



Framfare



ISSUE No.227 THE FRAMLINGHAM NEWS

Jan/Feb 2025

COMING UP THIS WINTER

Aladdin

Puzzle House Pantomimes present
A FUN-FILLED FAMILY PANTO!



Castle
Community Rooms
FRAMLINGHAM
3.00 pm. Saturday 1st
February 2025

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ALADDIN - Castle Community Rooms Framlingham - Saturday 1st Feb - 3pm

Puzzle House Pantomimes present a traditional family pantomime based on the story of Aladdin. Our happy-go-lucky hero is the son of Widow Twankey, a poor washerwoman in the city of Peaktoosoon.

Aladdin dreams of the beautiful Jasmine, unaware that he is the only person who can set free the powerful forces contained in a Magic Lamp hidden in a cave in the Mountain of Dragons.

Join in with the songs, solve the puzzles on the way, and try to make sure that the wonderful Magic Lamp does not fall into the wrong hands!

Seven actors play the range of characters in a show full of songs, live keyboard music, thrills, spills and fun!

The Show starts at 3pm, with 2 acts and a short interval.
Performances end at approximately 4.45pm.
All tickets £7 Box Office tel:- 01379 384 656
www.puzzlehousepantomimes.weebly.com

FULL TOUR DATES: [

January - Sun 19th Crowfield Village Hall
Sat 25th Thorndon Village Hall
Sunday 26th Westerfield Village Hall
February Sat 1st Castle Community Rooms, Framlingham
Sun 2nd - Hoxne Village Hall

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL
ISSUE IS MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY

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NATURE NOTES

You may have heard that responsibility for management of The Mere is being returned from Suffolk Wildlife Trust to Framlingham College. The main reason for SWT's withdrawal is that they wish to concentrate their resources where they can make the biggest impact; in the grand scheme of things, The Mere is relatively small and somewhat isolated, although it obviously has connection with the River Ore running through it.

The change will take full effect next September and, in the meantime, SWT will work closely with the College to pass on advice and knowledge. The College have said that they will continue to protect The Mere's biodiversity and ensure that it continues to be a place of natural beauty for all to enjoy. They have thanked the SWT for their stewardship over the last 36 years. Perhaps it would also be appropriate to thank Ray and Wendy for all their efforts on the ground to keep things in good order.

If the old saying - "If ice in November will bear a duck, the winter will be all slush and muck" - still holds true (and it includes moorhens), it will turn out to be another mild and wet one. Writing this on the cusp of another named storm, that seems to be holding, so far.

The mild weather meant that I was still picking large (cabbage) white caterpillars off my vegetable plot well into November. Since then, the winter migrant birds have arrived; plenty of redwings and fieldfares, including one who has annexed our Bramley apple tree and its attendant windfalls, driving off any other thrushes that come within striking distance.

I have also seen a flock of seventy or so golden plover and a group (hardly enough to be a flock) of lapwing. The birds have also eaten all the berries off the holly tree in our front hedge, so we shan't be troubled with human thieves this year.

I think I forgot to wish you a merry Christmas last time, so will try to make amends with my best wishes for the new year.
Paul Collins

Paul pointed out that he has been penning these nature notes for 16 years! Congratulations Paul - what a star!



Chris Plant's recipe and reminiscences are on page 23 in this issue.



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FRAMLINGHAM 100 YEARS AGO

As seen through the eyes of the Framlingham Weekly News

Saturday January 3rd 1925

The pages now carry a number of ads regarding providing wireless sets- 'Opening the doors to music, song, speech and news hour after hour.'

But a warning from schoolmasters - WIRELESS IS A MENACE TO EDUCATION!

The youthful wireless enthusiast would rather occupy himself listening in rather than poring over home lessons.!

The possible use of the wireless as a means to increased education was obviously not apparent at the time. Ed

TREE ON LINE

Platelayers discovered a fir tree had fallen on the track this side of the 3rd level crossing. The tree was removed just in time before the outgoing train's arrival, thus avoiding a danger to life and possible serious damage to the train.

OLD & NEW

As 1924 drew to a close, at St Michel's Church there was an innovative watch-night service. On the stroke of midnight the bells proclaimed the birth of the New Year.

Meanwhile, across the road at The Assembly Hall, the Annual Steward's Ball was held with a large number of guests. With most effective decorations and music from the Norwich Orchestra, six hours of superlative enjoyment ensued.

STATION HOTEL SHARE-OUT CLUB

Tonight is the first pay-out night of the year from 8pm to 9pm.

Saturday January 10th 1925

FRAMLINGHAM CRICKET CLUB

Will hold a Whist Drive and Dance in St Michael's Rooms on Wednesday January 14th. Admission 1/6.

FRAMLINGHAM RIFLE CLUB

Annual Dinner & Prize-giving at The White Horse Inn on Thursday January 22nd at 6.30pm

EMPIRE'S VACANT SPACES.

Twelve Hundred British Families to Migrate

The British and Canadian governments signed an agreement under which 3,000 British families are to be transplanted to the Dominion over a period of 2 years.

The Canadian Government is determined to secure virile people for its vast empty spaces. It would prefer British settlers.

BRUNDISH WOMAN UNDER A TRAIN

Dreadful Accident at Framlingham Station

Last Friday afternoon, Miss Nellie Baldry, a farmer of Brundish was seeing off some friends on the 4.19 train and in giving them a final handshake just as the train was moving off, she slipped between the platform and the train, which was stopped as soon as possible.

She was immediately taken in Mr Abbot's car to Dr Dick's surgery and after medical treatment was conveyed to Ipswich hospital by Mr Potter in a taxi-cab.

One arm and 3 fingers had to be amputated and her head had also been injured.

She is reported to be making satisfactory progress.

Saturday 17th January 1925

NURSING

The Annual General Meeting of the Nursing Association was held in the United Methodist Schoolroom on Tuesday with about 30 members present.

The presented accounts showed about £70 in hand. This will however be spent in training another nurse as one of the present ones is due to leave in August.

Miss N. Brunning undertook to organise a Whist Drive and Dance for January 21st to augment the funds.

During these times it seemed Whist Drives/Dances were almost the sole means of raising funds for all the clubs and societies and worthy causes in the town.

SUPPER

The Choir and churchwardens were joined by Mr Wright the organist and Mr Mayhew, the Clerk and entertained to supper at The Rectory on Monday by kind invitation of the Rector and Mrs Lancaster.

The sumptuous repast was followed by games, songs etc and a most enjoyable evening was spent.



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FR AMLINGHAM 100 YEARS AGO

As seen through the eyes of the Framlingham Weekly News

Saturday 17th January 1925 continued

It seemed that interesting local news was very sparse, as in this issue the news consisted of a report of a resident in Station Road tripping whilst carrying a glass jar indoors and cutting her hand and Sidney Adams skidding on his bicycle in Bridge Street and colliding with a car - resulting in minor injuries.

YET ANOTHER WHIST DRIVE & DANCE - in St Michael's Rooms - this time in aid of the Cricket Club. A common amusement at this time being a competition to guess the number of peas in a jar - won by E. Banthorpe.

