com**

This is an excellent opportunity to purchase a wide range of plants including house plants, herbaceous perennials, shrubs, bedding and vegetable plants. Plants are donated by our members and villagers, so if you have unloved house plants, spare cuttings, "self-seeders", or more flower and vegetable sowings than you need, please bring them along. You will have the satisfaction of knowing your plants have found a new home while raising money for the Society and our activities.

If you have plants which you wish to donate prior to the sale, please give Steve Feeney a call on 07801 090780, or send an email to the Society address and we can arrange collection. You can also bring plants along to the Society Store on Sundays between 9.30am and 10.30am.

## **RHS Hyde Hall Rose Weekend, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am-5.00pm**

This is a self-drive event, for Society members only, visiting RHS Hyde Hall during its Rose Weekend. It is an opportunity to explore the Hilltop Rose Garden and the Rose Rope Walk, attend rose-themed talks, take guided tours and view the craft stalls. Potted rose plants will also be for sale.

If you wish to attend please email your name and the names of your party to the Society so we can arrange for free entrance with RHS Hyde Hall. - *Steve Feeney, chairman*

## **Gardening tips for May**

As I write this on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the Easter weather forecast isn't promising...what's new?!

There's much to do in May. Sowing, planting, weeding, hoeing and mowing. Prune montana and other early-flowering clematis that have become straggly. Make sure all new shoots on rambler and climbing roses are securely tied. Trim back aubretia and yellow flowering alyssum once they have finished flowering, to keep plants compact. Divide large clumps of polyanthus and primulas. Smarten up cordylines by removing dead leaves and feeding plants. Keep hoeing those emerging weeds.

Toward the end of the month a start can be made on planting up hanging baskets and tubs. When planting up, mix a slow-release fertiliser with the compost (both are available, for members, at the Society Store, open on Sundays 9.30am-10.30am).

Don't cut the grass too short. Hopefully most of the moss will have gone. Feed grass and apply a selective weedkiller.

Earth up early potatoes as soon as shoots appear. Continue to sow seeds of your choice. Courgettes, tomatoes, mangetout and so on can be planted out. When planting runner beans, make sure that when they grow they will not put other plants in shadow. Continue to sow salad "stuff". Keep an eye out for pests; they love tender green shoots.

Don't forget the birds - fat balls and seeds are on sale at the Store. With longer days, enjoy your gardens, hopefully finding time to sit and admire your efforts, if the weather allows... - *Janet Alcoe*

**This magazine is delivered free of charge to almost 1,400 homes and businesses around East Bergholt. Contact details for editorial and advertising are on the back page.**

## MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



By the time you read this, club members may have enjoyed an evening trip to Harwich (depending on the weather), a field trip to Weeleyhall Wood Nature Reserve, and a prints competition (seascapes and landscapes).

In May we complete our programme for the 2025-2026 year, before taking a break from the regular meet-ups. Members will no doubt be taking lots of photographs during this break, developing their photographic skills, and bringing some of their pictures to next year's competitions. Members may also be set a summer challenge, though at this point we don't know what this will be.

Our programme for May is as follows:

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** Images of the Year  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** field trip to Aldeburgh and Shingle Street  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May** annual general meeting

Our club website has information about membership and activities together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our 2025-2026 programme is also on the website, and our public Facebook page features club news and activities (search for "Manningtree Photographic Club").

This month's featured image by Ian Parker was the winning image from our recent open colour prints competition.

We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills in the company of like-minded individuals.



If you have an interest in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS. We meet at Mistley Village Hall on the second, fourth and fifth Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm. For further information please contact our secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242, email us at [madps@post.com](mailto:madps@post.com) or visit [e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographicsociety](http://e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographicsociety). - Katharine Showell

## EAST BERGHOLT WI

At our April meeting John Robinson took us through the importance of making a lasting power of attorney while we are still able to do so. Without this in place it can take many months to sort out care and finances when these are needed. After answering members' questions, he gave out information packs to those who were interested.

Our next meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at the Constable Hall, when we will be discussing and voting on the resolutions that will be put forward at our national annual general meeting in June. This will be followed by cheese and wine.

For further information please contact our president Tina Hurley on 01206 298223 or Gill Rattray on 01206 298380, visit our website at [eastbergholtwi.wordpress.com](http://eastbergholtwi.wordpress.com), check out our Facebook page or just come along to our next meeting and see what we are all about. - *Gill Rattray*

## EAST BERGHOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

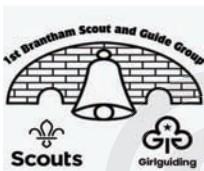
The committee has arranged an exciting community project for this year's Summer Fair on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June. To mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of John Constable, visitors to the fair will be invited to paint small sections of two large "paint by numbers" artworks inspired by famous Constable paintings. The artworks will also visit local schools so that the children can help complete them.

