

the Villager

The newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth March 2024



Included in this issue:

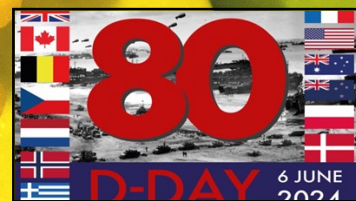
Defibrillator now installed at the One Stop Shop, page 6

News from youth organisations including the Scouts, pages 23-26

Reports from village clubs (the photo below is from the WI Christmas party) pages 11-13

Installation of new vicar, page 19

Plans for 80th anniversary of D-Day, page 15



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Tel: 01480 495984, or email us at Darren@ddbhomesolutions.co.uk



the Villager

The Newsletter of Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Published quarterly in March, June, September and December
Distributed free to every household in the parish of
Holywell-cum-Needingworth **Spring Issue, March 2024**

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring issue of our village newsletter. Spring - the first signs in the gardens are the snowdrops poking up, quickly followed by the early brightness of yellow daffodils as the days lengthen. We are told that the world's average temperature was up by 1.5°C last year and it has certainly been mild up to now here in the east of England with very few frosty mornings. The gardening club are well into planning for their plant sale in May and for the annual village show in June (article on page 13). Brownies and scouts are making plans to celebrate 70 years in the village and we are reminded that it is now 80 years since our troops returned to France, landing in Normandy on D-Day, 6th June 1944 (village plans to commemorate the event are on page 15). The church begins a new era with the installation of a new vicar for the Meridian Benefice, the Revd. Valmor Pimenta (church news is on page 19).



If you have anything you would like to include in the summer issue of the Villager please get in touch before the 1st May - contact details below. I always enjoy receiving your input.

Jennifer

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Next issue deadline:

1st May 2024 for June, July and August

The views expressed in this newsletter are submitted by readers and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council or the Editor. Dates and times of events have been submitted by the organisers of the events and are passed on in good faith. Please check with the organisers before attending. The Villager is supported by the Parish Council but published independently.

FLORAISON

Spring starts slowly, just a feeling in the air,
With tiny signs of life on frosty twigs,
Warm winds scatter late snow drifts,
Hard soil softens, hugging small green buds.

Demure snowdrops yield to vibrant daffodils,
The countryside soon veiled in golden silks,
Crocus, primrose, hyacinth . . . all make their way,
With rainbow hues awash on distant hills.

Bluebells blanket ancient woodland trails,
A glowing lilac haze beneath the canopy,
A time of rebirths, resurrections and regrowth,
If nature can renew herself then so can we.

Leaves unfurl, like new-hatched butterflies
And spread wide to embrace the sun,
Cherry blossom, with its fragrance sweet,
Flutters gently like confetti to the earth.

Above, a celestial blue with scattered clouds,
Like birds' white wings outstretched in joy,
Longer days and lighter nights for lingering,
And lambs in verdant fields enjoy their play.

© Helen O'Mahony Scribblers Writing Group

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PARISH COUNCIL

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Meet Your Parish Councillors

Councillor Andrew Whyte, Chairman



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

I am pleased to be serving my second term as Councillor on Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council.

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

Councillor Sarah Mortlock, Vice Chairman



I am a married, working mother of two daughters. I have lived in Needingworth for 29 years and have a passion for village life.

I enjoy meeting new people and in my spare time enjoy walks with my dogs, reading and spending time with my family. This is my second term on the Parish Council and my aim is to keep Holywell-cum-Needingworth a beautiful village to live in.

Committees: Appeals, Consultation, Environment (Chairman), HR, Leisure Facilities, Planning & Finance, Relief in Need Charity

Councillor Roy Fountain



I have lived in Needingworth for 21 years. Prior to retirement I was a graduate chemist and managed businesses throughout my career.

I have been a trustee of the Village Hall for 19 years and am involved with the annual Music Festival, the Village Hall's main fundraiser of the year.

I am a member of various village groups including the Beer & Wine Society, tennis club and the gardening club.

I am pleased to have been elected for my third term as a Parish Councillor and look forward to further serving my community.

Committees: Appeals, Consultation, Leisure Facilities, Planning & Finance

Councillor Tyler Head



I have lived in Needingworth all my life and have the people of this Parish to be thankful for who I am today. I attended Holywell C of E Primary school and went onto St. Ivo for Secondary education and 6th Form. It was at the Ivo where I became interested in History and Politics after studying them as A-levels.