AVOICE FROMABROAD

Miss Clow of Castle Street received an interesting letter from her cousin, Mr David Clow, in Peterboro, Canada where he emigrated to over 50 years ago He is currently apple farming.

OBIT:- Mrs Coleman in her 89th year - yet another instance of the remarkable ages reached by most Framlingham people.

JUVENILE FESTIVITY

the Annual New Year Party for Church Sunday School and those attending the afternoon service in St Michael's Church was held on Thursday evening. It started off in the Assembly Hall with entertainment by conjurer Sidney Buck from Ipswich; followed by a sumptuous repast in St Michael's Rooms - then back to the Assembly Hall for an entertainment by the boys of the day school.

Father Christmas arrived laden with toys he distributed to each child, all of whom were given an orange at departure.

SUFFOLK FARM WORKERS MINIMUM WAGE - A Substantial Increase.

Orders were issued by the Agricultural Wages Board to come into effect January 26th.

7d an hour for a guaranteed week of 50 hours in summer [1st March to last Monday in October] and 48 hours in the winter.

Horsemen, Stockmen and Shepherds an additional weekly sum of 6/- to cover duties in connection with the care of animals. Overtime rate 9d an hour.

Saturday January 24th missing from archive.

Saturday 31st January 1925

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Winter Treat was held in the Forester's Hall on Thursday evening. A bountiful tea was followed by games and other amusements.

A great surprise was the appearance of 2 fairies complete with wings, wands and other adornments who distributed presents to all. At 10'o clock the happy gathering came to a close.
Very little local news in this issue.

Saturday February 7th 1925

FRAMLINGHAM

The Whist Drive in the Assembly Hall this week was to raise funds for the summer outing for the Church Sunday School Scholars. The evening concluded with 2 hours of dancing.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Funds are required for a new organ, the next event being 'Through Syria with a Camera' with the Rev T.J.Hosken on



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VILLAGE NEWS - SAXTEAD

The Chapel was now being used as a Parish Hall. The opening event was a concert last Wednesday comprised of comic songs and Suffolk patter from H. E. Peck, pianoforte solos, and singing.

On Friday evening there was a Whist Drive under the auspices of the Women's Conservative Association.

TRAGIC MIDNIGHT DISCOVERY AT DENNINGTON

Walter Ford, a farmer aged 46 was found drowned in a pond on the farm. He followed his usual custom that evening of tea with his family, and then reading the newspaper, and he seemed much as normal.

He left no communication regarding his final act.

OUR MEMBER

Lord Huntingfield, our exceedingly popular member of Parliament, has broken his leg whilst tobogganing during his visit to America. He writes that it has put a very severe dampener on his trip.

SOBER FRAMLINGHAM DIVISION

A good police report - only 2 convictions for drunkenness during the past year.

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FRAMLINGHAM 100 YEARS AGO

as seen through the eyes of the Framlingham Weekly News

Saturday 7th February 1925 continued..

MONDAY'S GREAT GALE

Extensive Damage

Framlingham and District experienced a very destructive gale last Monday night. By the morning every road and path in the town was littered with parts of roofs and other debris. Hardly a farmstack escaped from having the roofs torn away.

Electric wires in the town were being forced into contact emitting bright sparks. This side of Broadwater one of Mr Wakelyn's huge elms was uprooted, and fell across the road and blocked it for several hours.

February 14th issue is missing from the archive.

Saturday February 21st 1925

The Eye Division Women's Conservative Association organised a series of Whist Drives; the qualifying event in the Assembly Hall attracted 252 players - which is almost a record for the town!

SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON MONDAY

Army pensioner Frank Stannard was knocked down by a motorcyclist named Fox [a butler at Brandeston Hall] as he crossed the road outside the White Horse Inn.

He sustained severe injuries to his head and face. The motorcyclists' view was obstructed by a stationary bus.

FRAMLINGHAM LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting was held at The Crown on Saturday. The accounts showed an increased surplus from £67 to £72. The date of the next show will be on Thursday July 16th.

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FRAMLINGHAM - SUDDEN DEATH

Mrs Harriet Dickerson, of Albert Place, suddenly passed at midnight on Sunday. Though advancing in years [63], she was in her usual good health up to Saturday. The following day she felt ill and was medically attended. The illness was not thought to be serious and death was quite unexpected.

Many column inches were devoted to a long article on 'Why Do Dogs Bark'.

It was announced Lord And Lady Huntingfield had temporarily closed Heveningham Hall whilst they sojourned in Cadogan Square, Chelsea until May so that his Lordship could attend to his Parliamentary duties.

NEXT TIME:- March & April 1925

NEXT DEADLINE

MON FEB 10th

for the Mar/April 2025 issue

Any enquiries regarding advertising availability, rates, submission of articles etc should be emailed to stephbennell03@gmail.com. Print run is 1800

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Framlingham Fellowship news

At our October meeting we welcomed Steve Everett, a volunteer guide at RSPB Minsmere to talk about "Minsmere Autumn and the Red Deer Rut".

His talk was fascinating and the number of animals and insect found at Minsmere now is a testament to the work being done there.

Steve's presentation had beautiful photos and videos. At the back of the reserve part of which was once Mount Pleasant Farm is where the red deer are found.

Vans are used for the deer safaris on which you may also see sparrow hawks, red head partridges, kestrels, buzzards and stone curlews. With red deer there are stags and hinds.

The stags' antlers have points which increase in number as they age, 12 points make a Royal, 14 points make an Imperial and 16 points make a Monarch.

Our thanks to Steve for a truly fascinating afternoon.

Our November meeting was a brilliant demonstration from Sheila from Callendars, Sheila was able to show us how to make a bouquet, table decoration and a Christmas wreath.

These items were then raffled.

Our grateful thanks to Sheila for an entertaining and informative afternoon.

Our members have also been enjoying knitting hats to fit pine cones for decorating our Christmas Tree at the Church Christmas Tree Festival.

Ours meetings in 2025, include Thursday 16th January Chair yoga with Imogen Hayward,


Thursday 20th February will include Rev. Canon Chris Davey and his journey to Framlingham and Thursday 20th March will include John Bridges showing a film of the 1936 Framlingham Pageant.

Our meetings are open to all, include refreshments and we look forward to seeing new faces in 2024/2025, meetings on a Thursday start at 2.30pm, at The Crown Hotel.

For further information please email Framlingham-suffolk@sja.org.uk.

Our very grateful thanks to Gabriela at The Crown Hotel for providing us with such a lovely venue for 2024 and 2025 for our monthly meetings.

Framlingham Fellowship would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the last year and wish you a Happy New Year



FRAMLINGHAM'S FAMOUS



DOUBLE ST CHRISTMAS

ADVENT CALENDAR

WINDOWS

1ST DECEMBER - 5TH JANUARY

IN THIS PICTURESQUE, HISTORIC STREET, A DECORATED WINDOW IS REVEALED EACH DAY FROM THE 1ST TO THE 24TH DECEMBER SO THAT BY CHRISTMAS DAY ALMOST ALL THE HOUSES HAVE A WINDOW TO VIEW.