Ipswich Museum and the National Trust at Flatford have expressed interest in exhibiting the finished pieces. We thank Ipswich Museum, the Royal Academy and Guy Clubb of Clubb Creative, who have helped us to arrange this.

The Community Council's annual general meeting will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at the Constable Hall's Benneworth Lounge, 7.30pm for 7.45pm. - *Judith Adolphus*

### 1<sup>ST</sup> BRANTHAM SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP

*Opportunity to join the Trustee Board*



Our successful Guide and Scout group provides activities for more than a hundred local young people each week.

The Trustees work behind the scenes on strategy, performance, resources and assurance, working to ensure that the group is meeting the Scout Association and Guide Association overall aims and strategic goals. Our Trustees also oversee the management of our two charities.

If you have any of these qualities, you could contribute as a trustee:

- You're interested in helping an organisation that ensures young people get skills for life.
- You don't mind working with and talking to other people.
- You're a bit creative, or like to find solutions to problems.
- You like being organised.
- You are a team player and like hearing what other people have to say.
- You'd like to be more active in your local community.

If you've helped lead a project before, this will help, but we're not expecting you to have any prior experience. You don't need to have been in Scouts or Guides before - it's fine if you're completely new.

The Trustee Board meets four times a year and matters are dealt with via email between meetings. We are especially keen to hear from people who can support us with recruitment/marketing/publicity matters, administration or managing the group's risk register.

If you would like to find out more please get in touch with us at [julie.price@welseyscouts.org.uk](mailto:julie.price@welseyscouts.org.uk). Applications, outlining your interest in the role, should be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Our thanks**

Over recent years 1<sup>st</sup> Brantham Scout and Guide Group has been honoured to be remembered in the bequests and funeral collections of a number of people from our local community.

Some have had fond memories of involvement with the group as young people themselves, others have simply wanted to support such a long-standing local youth organisation, which has been at the heart of our community for more than 80 years.

Whatever the reason, we have been humbled by the donations and bequests received, which have been enormously beneficial to our financial position and the fundraising for Project 2017, our replacement headquarters building project.

If you or loved ones are considering remembering us in this way, either as sole beneficiaries or alongside other charities, we would be pleased to provide any further information you might like.

To contact us please email [julie.price@welseyscouts.org.uk](mailto:julie.price@welseyscouts.org.uk). - Julie Price, chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Brantham Scout and Guide Group



St Mary's, East Bergholt



St Michael's, Brantham



St Mary's, Bentley



St Mary's, Tattingsstone

## May 2026

### ST MARY'S, EAST BERGHOLT

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8.00am BCP Communion Service  
 10.30am [Connect Service \(at Tattingsstone\)](#)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am BCP Communion Service

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion  
 4.00pm family@church  
 6.30pm The Gathering

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am BCP Communion Service  
 10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Morning Worship  
 6.30pm The Gathering

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

10.00am [Benefice Communion Service \(at Tattingsstone\)](#)

### ST MICHAEL'S, BRANTHAM

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10.30am [Connect Service \(at Tattingsstone\)](#)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

10.30am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

11.00am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

10.30am Morning Worship  
 4.00pm Family at Church

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

10.00am [Benefice Communion Service \(at Tattingsstone\)](#)

### ST MARY'S, TATTINGSTONE

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10.30am [Connect Service](#)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

6.00pm Evensong

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

10.00am [Benefice Communion Service \(at Tattingsstone\)](#)

### ST MARY'S, BENTLEY

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10.30am [Connect Service \(at Tattingsstone\)](#)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Morning Worship with Pet Service.  
 Bring your pet along for a blessing.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

10.00am [Benefice Communion Service \(at Tattingsstone\)](#)

# CONSTABLE TREES EVENT

Tuesday 12 May 2026 | 7pm | Constable Hall

Celebrate trees in Constable country 🌿

Inspired by the black poplar – part of Constable 250 | In Our View

- Learn why trees matter locally
- For your garden or for the field landscape
- Discover how to plant & care for them
- Get involved in growing our village canopy
- Buy or sponsor a tree 🌳 (Saplings available from November)

Special Guest - David Appleton – Suffolk Tree Warden Network

🌿 Native trees available, including:

Black poplar • Hazel • Field maple • Silver birch

FREE ENTRY - (Saplings available for a small charge – supporting Suffolk Tree Warden Network)

EAST  
BERGHOLT  
SOCIETY



Grow a greener East Bergholt



# Painting Constable's Skies



Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of John  
Constable's Birth

11 June 1776

## in Watercolour

A workshop for those with some experience in  
painting with watercolours.

