

THE STREET

SAVE THE
DATE:
RENDHAM
FETE - 4
JULY 2026



RENDHAM VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

<http://rendham.onesuffolk.net>

Clocks
go
forward
Sunday
29th
March.



FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026



Supported by Rendham Village Amenity Fund
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Editors: Judith Mellor & Pauline Carroll



It's that time of year again! The Rendham Village litter pick will take place from Sat 28 Feb - Sun 8 Mar. The 28 Feb will be to carry out a group pick along the B1119 (start time is 9am), with the 7 March as a backup in case of poor weather.

Many of my wonderful regular volunteers have already signed up, but if there is anyone else who can spare a few hours and would like to take part, please let me know and advise if you would prefer to help with the group pick or be allocated a section of the village to cover at your leisure. Litter pickers, rubbish sacks and hi-vis tabards will be provided. Many thanks for your support in keeping our village clear of litter.

Jackie Dyer

COMMEMORATIVE LILIES - ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



We're again planning to have memorial lilies in Rendham Church. Lilies in memory of family and friends will be on display over the weekend of April 4th & 5th and throughout the following week. The names of those to be remembered will also be displayed and read out at the morning service on Sunday, April 5th. If you would like to order a memorial lily, or lilies, please fill in the form at the back of St. Michael's Church before the end of Wednesday March 18th.

Lilies cost £4.00 each, with any proceeds going to Church funds. Please order and give your money to either Lynda Newson (663 325) or Lesley Bennion (663 737). Many thanks.
Lesley Bennion

The Street Questionnaire Results

Some of you may remember filling out a questionnaire on the future of The Street last year. We had a great response and general feedback seems to be that you value The Street and want the paper copy to continue (with some email development). Most of you either read it all, or almost all, and you find information on village events (future and past events) most useful. Thanks to everybody who participated. It's great to know that we're still producing something the village values and it's given us some pointers for the future.

Your Editors

CPR Training

There is a session of CPR and defibrillator training at Sweffling Hut on Saturday 7th February at 11am. No charge. If you are interested in attending please notify Denis to secure a place by email: d.moore003@btinternet.com

Denis Moore

Framlingham Horticultural Society - The United Free Church Hall

Talk/Slides by David Gibbons (Gardening Manager at The Red House, Aldeburgh - former home of Benjamin Britten & Peter Pears) on gardening at Historic properties. 11th February, 2.30pm, light refreshment, guests welcome £3.

Talk/Slides by Ben Potterton on The Jewels of Spring. 11th March, 2.30pm, light refreshment, guests welcome £3.

Spring Show, 21st March, 10am-11.45am for public.

Talk by Vivia Bamford "dragged through a hedge backwards". 8th April, 2.30pm, light refreshment, guests welcome £3.

PARK Volunteer Sessions

We will be having 3 volunteer sessions in the Spring as soon as the risk of frost bite has retreated!

- Cutting back ivy to the top hedgerow to allow the trees to regain their strength. Date TBC

- 28 March, 10am-12:30pm.

- Planting small replacement trees to the top hedgerow.

- Children's play area rejuvenation. Date TBC

CHURCH SERVICES - FEB / MAR

| | FEB 1 | FEB 8 | FEB 15 | FEB 22 | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| RENDHAM | | 9:30 Matins | | 9:30 Holy Comm | Ash Wednesday, 18th February, 11am Holy Comm. St Peter's Brusiyard |
| SWEFFLING | 9:30 Holy Comm | | 9:30 Matins | | |
| | MAR 1 | MAR 8 | MAR 15 | MAR 22 | |
| RENDHAM | | 9:30 Matins | | 9:30 Holy Comm | Palm Sunday, 29th March, 10am Benefice Comm, St Peter's Brusiyard |
| SWEFFLING | 9:30 Holy Comm | | 9:30 Matins - Mothering Sunday | | |

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, RENDHAM - CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT - Over Christmas, our Carol Service and Communion Service on Christmas Eve were both well attended and very happy occasions.