We hope that you will enjoy the window displays and give generously to the charities we have chosen for this year: Framlingham First Responders and Médecins Sans Frontières. Collection boxes will be placed in the street and online donations can be made via PayPal using the QR code on the left. Best viewed after dusk.

ON VIEW UNTIL SUNDAY 5th JANUARY

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Framlingham Medical Practice

Update as at December 2024

Welcome

We would like to welcome to the practice.
Harriet Trainee Dispenser

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Thank-you to those who completed the survey. This ran during October 2024 and has provided helpful patient insight to the surgery. Very briefly:

- ✍ An impressive 568 people completed responses. Most of these were completed by those attending Framlingham Surgery, with a minority via Survey Monkey online.
- ✍ The main method of arranging medical appointments with the Surgery is via phone or in person, at present.
- ✍ There is an opportunity to use digital means of communication, such as the NHS App, particularly for repeat prescriptions. This may be easier and quicker for patients than more traditional methods, providing that you use a smart phone. If you do, there is access to free NHS WiFi at the Surgery.
- ✍ From January 2025, we intend to promote use of the NHS App and provide help to set it up.
- ✍ The surgery now has a better insight into the methods of communication preferred by patients. This will inform improvements to communications from the surgery, particularly with regards to appointment provisions.
- ✍ There is room for improvements in the way the Surgery communicates with patients.
- ✍ There was interest from 77% of you to in participating in future surveys. This is very encouraging, as we aim to represent the views of as wide a group of patients as possible. Your help has been much appreciated.

Our next PPG meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23rd January at 12.30pm, Framlingham Surgery. To find out more or attend a PPG meeting as an observer, get in touch with the Medical Practice in the first instance by emailing framlingham.medicalpractice@nhs.net or ask one of the members of the steering group.

Repeat Medication Requests Advanced Notice

From 1st April 2025 Framlingham Medical Practice will NOT be accepting repeat medication requests by email. You can order your medication by the white repeat medication slip, SystmOnline and the NHS App.

Online Consultations Advanced Notice

April 2024 the government were planning to roll out new Online Consultation software for GP surgeries. This was delayed and ICB's were commissioned to support the new online consultation software rolled out in early 2025. The practice will be moving away from the eConsult request form and are moving to the Anima request platform. In order to use Anima patients will need to create a unique account. We will put out updates on Anima closer to the new software roll out.

POLITE NOTICE - Parking at Framlingham and Earl Soham Surgeries

Please can we ask patients who park in either Pembroke Road or Earl Soham Surgery, whilst visiting the practice to park considerately? Please ensure you do not park over or block our neighbour's driveways. Thank you very much.

Medical Students

Thank you to all the patients who have been consulted by our medical students in 2024. Your support allows them to develop their clinical skills. We will be welcoming more medical students during 2025. Please continue to support the students and help us to train them in general practice.

GP Training afternoons

In order for our GP's to stay clinically current and up to date the Integrated Care Board (ICB) provides a training afternoon a month. The next training afternoon will be Wednesday 12th February 2025. There will be no doctors or nurses on site from 1pm. The practice will be open for dispensary and face to face reception requests.

Research

The Practice has now been approved to undertake research projects. We now have our first research project underway. If you do not want to be contacted to take part in any research projects please let the practice know.

GREEN FINGERS TIPS

JANUARY

Prune apple and pear trees removing dead, damaged or diseased growth and aim to reduce canopy by 10 - 20%. Visit rhs.org.uk

for 'an easy guide to pruning'.

Prune gooseberries and redcurrants cutting side shoots to 3 buds from their base.

Remove about a quarter of old stems form established blackcurrant bushes.

Plan your veg growing in front of the fire for the coming season.

Cut off hellebore leaves at the base to discourage blackspot disease and show off the emerging flowers.

FEBRUARY

Chit potatoes - lay out tubers in a light frost-free place.

Prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering such as mahonia, winter jasmine, heathers.

Divide bulbs such as snowdrops and replant 'in the green'.

Prune wisteria side shoots to 3 buds from the base.

Renovate overgrown hedges with some pruning.

Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea.

Prune buddleia and elder.

Cut back overwintered hardy fuchsia

Mulch beds with garden compost.

A good time to move deciduous shrubs if they are in the wrong place.

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WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN Centipedes & Millipedes

Of the class of myriapods - which is Greek for 10,000 feet!

Centipede is Latin for 100 feet. Centipedes have a single pair of legs per segment so are quite nimble, compared to millipedes [Latin for a 1,000 feet], with 2 pairs of legs per segment.

They are carnivorous predators and their 1st pair of legs are re-modelled as piercing fangs to inject venom into their prey. They lurk mainly out of sight in the garden

Millipedes are mainly vegetarian and prefer to feed on rotting vegetation, grass clippings, decaying wood etc.

Centipedes munch on insects and invertebrates, such as spiders, slugs, worms, flies, woodlice. They do not breed by direct bodily contact like millipedes, but just leave sperm on the ground, which the female is then expected to pick up.

The young hatch from eggs and take 2 or 3 years shedding skins and growing more legs until mature. Their usual life span is 5 to 6 years. Millipedes live for 7 - 10 years.

There are nearly 50 species of centipedes recorded in the UK and they are in the food chain for shrews, toads, badgers and birds. *SB*

FITNESS with EILEEN



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Framlingham Brownies

1st FRAMLINGHAM BROWNIES

Since half term the Brownies have created edible bonfires using melted chocolate, broken up shreddies, chocolate matchmakers and jelly diamonds. We have also been thinking about the Brownie Promise and Law and how to keep them.

They all had great fun making their lanterns and were disappointed not to be able to show them off on the market hill - maybe next year. They have made decorations for their tree in the church and peg Father Christmases and Snowmen to take home.

We will be finishing the term with a party and can then look forward to more exciting things when we restart on 14 January.

1st Framlingham Brownies meet on Tuesdays between 5-6.30pm in the Scout & Guide HQ and we currently have space available.

If you would like to find out more, email 1stframlinghambrownies@gmail.com or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk to register your interest.

2ND FRAMLINGHAM BROWNIES

We started the Autumn term by welcoming 9 new girls to Brownies, several girls moving on from Rainbows and some, the younger sisters of former Brownies. We spent the first half of the term working towards the 'Reflect' Skills Builder in the Know Myself Theme. This involved finding out what qualities we shared with others and what qualities were unique to us. We also discovered our values by finding out what was important to us.

We ended the first half of the term by holding a weekend Halloween Activity Morning, where we welcomed lots of Brownies from the Sutton Heath Brownie Unit.

In the 2nd half of the term, we had fun with activities around Bonfire night and learnt how to safely strike a match to light a candle. We took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade, investigated how animals are re-homed and played Highland Games to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

We then made decorations for our Christmas Tree in the Framlingham Xmas Tree Festival. We finished the term with a Christmas Party and presented one Brownie with their Bronze Award and two Brownies with their silver awards.

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Framlingham Rainbows

Rainbows spent an enjoyable afternoon at half term making bread and biscuits, decorating leaf sun-catchers and crafting woodland animals in felt, foam and paper.