Lead by local artist Richard Taylor

11 June 2026

The Constable Memorial Hall

East Bergholt

Cost: £85 per person

09:00 to 17:00

For more information email

[Bookings@Constablehall.co.uk](mailto:Bookings@Constablehall.co.uk)

01206298638



## EAST BERGHOLT CINEMA

at the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt

Films start at 8.00pm, doors and ticket desk open at 7.30pm



**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

***One Battle After Another*** (15, 2 hrs 42 mins)

Bob is a washed-up revolutionary who lives in a state of stoned paranoia, surviving off-grid with his spirited and self-reliant daughter Willa. When his evil nemesis resurfaces and Willa goes missing, the former radical scrambles to find her, as both father and daughter battle the consequences of their pasts.

6x Oscar-winner, including Best Picture.

“Paul Thomas Anderson’s electrifying thriller has heists, showdowns and two of the best car chases in years” - *The Telegraph*



**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

***Hamnet*** (12A, 2 hrs 5 mins)

After losing their son Hamnet to plague, Agnes and William Shakespeare grapple with grief in 16th-century England. Agnes, a healer, must find strength to care for her surviving children while processing her devastating loss.

“Paul Mescal and Jessie Buckley beguile and captivate in audacious Shakespearean tragedy” - *The Guardian*

Tickets available online at [eb-cinema.sumupstore.com](http://eb-cinema.sumupstore.com). Alternatively, they can be bought in advance at Grier & Partners in East Bergholt or reserved by calling 01206 298368. We highly recommend that you buy a ticket in advance as seating capacity is limited. Films start at 8.00pm; front doors open and ticket desk available from 7.30pm. There is a bar, tea and coffee and ice creams. - *The EB Cinema Team*

**EAST BERGHOLT PACE  
(PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT)**

**Power Station - film screening and talk**

*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, Constable Hall, Gandish Road, CO7 6TP  
Doors open 7.30pm, film starts 8.00pm*

East Bergholt PACE is hosting a special screening of *Power Station*, a documentary about grassroots community action and what ordinary people can achieve when they pull together.

The 96-minute film follows artist-activists Hilary Powell and Dan Edelstyn, who set out to fit their entire street in Walthamstow with solar panels. Inspired by the community spirit of the lockdown years, they pitched the idea to their neighbours, slept on the roof of their home, raised finance, and even launched a bid for a Christmas number one single.

Funny, warm, and honest, it is a compelling argument that art and community spirit can change minds about what is possible.



The screening will be followed by a talk from Stour Power, a local community renewable energy group, and Howard Johns of POP Energy, a community energy entrepreneur.

Tickets cost £6 and are available on the night or online at [eb-cinema.sumupstore.com](http://eb-cinema.sumupstore.com). Contact [annecatherine.greatti@gmail.com](mailto:annecatherine.greatti@gmail.com) with any questions. - Anne-Ca Greatti

## THE CONSTABLE SINGERS

The Constable Singers are looking for people to join us. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm at the Congregational Church, Cemetery Lane, East Bergholt. We sing along to backing tracks, and our sessions feature songs from the musicals and a variety of popular songs. It's just for fun and no audition is needed. There is a small weekly subscription after a free first session. For further information please contact Terri on 01206 298508 or Mel on 01206 298628. - *Mel Tuttlebury*

## STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY SUMMER SINGING WORKSHOP

Our Summer Singing Workshop will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at the Oakroom, Acorn Village, Mistley, 10.30am-3.30pm, led by Susie Rose. This year we have teamed up with PACE Manningtree, and the workshop features in the Manningtree Earth Festival's programme of events. We will be learning some songs written in appreciation of the Earth's natural wonders, including For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter and What a Wonderful World, made famous by Louis Armstrong. There will be a short performance at the end of the day.

Participation costs £20 (£15 for SCS and Grace Notes choir members). Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch and a pencil. For a registration form please email [angeladclarke1963@gmail.com](mailto:angeladclarke1963@gmail.com). - *Angela Clarke*



### COMMUNITY CAFE

*Fridays at the Constable Hall,  
Gandish Road, CO7 6TP*

***Everyone welcome!***

*11.00am tea/coffee and a chat  
12.30pm a two-course lunch for £6*

*Booking for lunch is **essential**.*

**For more details call 01206 298638  
or 01206 298692.**



## EAST BERGHOLT AND BARBIZON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

### Dates for your diaries

Please come and meet us during the afternoon of **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**, when we will be participating in the Summer Fair. There will be a chance to win a French-themed hamper.

Our popular quiz night will be held this year on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November** in the Constable Hall. We appreciate your support not only in making this an enjoyable evening but also because it is our main source of fundraising.

Our biennial visit to Barbizon will be in **May next year**. Dates remain to be finalised but please consider joining us on this trip.