On 6 December our Christmas Coffee Morning was a huge success, raising over £1,000 for forthcoming repairs for the church. Very many thanks to Lesley Bennion and to all who worked so hard to achieve this, and especial thanks for two exceptionally generous donations.

Looking back over the past year, we would like to say how grateful we are to all those who have cut the grass, arranged the church flowers, rung the bells for services and cleaned our parish church. Thank you all for giving up so much of your time.

The Easter Lilies will be on display as usual on Sunday 5th April (please see information on Page 2). We wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2026. *Charles & Frances*



ACC Bus The bus to Norwich was very well supported, and a big Thank You goes to John McKee who held a fundraiser evening just before he died, in order to give a £50.00 donation towards the bus to help keep the price down.

Well done John, you will always be remembered.

Lynda Newson

ACC SPRING FLOWER SHOW - We are planning to hold the Spring Flower Show in Sweffling Hut on Saturday 11th April. Exhibits to the hut between 9.00 and 10am. Judging at 10am. Entry forms in village halls and on village websites. Show opens at 2pm. Entry £1 (includes tea/ coffee). Under 12s free. Presentation of cups at 3pm followed by Raffle. Enquiries, ring



Lynda on 663 325.

Lynda Newson



Thank you...thank you...thank you...thank you A big thank you to everyone who supported our Village Christmas Coffee Morning. It was a brilliant team effort - whether looking after a stall, baking, cooking in the kitchen, donating lovely things for the Gift Stall & Raffle, donating financially, setting up, clearing away. Phew, what a team we are! We raised £1,008.10, which after Gift Aid is claimed for some donations, will amount to £1,045.60. Thank you and very well done Rendham - yet again. *Lesley Bennion*



The Carol Singers would like to thank the kindness and generosity of Rendham villagers for their donations in support of Crisis for homelessness. We would also like to thank the Community Cafe and the Rendham book club for their additional donations. In all we collected £600 which was fantastic. The Carol Singers enjoyed themselves on a lovely winter's evening and we hope we gave you all a little festive spirit. Happy New Year. *The Carol Singers*

Just before we left Sweffling I spent a short time outside the house after dark, noticing the sounds which have been such a big part of our winter environment. The Tawny Owls, as always, were very noisy, with their familiar hooting call that we have talked about so often. One, in the large Oak tree in next door's drive, was particularly loud – we will certainly miss him! Tawny Owls are particularly strict about maintaining their territories from year to year, even in the winter. As nocturnal hunters, they need to learn to use their woodland homes very efficiently to survive and to raise a brood. Our local Little Owl, who has become so familiar this autumn, was also very vocal with his sharp ‘yapping’ noise.



Across the valley, in Dodd's wood, there is every winter an enormous gathering of crows, specifically of Jackdaws and Rooks. which assemble there to roost for the night. How they get any sleep I don't know – they seem to be making a racket for much of the night, which we could always hear when the wind was right. One winter I counted the Jackdaws as they gathered at dusk in a nearby field, and there were at least 1,500, with approximately as many Rooks! There are nowhere near that many Jackdaws in this bit of the valley, and they must gather from quite a wide area. Rooks use the roost only in mid-winter, as a superflock, after which they start using

their traditional rookeries as roosts in their local groups. In fact Rooks nest very early in the spring. In Rendham, (and a small rookery near the bridge in Sweffling), you will see them quite soon bringing in twigs to repair their nests.

It is a bit premature to tell you about the birds in our new Framlingham town garden, but we have set up bird feeders and will send records to the RSPB bird count at the end of January. I hope that there will be House Sparrows, which I like, and Starlings which we lost in our Sweffling garden



several years ago. More about these another time. But you can guess that we have a number of pigeons. Despite a complete lack of trees for shelter and nesting in this small town garden, there are a few Collared Doves, which wake us up as always with their three-note cooing. Wood Pigeons too are surprisingly tame, as often in towns. The earlier books I remember often referred to Wood Pigeons as ‘Ring Doves’ after the white markings on their necks, but this is hardly a ring, and as there is now another species called Collared Dove in our fauna, I am not sorry to see this old name go. More useful in identifying Wood Pigeons is the