During our meetings we've learnt dances and singing games, made lanterns and

created lots of Christmas decorations for our tree in St Michael's, a window in Double Street, and to take home with us. As part of our badge work we have been learning about traditions that take place at different times of the year.

A visit to Mills Meadow was great fun, singing to some of the residents and making lots of glittery Christmas cards.

A huge thank you must go to Gill Knights who has retired as a leader after 6 years. Her help has been invaluable and we will miss her..

Claire Norman - Rainbow Leader



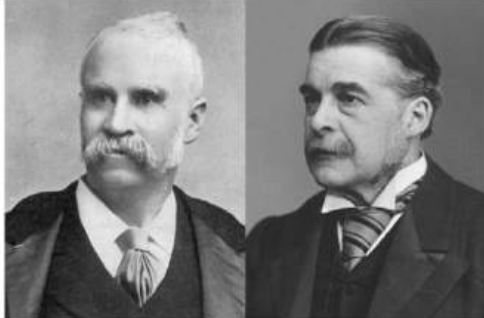
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The Suffolk Savoyards
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An A to Z of G&S



An alphabetical romp through the solos, duets, trios and quartets of the wonderful musical world of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Castle Community Rooms
FRAMLINGHAM

7.30pm, Sunday 9th March, 2025

Tickets £7. Box office: 01379 384 656

Tickets on the door subject to availability.

THE SUFFOLK SAVOYARDS
Sunday March 9th @ 7.30pm Castle Community Rooms, Framlingham

The concert features four singers and a keyboard player in an alphabetical romp through the solos, duets, trios and quartets of the wonderful music of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Beautiful melodies, witty lyrics, ah a host of wonderful characters combined to make Gilbert & Sullivan musical comedies among the most popular shows ever staged. Excerpts are taken from HMS. Pinafore, The Mikado, The Gondoliers, Iolanthe, The Pirates of Penzance, The Sorcerer, Yeomen of the Guard and Princess Ida.

Tickets £7

Box Office tel:- 01379 384 656

Tickets on the door subject to availability.

Next deadline for the Mar/Apr issue is
Mon 10th February
E: stephbennell03@gmail.com

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-
- 5 Jan - Café Style informal service
 - 12 - All the difference in the world
 - 19 - Wherever we are
 - 26 - Whatever we do
 - 2 Feb - Café Style informal service
 - 9 - Whoever we are
 - 16 - Together we grow
 - 23 - Giving our all

Weekly bible discussion and prayer groups on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings

www.framlinghambaptist.co.uk



As we look forward to the New Year we are reflecting on how extremely busy our branch has been in 2024. Fosterers were kept very busy caring for a large number of felines including many families of kittens. It looks as though we can expect more of the same in 2025. Our fundraisers have also been doing sterling work in helping to raise money for us to continue the work we do. The branch Christmas events were very successful and we hope that we can recruit more fundraising volunteers this year.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in the past year in so many ways: from attending events, donating cat food, money, gifts, knitted goods, volunteering and of course grateful thanks go to those who have adopted cats and kittens.

We must also mention and thank our wonderful local veterinary practices. From everyone in branch, we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Cats Looking for a Home: These little lovelies are brothers, Star, Gizmo and Cole. They are about six months old, are playful and have very sweet personalities.

They are now looking for their new start in life, either singly, in a pair, or all together! If you can offer them a loving home with a garden in a safe location, away from busy roads, please let us know if you could give them a happy new year!

Website: www.cats.org.uk/framandsax, email: enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk, or telephone 01728 723499 for more information about adopting cats in our care; how to become a member of the branch; event dates; neutering; cat-care leaflets; how to become a volunteer fundraiser or fosterer, make a donation and other ways you can support us.



Parent Support Group

Are you a parent / grandparent / carer of a child with Autism, ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia or a child with disabilities?

As a parent of two children with Autism and physical disabilities, I know how challenging and isolating life can be. I want families to know that they are not alone.

I would like to invite you to a parent group in Framlingham to share our stories, and to get advice and support from each other.

Location and times

FAYAP Youth and Arts Centre,
Saxtead Road, Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9HE
Thursday 9th January Friday 24th January
Thursday 6th February Friday 28th February
9am 10:30am (arrive at any time)
Tea and coffee provided

If you would like to join our WhatsApp group to chat, for updates or you have any questions, please

email your contact details to
framparentgroup@gmail.com

Contributed

Annabel Leggett
Counselling
Bsc Hons. MBACP
Face to Face and On Line



T: 07866 522124
E: annabelcounselling@outlook.com
W: www.annabellegettscounselling.com



Framlingham Town Council NEWS



Missing out on what the Town Council is up to? Subscribe to our monthly newsletter and get all the news by email. It's the easiest way of being informed of our work on a regular basis, and it's free!

Sign up to the email newsletter at: www.framlingham.com

JOIN FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Make a Difference in Your Community

Do you care about Framlingham and want to help shape its future? We're looking for enthusiastic and community-minded individuals to join the Town Council.

With three vacancies and an election coming up in January, now is the perfect time to step forward! Being a Town Councillor is a rewarding voluntary role where you'll have the opportunity to:

- Represent local residents
- Help make decisions on key issues affecting Framlingham
- Support projects that enhance our town

No prior experience is needed - just a passion for making Framlingham the best it can be! We offer training and you would join a team of friendly and committed Councillors.

Interested? Pop into our office [opposite the Castle Community Rooms] for an informal chat or email us on dtc@framlingham.com for more information.

Let's work together to make a positive impact.

FIRST WALK OF THE YEAR

All are welcome to join our friendly group of Framblers for our seasonal walk of 1.5 to 2 hrs. Please wear clothing and footwear suitable for the winter weather and uneven ground.

**NEW YEAR
RIGHTS OF WAY
WALK**

Organised by
Framlingham Town Council



**Saturday
11th January 2025**

Meet outside the Castle Community Rooms,
Church Street for a 10am start

A leisurely walk lasting approximately 1½-2 hrs

Well behaved dogs on lead and children welcome but must be accompanied.
Please wear footwear and clothing suitable for the weather and country paths.

There will be tea, coffee and biscuits after the walk in the Town Council Office.

For further information:
Telephone: 01728 720183 or
email: dtc@framlingham.com

PAGEANT FIELD PAVILION



The Pavilion is a lovely place to hold an activity, a birthday party or a meeting. It is especially good for families as it is on the Pageant Field next to the playground.

The hall can accommodate up to 15 people and is available at a cost of £25 for up to 4 hours with special rates for repeat bookings.

Double doors open on to a veranda with a wheelchair accessible ramp.

It includes toilet facilities and a kitchenette with a fridge..

For booking enquiries please email finance@framlingham.com or call the office on 01728 720183



Do you have a spare room that could be making you money?



Sizewell Housing grants could be the key to you making that space work for you.

Come along to one of our drop in sessions to find out more information and have your questions answered.