### ***Water Meadows near Salisbury, John Constable, 1820***

In 1830, the selection committee for the Royal Academy Exhibition accidentally assessed this painting as “a poor thing” and “very green” (i.e. immature). Although Constable, as an Academician, was entitled to have his work automatically accepted he chose not to defend his right to have the painting shown, and remained silent. - *Margaret Macallan*



# EAST BERGHOLT SOCIETY



## HISTORY TALKS

### **CURATING CONSTABLE EMMA ROODHOUSE**

- Saturday 16th May 2026
- Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt
- Doors open 7.00pm | Talk begins 7.30pm
- Tickets £5 [wegottickets.com](https://www.wegottickets.com) – Emma Roodhouse

Emma Roodhouse, Art Collections & Learning Curator at Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service and freelance researcher, gives an insider's view into the planning and launch of a Lottery-funded national celebration marking John Constable's 250th birthday. She is curating three major exhibitions at Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich this year, including the much-anticipated return of *The Hay Wain* to Suffolk. These exhibitions run from 28 March to 27 February next year and follow her acclaimed 2021 exhibition *Creating Constable*, for which she also authored a book. Emma's expertise is further highlighted through her contribution to the catalogue of the current Turner/Constable exhibition at Tate Britain.

## EAST BERGHOLT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



**The last month:** The weather relented in March and some order was restored, but there are still some double-headers to play in order to complete the season.

The First Team won two and lost one, which should ensure a finish in the top five, but they will be hoping to do better than that. The Reserves had a disappointing month in truth, with just one win and a draw in the League, and defeat in the Reserve Cup semi-final. They are still well-placed, though, and achieving second place is still a possibility for them.

The A Team also stuttered somewhat in March, with two League draws and a disappointing defeat in the Primary Cup semi-final. They are guaranteed a finish in the top four but will still be hoping to claim the runners-up spot.

### **Fixtures for May**

#### **First Team, SIL Premier Division**

4<sup>th</sup>, Old Newton Utd, H, 2.30pm

#### **Reserves, SIL Division Two**

2<sup>nd</sup>, Halesworth Town Devt, A, 2.30pm

5<sup>th</sup>, Samuels, H, 6.30pm

League fixtures are available at [fulltime.thefa.com](http://fulltime.thefa.com). Select *Suffolk & Ipswich League*. Fixtures are subject to change.

**Sponsorship:** We would like to thank our sponsors and player sponsors. We are also looking for more sponsorship for next season. If you would like to sponsor the club in some capacity we would be delighted to hear from you. Club strips, dugouts, banners and boards on matchdays all offer potential exposure for your business while supporting a local organisation.

**Juniors:** If you are interested in participating please contact Lee Partridge ([bunter.partridge@googlemail.com](mailto:bunter.partridge@googlemail.com)).

**Joining us:** We are always on the lookout for people who can help the club as a committee member, whether it be on the playing side or just in the background. We are also looking for new players.

EBUFC is a community club with very strong village traditions. The majority of the players either live in, or have links to, the village. For anyone over 16 who is interested in playing, we train on Wednesday evenings 8.00pm-10.00pm at East Bergholt High School. The teams cover a range of abilities, so if you want to play again just come along and give it a go. - *Steve Butcher, secretary, [stevebutcher55@btinternet.com](mailto:stevebutcher55@btinternet.com)*

## EAST BERGHOLT TENNIS CLUB



The club held its annual general meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, with club members joining the committee to recognise the achievements of the last year and vote on issues affecting the new season, which started on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Members re-elected the current committee to serve for a further 12 months and welcomed Lucy Wilsher, who is joining the committee to lead on communications, and Tom Simmonds, who is supporting our safeguarding activities. Big thanks to both for volunteering for these roles.

Huge thanks also goes to everyone who volunteers their time for developing and maintaining the club and its facilities, whether that's through maintenance, organising social activities, organising our tennis competitions or fundraising. The club will continue to thrive because of all the time contributed by our members.

The committee for 2026-2027 is made up of the following people, who can be contacted via the website or at the club:

<b>chair</b>	Marina Ericson
<b>vice chair</b>	Sara Wilcock
<b>treasurer</b>	Paul Lake
<b>membership secretary</b>	Alex Peak
<b>secretary</b>	Liz Hewitson
<b>safeguarding lead</b>	Jenny Biondi
<b>head coach</b>	Matthew Watson
<b>comms &amp; social media</b>	Lucy Wilsher
<b>volunteers</b>	Daney Wilkinson

The winter adult doubles leagues have finally finished - a long haul for everyone due to poor weather. We've had a good first season for our third mixed doubles team, and the men's doubles first team finished top of Division Two, which means promotion next winter.

It's been great fun (with some cold, wet evenings thrown in) and we're looking to build on these successes in our summer season of competition ahead.

Our junior section is also thriving, with junior coaching, competitions and kids' tennis camps, which attracted a great crowd during the Easter holidays.