large white crescent on the wings. In flight, this white wing mark shows clearly from several fields away, and distinguishes the Wood Pigeon from any other bird. In particular, it helps to distinguish this pigeon from its cousin, the Stock Dove, a farmland bird which is common enough in the Alde Valley although often overlooked, but which I do not expect to see in Framlingham. This is, I think, an attractive bird, a pretty blue-grey, with the wings in flight showing plain grey panels and with a darker border. In the Alde Valley they nest in holes in trees or in barns, as well as in owl nesting boxes. Finally, in ‘identification by numbers’, all three pigeons can be distinguished by the number of ‘coos’ in their song. Collared Doves make three coos, Stock Doves only two, and Wood Pigeons, count them, five.

Geoffrey Abbott

THE WHITE HORSE RENDHAM

Choose from a delicious menu and pair with a selection of wines and beers. Food available Weds-Sat 12pm-2pm / 6pm-8pm + Sun 12pm-2pm. Call 01728 666 527 to book .

JUNIPER BARN CAFE KITCHEN

Enjoy breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. Tues - Sat, 9am-3pm. Tel: 01394 834576 to book. Plus discover delicious local natural honey and other products too.

RENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Highlights from Rendham Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Minutes from the full council meeting are available on the Rendham Village [website](#)):

Budget setting and Precept approval – The Council agreed to request a precept of £4,094 for 2026/2027. This reflects a modest increase to help cover inflation, rising administrative costs, and the ongoing maintenance of Rendham Greens and PARK, ensuring the Council can continue delivering essential services and upkeep. This would result in a tax charge of £29.26 for a Band D property.

Report from District Councillor Vince Langdon-Morris – main points:

Tackling Health Inequalities in East Suffolk - A new partnership initiative – the East Suffolk Marmot Place – has been launched to address health inequalities across the district. The programme brings together East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and local NHS partners to improve access to health services, education, employment and housing.

Free Public Wi-Fi Extended in Local Towns - East Suffolk Council has expanded its free Wi-Fi network in Aldeburgh, Halesworth, Leiston and Saxmundham. The improved coverage supports residents, visitors and local businesses as part of the council's Digital Towns programme, which also provides useful data on visitor numbers to help strengthen local economies.

Report from County Councillor Stephen Burroughes – summary (full report available on the Rendham Village website): Suffolk continues to progress a wide range of initiatives, including a new low carbon heat network for Ipswich, improvements within Suffolk Fire & Rescue, the Sizewell C skills bursary, major investment in bus services and active travel, ongoing SEND improvements, safeguarding leaders' support for a single unitary authority, new Skills Bootcamps across the region, strong firefighter recruitment, continued investment in road maintenance, free home energy upgrades for eligible households, and the forthcoming LionLink consultation encouraging local participation.

Dog Poo Bins - The Parish Council is looking into installing an additional dog poo bin to help reduce dog fouling in the village and support responsible dog owners. A street furniture licence application for installing the new dog poo bin has been submitted, as the proposed location falls under The Suffolk Highways. The new bin is planned for the verge on Sandy Lane, just before Rookery Farm Lane.

Rendham / Saxmundham Junction - It was noted at the Parish Council meeting that County Councillor Stephen Burroughes, in his email, advised that Suffolk Highways are in discussions with Sizewell C about potential improvements to the Rendham / Saxmundham junction, with a meeting scheduled for 31 January 2026. The Parish Council will be sending its concerns for him to raise at that meeting, including

Continued on next page

junction safety, increased traffic, possible traffic redirecting options, and inconsistent speed limits on the A12 during roadworks.

Grit Bins - Parish Councillors discussed the importance of grit bins during cold weather, particularly where icy junctions and slopes make manoeuvring difficult for residents. The costs of purchasing and maintaining grit bins, along with suitable locations, will be considered and reviewed at the next PC meeting.