No need to book, just turn up

Leiston Library	Tuesday 19 November	9.30am - 12.30pm
Southwold Library	Wednesday 6 December	10am - 1pm
Framlingham Library	Tuesday 7 January	9.30am - 12.30pm
Saxmundham Library	Wednesday 15 January	9.30am - 12.30pm
Woodbridge Library	Monday 20 January	10am - 1pm
Aldeburgh Library	Wednesday 5 February	9.30am - 12.30pm

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sizewell-c-housing-grants



NEW YEAR CHANGES TO BIN COLLECTIONS

Bin collections will take place as normal on Monday 30th December and Tuesday 31st December.

Wednesday 1st January collection will be one day late and take place on Thursday 2nd January.

Thursday 2nd January collection will be one day late and take place on Friday 3rd January.

Friday 3rd January collection will be one day late and take place on Saturday 4th January.

You can check which bin is being collected at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/bin-collection.

As usual make sure they are out by 6am.

KEEP INFORMED.....

Keep informed by attending Town Council meetings in person, or via Teams, with the Full Town Council meetings normally held on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the Castle Community Rooms.

Dates for all Committee meetings, along with agendas, minutes and other meetings documents can be found on the Council part of the Fram website at www.framlinghamtown.gov.uk

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS & THE NEW YEAR



WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The opening on Saturday 7th December attracted large numbers of folk enjoying the festive atmosphere, scrummy cakes and delicious lunchtime soup. The Pop Chorus arrived mid-morning to entertain with festive music and brought much joy to everyone.

There was a variety of stalls, a raffle and an amazingly popular tombola.

On the right is a list of those organisations, clubs and societies which decorated the 41 trees which filled the church with twinkle and light.

Many thanks to all who decorated the trees.

The event was sponsored by The Town Council, Turner & Ellerby, Ian Moore of Susan Whymark Funeral Directors and Framlingham Girl Guides.



Tree-cycling

Leave the hassle of recycling your Christmas tree to us!

Your support will make a real difference to your local hospices

Collection dates:
9th and 10th
January 2025

Register your collection TODAY at just-helping.org.uk/register-tree

Registration closes: 5th January 2025
(May close early if capacity is reached)

Register, donate, leave your tree for collection - it's so simple!

Sponsored by: **George Baker**

Working in Partnership with Just Helping

IP1, IP2, IP3, IP4, IP5, IP6, IP7, IP8, IP9, IP10, IP11, IP12, IP13, IP14, IP15, IP16, IP17, IP18, CO11

each The Treehouse East Angles Children's Hospices
Elizabeth Hospice

Baby Café
Double Street Residents
Delhi Brotherhood
Cats Protection
FAYAP [Youth Action Partnership]
Fram Art Society
Fram Business Association
Fram Churches Together
Fram Community Garden
Fram Fairtrade
Fram Flower Club
Fram Foodbank
Fram Horticultural Society
Fram Knitters & Stitchers
Fram Library Friends
Framlingham Bellringers
Framlingham Brownies 1 & 2
Framlingham Cubs
Framlingham Guides
Framlingham Rainbows
Framlingham St John Fellowship
Framlingham Town Council
Framlingham WI
Friends of St Michael's Church
Granary Nursery School
HMP Warren Hill
Hour Community
Mills Meadow Care Home
Pop Chorus
Probus
Reading Between the Wines Book Club
Royal British Legion
Saxtead Trefoil Guild
Saxtead Village
Sing Praise
Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School
St Michael's Church Choir
Susan Whymark Funeral Directors
The Cake Bench
The Mills Charity- Mills Crescent

BOWES PLUMBING AND HEATING

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All plumbing and heating work undertaken.

Luxury bathrooms supplied and fitted

Free quotes.

Emergency call out

The trees will be on display until Wednesday January 1st. All are welcome to pop in and see them during the day from 10am to 4pm.

FILM@FRAM at 7.30pm in the Castle
Community Rooms [IP13 9BQ] on the 2nd Wednesday of
the month. Doors open 7pm.

Films coming up:-

Wed 8th Jan- The Outrun [2024] [15]

118 mins. Stars: Saoirse Ronan, Stephen Dillane
Rona returns to the Orkney Island after a decade of living on
the edge of London where she found and lost love. At age 30
she attempts to come to terms with her troubled past.

Wed 12th February - My Favourite Cake [2024] [12A]

97 mins. *Persian with subtitles*
70 year old widow Mahin, with a comfortable home and a
group of female friends, decides to shake her life up a bit and
sits near a 70 year old cabbie in a restaurant. She sets in
motion a meeting which proves to be full of a welcome
surprise to both of them.

For more information on these films visit
<https://mycommunitycinema.org.uk/cinemas/filmfram>
Facebook- filmatfram
Instagram- filmatfram

The Film Club is primarily for members but guests and
visitors are allowed. Membership £6 pa, April to March; £3
from October and £1.50 from January.
Entry contribution: Members £4 per film
Guests £6 per film

Film@Fram is sponsored by *The Crown Hotel; Callendar's
Florists; Castle Cleaners; Darren Smith Fishmonger; Fram DIY;
Huntingfield Estates; Leo's Deli; Riverside Garage.*

Supported by *Clarke & Simpson; Castle Community Rooms*



**FAIRTRADE shop in the
Library**

A fine choice of goodies available from
the Top Shelf Shop including scrummy

Divine Chocolate, Equal Exchange honey, Fairtrade
hot chocolate, organic cocoa, Clipper organic teabags,
organic sugar, all delicious and Fairtrade,
10% of all sales to The Library Friends' Funds.





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**All enquiries regarding
advertising availability, rates
etc should be sent via email to
stephbennell03@gmail.com**

Print run is 1800

**St Michael's Church
Framlingham**

Welcome to the
'Toast Rack'

*Tea, coffee,
biscuits, toast
and teacakes*

**1st & 3rd Sat of the month
10am - 12 noon**




BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR AT FRAMLINGHAM CHURCH

Wednesday 1st January is the last day the Christmas tree Festival will be on display in St Michael's Church - so if you haven't yet seen them this is your last chance before the decorations are removed in the following days.

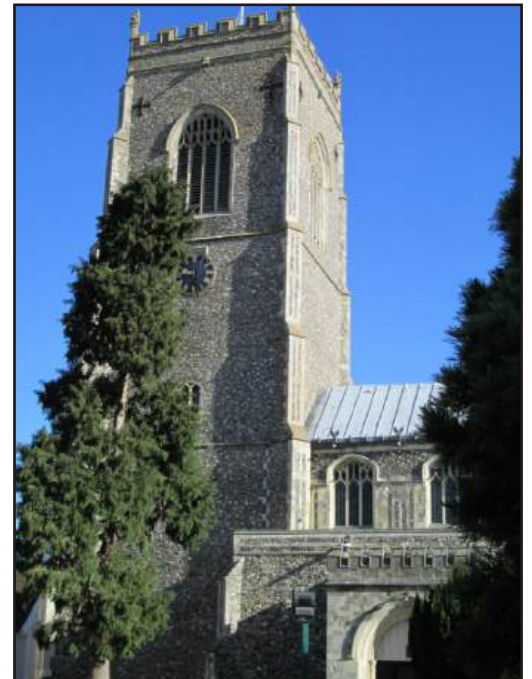
SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCERT

There is also a special concert on New Year's day to which all are welcome. It is suitable for all ages and the whole family.