If you are interested in joining our club please contact our coach, Matthew Watson [acetennis84@gmail.com](mailto:acetennis84@gmail.com), or visit our website at [eastbergholttennis.co.uk](http://eastbergholttennis.co.uk) - East Bergholt Tennis Club

## **EAST BERGHOLT UNITED SERVICES CLUB**

*New Victory Hall, White Horse Road, CO7 6TR*



The East Bergholt United Services Club (EBUSC) is a friendly, welcoming social club offering a great range of indoor games and a fully licensed bar. Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned player, you'll find a relaxed atmosphere and good company here.

Our facilities include two full size snooker tables, one pool table, two dartboards, card playing facilities and a fully licensed bar stocked with a wide range of beers, wines, spirits, soft drinks, and snacks - all reasonably priced. Our membership includes players of all abilities, from newcomers to experienced competitors, across all activities.



Club nights are Tuesday and Friday evenings, 7.00pm-11.00pm. The door is open to anyone who would like to play, try an activity for the first time, or simply enjoy a drink and socialise.

Competitions and social play include in house tournaments and leagues, participation in local leagues and competitions, and plenty of opportunities for casual, friendly games. We believe in playing competitively when you want to - and just for fun when you don't.

The club's facilities are available for private hire, and we regularly host other clubs, social groups and private events and gatherings.

Each year, club members select a local charity to support. Last year, we raised more than £500 for the Greyhound Trust. For more details about membership, fees, events, or private hire, visit us in person and have a chat with any of our members; phone Ross on 07837 404328 or Phil on 07789 220055; or email [info@ebusc.org.uk](mailto:info@ebusc.org.uk). - Colin Faux

## EAST BERGHOLT BOWLS CLUB

By the time you read this article we will be well on our way with the outdoor bowls season. Indoor carpet bowls finished on 31<sup>st</sup> March, and as predicted we finished mid-table. The top two teams in our league go up to the next league and it was a fight to the end, with the deciding match played on the last day of the season.



Hopefully by now the weather will have been kind to us and the outdoor league games will have started. The first few games are always a challenge, not only because of the weather - the green is hard work, and you need all your strength to bowl your woods up the green.

This year we have four or five new members; some have played before and have transferred from another club, but some are novices. Hopefully our coach will take them under his wing and they will enjoy the game.

Socially, we have had another coffee morning in the Lambe School and our pre-season fish-and-chip night. Strange how these social events are always food-orientated...

The club will be hosting the first of our Suffolk County games the first weekend in May, with all hands on deck to provide refreshments. Anyone is welcome to come and watch the county players, and if you think you would like to try bowls, please do come along on a Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon or Sunday morning. Just message me and I'll make sure there is someone there to speak with you.

Why not make it a family thing? Bowls is not age-specific. When we play against Framlingham they have a whole family in their team: mum, dad and five children starting at 11 years old. - *Terri Catchpole, terricatchpole@me.com*

## EAST BERGHOLT CRICKET CLUB



By the time you read this article the new cricket season will be underway. There is much excitement at the club, as the square has been well-prepared and the bright, new four-lane net system will be put to good use in its first full season. The main benefits of this are that all members of the club will be able to spend much more purposeful and well-directed time in practising their skills.

The club has made some excellent signings to bolster the chances of all the adult teams. The main ones of note include our new overseas player, 24-year-old fast bowler Nick Toohey from Sydney; Ollie Clark from Hadleigh; and the re-signing of our own Lewis Catlow. In addition, Freddie Philpot has signed from Dedham and two or three others are awaiting confirmation.

The 1st XI aims to be highly competitive in Div 1 throughout the season and the 2nd XI, skippered by Ed Goodchild, will be aiming for promotion to Div 5. The ladies' team also has a new captain in Emily Ritchie, who has worked hard with the ladies and junior girls over the winter.

The club will be running two adult Saturday sides, a development side on Sundays, a ladies' team and a girls' under 15 team. In the junior boys section there will be two teams at each age group - U11s, U13s and U15s.

We will also be holding the ever-popular primary school courses: All Stars for reception and Years 1 and 2, and Dynamos for Years 3, 4 and 5. There is still time to sign up, so go to the website at [ebcc.co.uk](http://ebcc.co.uk) and follow the instructions. It is always a lovely atmosphere on Saturdays.

Meanwhile, 14 club members will have benefited hugely from the course run at the club by Suffolk Cricket Board on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### **First home games**

The first home games for the various teams are as follows:

**1st XI** v Mildenhall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**2nd XI** v Mildenhall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**U13 Super 8s** v Hadleigh on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

**Sunday XI** v Ipswich CC on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

**U15 Blast** v Easton on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**U11 Pairs** v IES on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**U15 Super 8s** v Copdock on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

**U13 Blast 18** v Copdock on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

**U15 Girls** v Copdock on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

**U11 Super 8s** v Hadleigh on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

**Ladies' XI** v Felixstowe on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Your support for all 11 of the village teams would be much appreciated. Come and relax, enjoy the sunshine, or maybe pop into the bar for a cooling drink. There will also be a number of special events during the course of the season, beginning with the much-loved *Stars in Their Eyes* event in the Constable Hall at 7.00pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Have a happy, sunny summer. - *Howard Holdsworth, EBCC secretary*

# LOCAL ISSUES & OPINIONS

## UPDATE FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL



*Councillor Sallie Davies*

**Local government reorganisation:** The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has confirmed that three unitary councils will be created in Suffolk, replacing the current structure of Suffolk County Council and five district and borough councils: Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk.