Speed Indicator Devices (SID) - It was noted that installing Speed Indicator Devices is challenging, as there are no suitable locations where they would operate effectively. The Parish Council will therefore not take further action on SID signs at this time, but will continue to explore other possible cost-effective options for calming traffic in the village.

Upcoming PC meetings - Villagers are warmly encouraged to attend Parish Council meetings – your presence and input are always welcome. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Parish Clerk at rendhampc@gmail.com.

The next Full Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 9th March 2026, starting at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall. Residents are warmly invited to attend, share their views, and stay informed about local matters.



RENDHAM PARK

Plans are afoot at Rendham PARK (Play Area for Rendham Kids)! The boules courts are only a year old and have been a great success, especially on Friday afternoons. We're now moving onto Phase 2 of our plans for increasing the use of the PARK.

Our October volunteer session did a great job of preparing for this next phase, exposing about 6 feet of field we didn't know we had! This is to facilitate the works which include disabled

access with a new wider gate and a hard gravel path in to a new south-facing terrace beside the boules court. This will provide a level seating area from which we can not only enjoy the boules but the view over the Alde valley towards Sweffling and (hopefully) the sun.

Behind the terrace, volunteers will have an opportunity to put their carpentry skills to use by constructing a raised flower bed. In the latest horticultural trend, this will be topped by 3-4" of sand, making Rendham (quite possibly) the first public space in Suffolk to have a sand garden.

Growing plants in sand is supposed to help them deal with climate change. The plants develop longer and more resilient root systems while the layer of sand acts as a mulch, locking in any moisture and allowing the plant to cope better in times of drought. We of the PARK subcommittee are suckers for the latest fashion and it should at least make weeding easier!

As well as the new garden and seating area, we will have a shed in which we can store various pieces of sports/play equipment. At present, we have two boules score boards, beautifully constructed by Peter Turner, and are looking at what else would increase the PARK's popularity.

Parks Sub Committee



The Buildings of Rendham - Corner House, Old General Stores One of the most prominent buildings in Rendham, the Corner House was, since at least 1841, the village shop, general stores and post office. This was just one of the shops and businesses of Rendham past. You can see evidence of previous shop buildings in (probably) the large picture window of Trinity Cottage and the name of the Old Bakery cottage next door.



Corner House is L-shaped with the main east facing building on the Street and a slightly lower side wing facing Bruisyard Road. As with most of the older houses in Rendham, this would once have been several cottages now combined into one dwelling. It is easy to imagine the front building divided into 3 but the Bruisyard Road wing was also 3, possibly 4, dwellings, whose ghostly presence can be detected by

several changes in level and internal walls/fireplaces that have not (or only partly) been removed for structural reasons. Corner House may hold the record for combined cottages (6/7) unless you know differently.



The main frontage is a handsome brick facade, topped by a substantial tiled roof. According to English Heritage this is a mid-late 18th century facade concealing an earlier core. There was a fashion in the 18th century for cladding the front of timber framed buildings with brick to make them look modern. The brick cladding wraps around the south and east elevation of Corner House but stops abruptly on the north elevation. Someone spent quite a lot of money on this

property in the 18th century, making it look like one substantial property. We don't as yet know who.



The earlier history of the building is at once evident when you go inside. Instead of a Georgian interior, you are met by timber framing. The double height entrance space is a modern alteration, possibly resulting from an abandoned design to install a staircase. It recalls an Elizabethan theatre in miniature and brings light and space into the ground floor. Many thanks to Maggie and Johnny Burcham for letting us write about their home.

Rendham Quiz Night Saturday 24th January saw Rendham Village Hall hold a fun quiz evening where those attending were challenged with a range of questions on a variety of subjects. A 2-course meal was served and drinks were available from a licensed bar. Coupled with the statutory village hall raffle, a sum of £550 was raised. These proceeds will be used in maintaining the fabric of our aging Victorian former schoolhouse building. I would like to thank everyone who supported the event and for all the donations of cash, food, time and raffle prizes. *Denis Moore on behalf of the Trustees, RVH Mgmt Committee*

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH / VILLAGE HAPPENINGS EMAIL

If you wish to receive the Neighbourhood Watch / Village Happenings email please email rendhamneighbourhoodemails@gmail.com



St Elizabeth Hospice 01473 727776

www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk

Donations of clothes, toys, household items gratefully accepted.