Fraser Wilson and his musical friends from around Suffolk will be hosting the concert at 2.30pm lasting for about an hour. The programme will include all sorts of Christmas treats and music for the New Year; including Auld Lang Syne. Ding Dong Merrily on High, We Three Kings and many more..

There will be glasses of bubbly for everyone [with a soft option] to help toast in the New Year. Admission is Pay What You Want, and you are welcome to pay as much or as little as you like.

Book online at tinyurl.com/albionchoirevents
or email book@albiobchoir.org.uk



WITH ALL GOOD WISHES FOR THE
NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS,
ADVERTISERS, CONTRIBUTORS AND
PRINTERS FROM

Framfare.

Please note
that the
web version
of *Framfare*
is
currently
on
the
www.framlingham.com
website

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www.clarkeandsimpson.co.uk T: 01728 724200



**Clarke &
Simpson**

Letter from the Library

Welcome to 2025!

A big thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts for the Children's Library and associated works project!

We're pleased to announce that we have successfully raised the necessary funds. As I write, we are awaiting the final costings for the enabling works, and we hope to be able to share a start date soon.

Please note that there may be some short-term closures once the project begins, but we will keep you updated with all the details.

We also want to extend our thanks to everyone who donated toys for Christmas. These have been passed on to the Children's Hub at Leiston, where they will support local families.

Our regular activities are ongoing, including our **Warm Welcome Conversations** on Thursdays. Why not pop in at 10:00am for a chat and to find out what's going on at the library?

We are also excited to announce that we will be starting **tablet/iPad courses** in February! If you're interested, please

let us know. We're just awaiting confirmation of dates and times, and we'll keep you updated.

Our current art exhibition, curated by the **Framlingham Art Society**, features work from 19 talented local artists. All pieces are available for sale, with the commission benefitting Framlingham Library and supporting our ongoing initiatives.

Special Event 'Homecoming' with Melissa Harrison

Monday, 3rd March, 7:00pm Please book your place at the library.

Join us for an inspiring evening with author Melissa Harrison. *Homecoming* is a year-long course in noticing the beauty and stories unfolding around you, wherever you are. With monthly guides, bird songs to listen out for, beautiful illustrations, checklists, and tips, *Homecoming* will help you reconnect with nature, improve your wellbeing, and tune into the rhythm of the seasons.

By writing down the best thing you experience in nature each day, you'll learn how to build your own rituals and habits to carry you through the year.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the library!



NB:

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Editor/Publisher.

NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

All Suffolk Libraries will be closed on Wednesday 1st January.

Libraries will be closing early at 4pm on 27th December & Tuesday 31st December.

Library Opening Hours

Mon 9.30 - 12.30

Tues, Thurs 9.30- 17.30

Fri 9.30 - 17.30

Sat 9.30 - 17.00

Sun 11.00 - 15.00

Closed Wednesdays

PAST CHANGES IN FRAMLINGHAM

*Featuring pen and ink drawings by local artist
Bill Flemming*

THE BACK ENTRANCE TO CARLEY & CO IN FORE STREET

*Extract from a c1922 guide to Framlingham
“Messrs Carley & Co, the grocers and provision
merchants, have a large store on Market Hill. One of
their specialities is Harris bacon - which must be tasted
to be appreciated for what it is - the finest bacon the
world produces.*

*Wines and spirits, bottled ales and stout is another big
branch of the trade, and delivered by smart covered
motor-van are made within a wide radius.”*

Harris bacon factory was off the Hadleigh Road
Ipswich.

The crane shown was renovated by the local
Historic Society, at the suggestion of Tony Martin.
Bill Flemming



Above - Carley's delivery van with Percy Banthorpe
at the wheel.

Image from www.framlinghamarchive.org.uk where
you can find hundreds of photos from
Framlingham's past.



Ooh! Sore Feet? Ltd

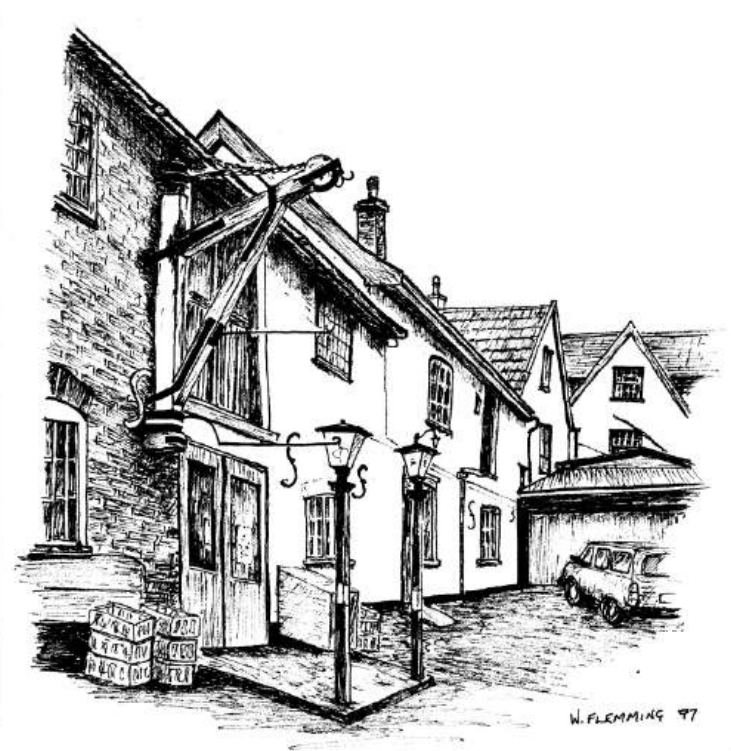
Fully Qualified and insured Foot Health Professionals

Due to the continued success of the company we are now
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We treat: **corns, calluses, ingrown nails, hard skin
the diabetic foot and carry out basic foot care**

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Dawn MAFHP Dip, MCFHP Dip: 0776 7455073
Mr Offord MAFHP Dip, MCFHP Dip: 0794 7971270
Hollie MAFHP Dip, MCFHP Dip: 0785 0170725



CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice offers help, guidance and support
with independent, confidential, free advice and
guidance at the point of delivery.

Drop-in appointments are available on a first-come,
first served basis at Woodbridge Library Mon 10-12
Wickham Market Resource centre
Tues 1.30 -3.30

Saxmundham Library Wed 10-12

Framlingham Library Fri 10-12

More info:-

www.leistoncab.org

THE NOTICE BOARD

Framlingham Flower Club

Our meetings are held in the new Community Rooms, Church Street, on the 4th Tuesday of each month [except August and December] beginning at 2.30pm.

Visitors are welcome @ £5 per session [max. 3 sessions per year.] Yearly membership is £35 from March to February.

Next meeting in January 2025

See website and noticeboards for more details of upcoming meetings.

<http://framlinghamflowerclub.onesuffolk.net>

FRAMLINGHAM ART SOCIETY

Talks In the United Free Church Hall - 2nd Friday of the month 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Tea & biscuits available.