The proposal to replace these five with one large unitary council covering the whole of Suffolk was rejected. Instead, each of the three new councils will provide all council services.

This is a change from the current system where services are split between the district and county councils. For example, the planning service is provided by Babergh District Council but transport and highway services are provided by Suffolk County Council. Babergh provides waste services while Suffolk provides adult social care and education.

By 2028 all these services will be under one local authority for each of three areas in Suffolk. East Bergholt will be part of the Ipswich and South Suffolk area. This will present challenges and opportunities. I will be able to tell you about elections, the size of the new “wards” and timescales as more details emerge.

**Brantham skatepark:** Brantham has received the maximum amount of district Community Infrastructure Levy money - £100,000 - to develop a skatepark. Brantham Parish Council plans to install a purpose-built skatepark for youngsters and the wider local community. The project has already been the subject of extensive consultation and aims to create an accessible and inclusive place for skateboarding, BMX riding, scooter riding and rollerblading. The funding would cover the majority of the project’s total cost.

**Biodiversity action plan:** At a cabinet meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February, Babergh District Council approved its updated Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for 2026-2030, developed by a cross-party working group. The plan reaffirms Babergh’s long-term commitment to the district’s natural environment, sets out how the council will continue to improve biodiversity on its own land, and outlines the steps it will take to support communities, landowners and partners into the future with:

- creating healthier habitats and reversing habitat loss;
- enhancing tree, hedgerow and wildflower planting;
- expanding wildlife corridors and networks;

- supporting wildlife recovery;
  - helping the district adapt to climate change; and
  - increasing engagement and awareness of biodiversity and its importance.
- *Sallie Davies, Babergh District Council councillor for East Bergholt, Sallie.davies@Babergh.gov.uk*



## UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

**Police community support officer:** East Bergholt Parish Council has decided, subject to finalising terms, to half-fund a police community support officer (PCSO) in partnership with Brantham Parish Council, on an initial two-year contract. The PCSO can help tackle traffic violations such as speeding, poor parking blocking pavements, and the dangerous confusion of traffic outside our schools at the start and end of the school day.

The PCSO can liaise closely with schools, teaching students road and personal safety measures. They would be a visible and uniformed presence walking around the village and an approachable contact point for people to ask for help.

The PCSO would be managed and trained by the Suffolk Constabulary area team but they would be dedicated to work in our two villages, spending 50% of their time in each and working to priorities established by each parish council. We now await a final decision from Brantham Parish Council before we can negotiate a contract with the police service. The PCSO is likely to cost each parish about £28,500 per year.

**Local government reorganisation:** See Sallie Davies's article above for details of the central government decision on reorganising local government in Suffolk. The Parish Council supported the three-unitary option, which has been adopted, as the best outcome for local democracy. Now we are preparing for the transition with a focus on protecting local interests and ensuring the parish's voice is heard. There will be both opportunities and challenges, particularly around local planning and development.

**Finances:** The Parish Council has reviewed its budget monitor for 2025-2026 and is pleased to report that finances remain well-managed. Total expenditure for the year was £162,996.09. While this was £2,996.09 above the precept, it remained £44,387.41 below the budget limit, reflecting careful financial planning. One committee exceeded its budget due to exceptional circumstances, but this was offset by underspends elsewhere, keeping overall spending within limits.

**Community Service Events:** These will continue to provide valuable support for residents, bringing together a range of local organisations and services every two months to offer free advice and practical help on health, wellbeing, cost-of-living support and financial

guidance. From 6<sup>th</sup> May, the events will move to Fields Kitchen & Farmshop and take place from 10.00am to 12.00 noon; all residents are warmly encouraged to come along, ask questions and find out more.

**Council meetings:** The Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Lambe School, starting at 7.30pm with an open public session. The next meetings are 14<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June. Committee meetings are also open to all. Dates can be found in the events section of the Parish Council website at [eastbergholt.org](http://eastbergholt.org). - *Nicki Reed*

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### HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF ST MARY'S CHURCH...

*...can you spare the cost of a cup of coffee?*

I don't worship at our historic church St Mary's, but I do support it in practical ways (for example, by giving my time to help out and by attending events), because it's an amazing building and because of the brilliant work of the numerous people who give up their time to make it a welcoming place for everyone. St Mary's has been central to East Bergholt village life since the 14th century and wants to be around and relevant for many more years.