Sausage & Mash Evening
Bruisyard VH, Saturday 25th
April, 7pm for 7:30pm

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE - Sweffling

White Horse from 15:45- 16:00. 13 Feb, 13 Mar and 10 Apr.

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

- 3 Rendham Community Cafe, 10am, RVH
- 7 CPR Training, 11am, Sweffling Hut
- 11 Fram Horticultural Soc.Talk, 2:30pm
- 13 Mobile Library, 3:45-4pm
- 28 Rendham Litter Pick, 9am

MARCH

- 3 Rendham Community Cafe, 10am,
- 9 Parish Council Meeting, 7:30pm, RVH
- 11 Fram Horticultural Soc.Talk, 2:30pm
- 13 Mobile Library, 3:45-4pm
- 14 Lent Charity Soup Lunch, 12pm, Sweffling
- 21 Fram Horticultural Soc.Spring Show, 10:30
- 28 PARK Volunteer Session, 10am, Rendham

APRIL

- 5 Rendham Easter Service, 5pm
- 7 Rendham Community Cafe, 10am, RVH
- 8 Fram Horticultural Soc.Talk, 2:30pm
- 10 Mobile Library, 3:45-4pm
- 11 ACC Spring Flower Show, 2pm

FRAMLINGHAM SURGERY

01728 723627

Dispensary: (01728) 723957

framlinghamsurgery.co.uk

SAXMUNDHAM

SURGERY:

01728 602022

saxquax.co.uk

Suffolk Coastal Filling Station -

A chance for Christians and non-Christians to come together to share hospitality, sing their hearts out and hear inspirational speakers.

Riverside Centre, Stratford St
Andrew. Feb 26, March 26, April 23. 7pm for 7:30pm



LENT CHARITY SOUP LUNCH - In aid of

famine relief. Wide variety of home-made soup and bread (incl. Veg + GF). 12-2pm, 14th March. £6 adults, £3 children. Raffle. Sweffling Village Hut.

Aldeburgh Music Club presents
AN EVENING WITH MOZART
 Snape Maltings Concert Hall
 Saturday 28 March 2026 at 7.30pm



Solemn Vespers *K339*
Exultate, jubilate *K165*
Requiem in D minor *K626*
The New Norfolk Choral Edition

Aldeburgh Music Club Choir
Laura Morgan *soprano*
Katherine Nicholson *contralto*
Richard Edgar-Wilson *tenor*
Matthew Crow *bass*

Prometheus Orchestra
Tom Appleton conductor



Aldeburgh Music Club
founded by Benjamin Britten in 1948

Tickets: £35, £25, £20, £15
Under 18s half price
www.brittenpearsarts.org

YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY - What's On!

Saxmundham Library has lots of activities to choose from - come along and learn a new skill or join a club.

Regular sessions include: Books, Banter & Biscuits, Knit & Natter, Lego Group, Mah Jong, Writing Group, Family History Group, Dementia & Long Term Health Conditions Support Group, Digital Champions Drop-in, Baby Bounce and much more. Plus, there are lots of free learning resources available to you with your library card and the chance to learn professional skills with LinkedIn Learning. And why not get involved - volunteer or work at the library. Visit www.suffolklibraries.co.uk for info.

Select & Collect at Saxmundham Library www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/select-and-collect

DEADLINE FOR APRIL / MAY STREET: 17 MARCH 2026

Email rendhamstreet@gmail.com The Street welcomes items for publication, but we reserve the right to edit. It is the responsibility of contributors to provide accurate details, **PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE**. We are limited to 8 pages so may not be able to publish everything we receive for each issue. Priority is given to dated village events. All items submitted for publication must carry a name & contact no / email address.