Members free - guests £2

Annual membership £20

10th January - Spadge Hopkins - 'Metalwork & Sculpture'.

14th February - Member's Competition - Suffolk

www.framlinghamartsociety.co.uk

Contact: Lindsay Huggins 01728 621528

Maggie Peck 01728 724161

FRAMLINGHAM

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Winter Programme of meetings in the United Free Church Hall at 2.30pm with refreshments.

Free for members.

Guests are welcome @ £3. You can join on the day at a very modest annual sub of £5!

Wed 8th January -Gardener's Question Time
With the Bill Flemming [General Knowledge];
Ed Brown [retired Agronomist] and Steph
Bennell [organic, no-dig gardening and trees].

Wed 12th February - Talk with slides to be given by Thompson & Morgan [experts in the garden since 1855] -*Chelsea 2025 new plant of the year entries and latest new releases in the plant world - also their seed catalogues will be available. Plants for sale.*

The Spring Show will be held on Saturday 22nd March in the United Free Church Hall.
Entry is free to exhibit and open to all.
Class schedule available from:-
rogerandgwenetheridge78@gmail.com or tel
01728 724406

FRAMLINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings in the United Free Church Hall @7.30pm*

***Wed 22nd January** - *The Resurrection of the Medieval Rood* with Timothy Easton.

Please note this is by Zoom in our homes, and not in the United Free Church Hall

Wednesday 26th February -*The Great Colchester Earthquake of 1884* with Dr Jonathan Belsey.

Message From Pam Squirrel

I would like to thank all those people who kindly bought surplus fruit, vegetables, plants etc from my greenhouse and allotment that I have sold throughout the year from outside my premises in Bridge Street.

Thank you to those who have brought your surplus produce to sell.

Together we have raised £440 which I have sent to 'The Brain Tumour Research Charity'
Thank you again

Entries for the Noticeboard are free of charge for community groups



Country Vision

Independent Optician

James Underwood

Optometrist

11a Market Hill, Framlingham

01728 621250

Countryvision

A New Year Greeting to you all!

With flooding and extreme weather, climate change factors are becoming more obvious in Framlingham.

Over 70% of us have gas central heating, which is a fossil fuel planned to be phased out in 10 years.

Global supply problems result in higher bills. Data shows that per household we have a higher carbon footprint than our larger neighbours.

Part of that is due to our inefficient housing, and our high need for using cars to get around. As an agricultural, rural community we also need to improve our local biodiversity.

All these issues need addressing and in the New Year we have three projects planned so far:

✍️ **In January on the 25th** we will have a stall on the Market Hill. We will be giving away 'Homes for Nature' bird boxes and wild flower seeds for bees.

✍️ **In February** we launch 'Keep the Heat Fram'. We are looking for home owners to put their house forward to have thermal images taken free.

✍️ We will follow up with details of the results, advice and a leaflet outlining possible grants available.

✍️ To apply please contact: davidgreenacre7@gmail.com

✍️ **In March** we start the second phase of 'Splash of Colour'. A team will be sowing wild flower seeds and planting bulbs on green sites around the town where we have obtained permission from landowners.

✍️ We aim to hold our **AGM in May**. Look out for the details to follow on our brand-new website:

greenerfram.org.uk

Our projects arise from suggestions made by local residents and we aim to achieve these with support of Greener Fram volunteers.

If you have ideas for possible projects please tell us, or better still join us, because together we can take action to create positive change.



Web www.cult4x4.com	LAND ROVER SPECIALISTS	Cult 4x4 Ltd.
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Email info@cult4x4.com	Courtesy Cars Available	
Service MOT Accident Repair		
		Instagram: @cult4x4 Facebook: Cult 4x4

PHOENIX SINGERS' SPRING TERM EVENTS

Maybe you've made a New Year resolution to take up something you'd enjoy, or maybe you just want to beat the January blues. Come and join us and discover all the joy and benefits of choral singing! We're a choir of about 60 mixed voices based in Framlingham. Led by Geoff Lavery, our music director, we perform three concerts a year.

Our rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Framlingham. The first rehearsal of the spring term is on 8th January 2025 when we'll be preparing to sing works by Elgar and Faure, including the latter's much-loved *Requiem*. This will be performed on April 12th 2025 at Framlingham College, with professional soloists.

We welcome new members. Phoenix Singers is not an auditioned choir. Please email phoenixsingers@outlook.com for more details and to discuss membership.

You are warmly invited to join us for a choral workshop on Saturday 25th January 2025 (9.15am - 4.30pm), at Thomas Mills High School, Saxtead Rd, Framlingham, IP13 9HE. Proceeds will go to FIND a local charity for families in need. The cost for the day will be £20.00 (aged 18 or under free). Music scores and light refreshments will be provided. There will be an informal free concert, to which all are welcome, at 3.20pm.

For more details and to book your place at the workshop, visit our website, <http://phoenixsingers.onesuffolk.net/>.



Phoenix
singers



Raising money for
FIND
FAMILIES IN NEED



CHORAL WORKSHOP

Beat the January blues!

Join **Phoenix Singers** to sing **Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*** and short works by **Byrd, Mozart, Elgar and Bruckner** and **raise funds for FIND**, an Ipswich based charity which supports families in need.

Geoff Lavery will lead the day with accompanist **Richard Hubbard**.

Sectional and joint rehearsals
Informal free concert, all welcome, at 3.20pm

Saturday 25th January 2025
9.15am - 4.30pm
Thomas Mills High School,
Saxtead Rd, Framlingham, IP13 9HE
Cost for the day £20 (aged 18 or under free)

Music scores and light refreshments provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information visit our website: www.phoenixsingers.org.uk and to book your workshop place email phoenixsingers@outlook.com
 Phoenix Singers Charity number: 1076549



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XL Independent Financial Advisers Limited are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority [FCA]. Our FCA number is 415232

The chosen charities for this year are the Framlingham First Responders and Medicins de Frontieres.

Please remember that no expenses are taken by participants for costs incurred.

One of our residents not only designs the posters free of charge but also covers the cost of printing, so you can rest assured that any money donated goes to these charities.

All the Advent windows are best viewed after dusk. They will be displayed until Sunday 5th January 2025.

Double Street Residents.

Your **AWARD-WINNING** local Travel & Cruise **SPECIALISTS**
Fred. Olsen Travel Agents
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Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

175 YEARS IN EVERY SINGLE DAY

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Enjoy up to £300 on board spend per cabin on these sailings!