There has over recent months been lots of work going on to redesign it as a space that is not only unique, but a place that can be used for worship and a multitude of other purposes for the benefit of our community, including concerts, exhibitions, drop-ins, and groups; the possibilities really are endless, with the right environment and will.

The church needs to raise £500,000 to match-fund a Lottery grant and I am asking you to help in a really simple way:

- The average price of a cup of takeaway coffee is £3.
- If 1,000 people (around half the village's population) gave up just one takeaway coffee (or other drink) a week and donated that money to St Mary's, it would raise £156,000 per year. £5 per week would raise £260,000 per year.
- So my simple ask is that 1,000 members of our community join me, give up one takeaway cuppa or drink a week, and donate the price of that to St Mary's.

Donating is really easy:

- By standing order to East Bergholt Parochial Church Council (Barclays Bank), sort code 20-22-67, account number 80074446, reference "Building Works".
- By contactless card - just go into the church and tap any of the card machines.
- Anonymously online - visit [parishgiving.org.uk](http://parishgiving.org.uk).

With 2026 seeing the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of John Constable, please let's come together and make sure that St Mary's is around to see his 500<sup>th</sup>. - *Andrew Meyer*

## RSPB FLATFORD WILDLIFE GARDEN

*Sketch like Constable*



As part of the Constable 250 celebrations, RSPB Flatford Wildlife Garden is inviting you to have a go at sketching like Constable in the garden. John Constable produced many small sketchbooks with very simple basic pencil drawings of the countryside, upon which he then based his big, colourful landscapes.

The wildlife garden is offering anyone, of any age, the opportunity to have fun and have a go at simple sketches of any features in the garden. Paper and pencils (and a chair!) will be available for free during the half-term holiday and throughout June, for you to enjoy a few minutes capturing some aspect of the nature and atmosphere of the wildlife garden. It is hoped to have enough sketches to assemble the equivalent of a sketchbook on one of the walls in the visitor centre.

You do not need artistic skill to have a go at this; anyone who can hold a pencil can easily achieve a small sketch and contribute to the display. Do come along, enjoy looking at the garden and get absorbed in recording what you see. - *Pamela K Rees, volunteer at RSPB Flatford Wildlife Garden*

### east bergholt



### heartwatch

### community first responders

### Could you help someone in an emergency & save a life?

- ✓ Are you aged between 18-70?
- ✓ Are you physically fit?
- ✓ Agree to a criminal record check (DBS)
- ✓ Agree to undertake training
- ✓ Hold a full driving licence & have the use of a car (no more than 3 points)



For more information please contact Carol Moss on [ecarol.moss@gmail.com](mailto:ecarol.moss@gmail.com)

Or: [eastbergholtheartwatch@gmail.com](mailto:eastbergholtheartwatch@gmail.com)

## UPDATE FROM PC KATIE



*PC Katie Jarrett*

As we move into the summer months, the lighter evenings are a welcome change for many. Unfortunately, they can also bring an increase in antisocial behaviour, which is frustrating and unfair to those trying to enjoy our beautiful area. Sadly, it only takes a few to spoil things for everyone else.

With the cost of living continuing to rise, we've also seen an increase in thefts from heating oil tanks, particularly in rural and more secluded locations. It's important to strengthen your security where possible.

Simple preventative measures can make a real difference:

- Fit an oil tank cap or lockable filler cap.
- Install a metal mesh security cage around the tank.
- Use motion activated lighting.
- Consider CCTV or smart camera systems.
- Fit an oil level sensor that alerts you to sudden drops.
- Keep garden gates locked.
- Stay in contact with your neighbours and look out for each other.

As the weather improves, more people will be spending time in their gardens. Naturally, this means windows and back doors may be left open, which can create opportunities for crime - please remain mindful.

We also receive regular reports relating to tree and hedge trimming. To clarify the law on this issue: you may cut back branches that overhang your property, but only the parts that cross the boundary line.

You cannot enter your neighbour's garden without permission, and remember - the cut branches legally belong to the tree's owner. You must offer them back and cannot dispose of them or throw them over the fence.

Parking and speeding near schools continue to remain concerns. Some schools have appointed their own Junior Road Safety Officers - pupils who help raise awareness about road safety near their school. I recently visited the primary schools in Hintlesham and Stutton, where we carried out speed checks together.

Don't forget: the next Police and Parish Forum is on 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm, at Capel St Mary community hall. - *PC Katie Jarrett, community police officer for Claydon, Copdock and the Peninsula*

## CONSTABLE MEDICAL PRACTICE

**In memory:** It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dr Charity Tetteh, our senior partner, passed away suddenly last month. The surgery has been inundated with messages of condolences and wishes, which have been wonderful to see and read, and we thank you for these. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of working with her, and by the many patients whose lives she touched.

During this difficult period, we would ask you to bear with us and show our staff kindness and consideration while we work through the various changes that need to be made at the practice. The loss of Dr Tetteh leaves us with a vast hole of experience.

**Important update - discontinuation of batch prescribing service:** After careful consideration by the practice team and consultation with local pharmacies, the practice has taken the decision to discontinue the batch prescribing service with immediate effect. This decision has been made in line with guidance and recommendations from NHS England. Patient safety remains our highest priority, particularly in relation to medication safety, medicines management, and ensuring appropriate monitoring and regular clinical review.

**How to order your repeat prescriptions:** Going forward, patients are asked to use one of the following methods to request repeat prescriptions:

- Online services - SystmOnline, GP online services, NHS app, NHS website.
- Pharmacy - request directly through your nominated pharmacy.
- Email - to [ccmp.prescriptions@nhs.net](mailto:ccmp.prescriptions@nhs.net). Always include your full name and date of birth, a full list of medication required and details of your nominated pharmacy.
- In person (paper requests) - complete your repeat prescription slip and hand it in or post it to the surgery.

- *Melanie Hodgkins*



## OLD HALL DAY FOR ARTISTS

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, Old Hall is opening its garden and house to be sketched and painted by visiting artists and art groups as part of the Constable 250 celebrations.

John Constable painted Old Hall in 1801, and later, in 1817, painted an elm tree in the Old Hall grounds, although the elm is no longer there; the artist lamented its loss in 1835.

Participating artists will also have access to land that was a part of the enclosures in East Bergholt during Constable's lifetime, found in the North Wing Garden. This land featured

in the paintings *A Celebration of the General* and *A Village Fair*, made before the enclosures, while the land in question was still held under common rights.

Toward the end of the day, we will invite the public into Old Hall to see some of the artists' works in progress. There will be an opportunity for artists to sell their work, either as it is or on completion. We will also have a piece of performance art by Justin Hopper and Tom Eglington, commissioned for the National Gallery in London and inspired by the enclosures in East Bergholt and the response of Constable and other writers and artists to these acts.

Please keep an eye on [www.eastbergholt.org/in-our-view](http://www.eastbergholt.org/in-our-view) for details and further information regarding timings, refreshments and other activities. - *Lois Hickey on behalf of Old Hall*



**LETTICE DYKES FOUNDATION TRUST FOR EAST BERGHOLT**

The Lettice Dykes Foundation Trust is a small charity which exists to support those who require help in funding their education. Grants are available for East Bergholt residents from commencement in reception year at age 4/5 to age 25, and are usually no more than £300. They can be awarded for a wide range of educational purposes including, for example, to help with course fees, travel costs, and course materials including books and course equipment.

When applying for help with course funding please be aware that the trustees prefer to provide assistance toward courses that are accredited/awarded/recognised by educational institutions/professional bodies, including those in connection with an apprenticeship.

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### COVER PHOTO

We are always looking for photos of seasonal events, interesting scenes, or flora and fauna of East Bergholt for the cover of our magazine. We are keen on receiving pictures of the village's architecture and heritage, as well as nature scenes. If you have taken a suitable photo, please send it to [barnaby.page@gmail.com](mailto:barnaby.page@gmail.com) for consideration. It should be in .jpg format, at the highest resolution possible, accompanied by a brief description and the photographer's name.  
This month's cover image is by Darius Laws.

**MAGAZINE EDITOR** - Barnaby Page - email: [barnaby.page@gmail.com](mailto:barnaby.page@gmail.com)

**EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS** - email: [eb.parish.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:eb.parish.magazine@gmail.com), or items can be placed in the Magazine Box in St Mary's Church. Deadline for copy is the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to each issue, earlier at Christmas.

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*Back cover photographs: courtesy of Daphne Glen and Steve Chapman.*

*Produced for East Bergholt PCC by Juniper House of Print: [sarah@jhprint.co.uk](mailto:sarah@jhprint.co.uk)*

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

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## **GOVERNMENT**

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Parish clerk Graham White ..... [parish.clerk@eastbergholtpc.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@eastbergholtpc.co.uk)/07801 368283

**Babergh District Council** ..... 0300 123 4000

Councillor Sallie Davies ..... [sallie.davies@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:sallie.davies@babergh.gov.uk)/07928 512598

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## **COMMUNITY**

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**East Bergholt Community Council:**

Stephen Miller..... [eastbergholtcommunitycouncil@outlook.com](mailto:eastbergholtcommunitycouncil@outlook.com)

**East Bergholt United Charities:** Louise Kemp ..... [eastbergholtunitedcharities@gmail.com](mailto:eastbergholtunitedcharities@gmail.com)

**Family history queries:** Mark Ashmore..... [goldfinch479@gmail.com](mailto:goldfinch479@gmail.com)

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