UP TO £200 ON BOARD SPEND PER CABIN!*

SPRINGTIME NORWEGIAN FJORDS
 BALMORAL
 1st April 2025 • 9 Nights
 Sail from Southampton

from **£999** per person



UP TO £150 ON BOARD SPEND PER CABIN!*

FRENCH RIVER CRUISING
 BALMORAL
 23rd May 2025 • 5 Nights
 Sail from Southampton

from **£749** per person



UP TO £250 ON BOARD SPEND PER CABIN!*

VOLCANIC VISTAS OF THE AZORES & MADEIRA
 BOREALIS
 4th July 2025 • 13 Nights
 Sail from Dover

from **£1,799** per person



UP TO £250 ON BOARD SPEND PER CABIN!*

WHALES, WATERFALLS & GEYSERS OF ICELAND
 BOREALIS
 17th July 2025 • 12 Nights
 Sail from Dover

from **£1,799** per person



UP TO £150 ON BOARD SPEND PER CABIN!*

SCENIC NORWEGIAN FJORDS
 BOREALIS
 29th July 2025 • 5 Nights
 Sail from Dover

from **£899** per person



UP TO £300 ON BOARD SPEND PER CABIN!*

COLOURS AND CHARMS OF THE AMALFI COAST
 BOREALIS
 26th August 2025 • 16 Nights
 Sail from Southampton

from **£2,599** per person

Exciting News! **BRAND NEW SUMMER 2026 SAILINGS ON SALE NOW!** *Ask for details*
 Talk to your cruise specialist today to find out more about the 2026 collection...

Terms & conditions apply. Prices are per person based on two adults sharing. Prices and offers may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice, are subject to availability and cannot be applied retrospectively. Information shown is correct at the time of going to print, fares and offers are capacity controlled and are subject to change at any time. *On board spend is based on double occupancy and amount varies depending on sailing duration. Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' standard terms and conditions apply. Ask your travel agent for full details. E&OE.

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Visit our website for all branch details
fredolsentravelagents.co.uk

Changing Rooms

I have always been interested in buildings, and particularly in changes of methods and customs of construction. What does strike me is the change in names of rooms that has occurred over the years. I grew up in a council house in Farnham, my mum and dad moved into it when it was new in 1947. Dad always called the kitchen a scullery. The lounge was a sitting room, and the spare downstairs room was the front room. The unplumbed toilet was always called the lav. The bathroom didn't have another name as there wasn't one! There was an integral storage room outside that was called the shod. In my younger days as an apprentice plumber I would often go to farm houses with a Backus (Back House), this was a room off the main kitchen where food was stored and kindling chopped etc. The person who worked in this room was called the Backus boy, and he was used for all the menial tasks in the house. At secondary school we were taught this Suffolk dialect poem:-

The Backus Boy

Thass seventy year come harvest time, since I fust went to wark, and tarned my hand to everything from arly morn to dark, an went bardsnestin in the spring when all the holls were green, an in the nuttury look to find hay jack and titty wren. When I was a backus boy.

King harrys allus used to build in a grut owd hulver tree, an if no eggs were in the nest "thass fit for an egg" say we, them mavishes and fulfers tew would sing a luvily tune an that owd cuckoo, he'd begin a huckerin come June. When I was a backus boy.

The hornpipes flew quaverin round when I went down the fen for kindling, but them vipers there they wholly scared me then, come winter time there'd be throshin days an I'd kill rats an meese till missus used to holler "boy ha you shet up them geese". When I was a backus boy.

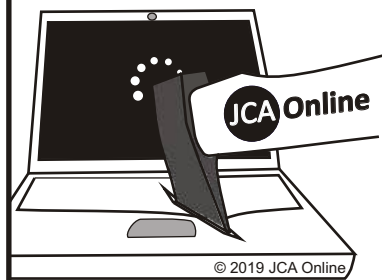
When barley in the barn they'd stack I used to ride the goof, round an round, my hoss an I until we reach the roof, an then the men would make a slip In the corn agin the side an push and shuff owd smiler in, plump to the ground he'd slide. When I was a backus boy.

An when my hans were blue wi cowd an my close were drippen wet, our missus she would ax me in, an by the fire I'd set ter git my wittles in the warm a rare good hearted one. An sometimes bakin days she'd say "catch Johnny, there's a bun". When I was a backus boy.

Ar bor ! The games we used to hev In the backus arter dark, for the mawthers up at sarvice there were master fond of a lark. But one night I was tittlin one when she shruck out "oh lord" our master he come boltin in an hulled me out abroad. That done me for backus boy.

An then I made voyages the north sea an home in springi In them there half an halfer boats till I give my gal a ring, the next I took a hossmans place an

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went to plough all day we used ter tarn our hosses with "Wheesh" an "cuppywhey". When I were a good full man. Come harvest time a cartin wheat, we'd take the field across an holler wen a shock was pitched "howd-je, goo on owd hoss". But now I've wrought my innards out an carn't dew nothin more, I set an think of them owd times for things ain't nothing what they wore. When I was a backus boy.

With local fresh fruit scarce try this alternative.

Winter fruit salad

Ingredients: 600g ready to eat dried fruit;

3 tsp clear honey

1 vanilla pod split lengthways or 1tsp of vanilla extract

1 Earl Grey tea bag: 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
mascarpone or Greek yogurt to serve

Method:-

Tip the fruits and 700ml cold water into a large saucepan. Add the honey and vanilla. Bring to the boil. Stir well, lower the heat and simmer for 10minutes until slightly syrupy. Take the pan off the heat and stir in the tea bag. Leave to infuse for 10 minutes. Discard the tea bag and vanilla pod (if used), tip the fruits into a non-metallic bowl and pour over the lemon juice. Stir, then leave to cool. Cover and chill until ready to serve with mascarpone or Greek yoghurt.

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2024 - A BRIEF RETROSPECT

The main event of 2023, Storm Babet on the 20th October cast long shadows over this year.

As I write, there are still people not yet back in their homes. The United Free Church Hall didn't re-open until November 23rd. So The Horticultural Society was grateful to The Railway Inn for hosting their 3 shows during this year.

The year's calendar of shows, events, pantomimes, concerts etc has now got back into its pre-covid state with just a few commissions such as FADS productions.

The most prominent feature of this year was Musical Shops! The Shoe Shop is just being worked on as I write, but sadly the very popular shoe sale business was unable to continue after problems with their insurance company.

The Post Office found a home at the back of Bulstrode's Shop until they were able to move back into their usual premises in May.

Barclays opened a Bank Hub at the rear of the Post Office on August 19th, occupying the space previously used as a sorting office. The latter re-located to Saxmundham following the flood, and eventually stayed

there.

On 31st January Bradlaugh Electrical closed after 43 years of serving the town's electrical needs in Fore Street. Their premises was then occupied by Susan Whymark Funeral Directors following their merger with Moore's Funeral Services.

Cross Ram & Co became Atkins Dellow in Church Street.

On July 1st Toby's Pet Shop moved into much larger premises at Charnwood Industrial estate following the closure of Scarlett & Mustard.

Their vacated Bridge Street premises was then swiftly moved into by the Majestic Hares who left Carleys Yard. Carleys Yard then became a holiday let. Are you all keeping up?

The Two Magpies opened a bakery and café in the old Barclays Bank premises.

Indacottage moved from Queens Head Alley to the ex-Christian Science church reading room in Fore Street in December, which had formerly been a saddlers in the 1920's.

At Christmas Sarah Cole will have closed the retail side of her Jewellery Studio in The Mews, but will continue to offer repairs, alterations and special commissions.

Sadly, The Cake Bench, after 2.5 successful years on Market Hill, will be closing by the end of the year.



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