My working life also began within the Parish as a glass washer at the Pike and Eel in April 2018. This was ideal for me back then as I wasn't particularly confident in myself, but as the years went by, I found myself growing, eventually reaching the point where I was working the bar, which was a far cry from where I began. Since May 2021 I now work at a local accountancy firm.

It is my wish to give back to the community who has helped me so much in my life so far.

Committees: Consultation, Environment, Planning & Finance

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CLERK Miss Jane Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall, Overcote Lane, Needingworth	468451
PARISH COUNCILLORS		
Mr A Whyte Chairman	23 Bramley Avenue	464223
Mr R Fountain	91 Ashton Close	496636
Mr T Head	36 The Furlongs	07452 992161
Mr A Holloway	Orchards End, Back Lane Holywell	467748
Mr D Jackson	Overcote Farm, Overcote Lane	466612
Mrs E Macpherson	6 Priory Road	0776 5214200
Mrs S Martin	21 Bramley Avenue	494920
Mrs E McNeill	Green Trees, Back Lane, Holywell	467212
Mrs S Mortlock	The Paddocks, Mill Way	462945
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green	466110
Mr C Pearce	22 Harris Crescent	468759
Mr M Williamson	3 Priory Close	465821
VACANCY		
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS		
Mr J Neish	7 Willow Green, Needingworth	01480 466110
Mr P Hodgson-Jones	Bluntisham House, Rectory Road, Bluntisham	01487 740778
COUNTY COUNCILLOR		
Mr K Reynolds	17 Virginia Way, St ves	01480 496006
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS		
Eleanor Hardy	email:hardy.derek@sky.com Tel: 07730 504220	
MILLFIELDS BOOKINGS		
Miss J Bowd	Needingworth Village Hall	468451

Parish Council Report

NOVEMBER

Full Council met on 7th November 2023 where the Clerk reported in her report to Council that HDC continue the feasibility study into the installation of electric charging points.

Also, that the new Parish noticeboard has been delivered to David Wilson Homes for installation on Turnpike Close.

Payments to be made on 9th November totalling £226.74 were approved and payments for period 4th October – 7th November totalling £21208.08 were also approved.

A contract for the annual tree works Mill Way cemetery was awarded with work to be carried out at a time in the future when ground conditions permit.

A draft Parish office licence to occupy the office at the village hall was referred to Birketts solicitors for advice prior to signing.

1 planning application was considered and supported.

Arrangements for Remembrance Day on Sunday 12th November 2023 were finalised.

A working party to arrange an event to commemorate D-Day 80 on 6th June 2024 was set up with 5 Councillors coming forward to sit on the group. (see separate article on page 15 for plans to date).

The Holy well & steps at St Johns churchyard were discussed at length following recent correspondence around responsibilities for maintenance. A working party formed to liaise with the Parochial Church Council to establish a record of the responsibilities of both parties.

It was agreed to submit a Local Highways improvement BID to improve the footpath along Mill Way to provide a safe walking route between the school and Millfield's.

A separate Budget meeting was held on 28th November 2023 when the Precept was set at £137090.00 a below inflation increase of £3.03 per annum on a Band D property.

DECEMBER

At the December meeting Council noted the resignation of Cllr Mitcham. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write and thank Mr Mitcham for his time on the Council.

District Councillor Paul Hodgson-Jones reminded those present that the subscription for green bin will be reduced to £50 if paid before 31st Jan 2024.

Payments for 7th December 2023 totalling £20552.94 were approved as were payments made for the period 8th November 2023- 5th December 2023 amounting to £11683.29.

Council approved the continuation of shared office facilities with Eltisle Parish Council subject to a rent increase to £905.60 per annum.

Contract to repair overflow car park gates awarded so that they can be safely locked when not in use.

Reports on plans for D – Day 80 were received and also on attendance at Christmas Bazaar on 2nd December 2023.

Members supported the proposed speed limit of 30mph on

Bluntisham Road to reduce the speed limit outside of the new David Wilson homes development.

Councillor Jackson reported the water leak Overcote Lane stating that it has opened up again, with water now flowing down the road.

Cllr R Fountain reported that the Village Hall Trust are still interested in an extension to the Village Hall however all of their resources are currently dealing with their immediate matters regarding the solar panels having now employed a consultant to help with the grant applications.

JANUARY

The Chairman opened the January 2024 meeting by wishing all a Happy New year.

District Cllr P Hodgson-Jones advised that Envar have taken their original plans to appeal. If Council wishes to speak, they need to register. The appeal commences on 20th February 2024.

Payments for 4th January totalling £752.91 were approved along with the accounts for payment made between 6th December 2023 and 2nd January 2024 totalling £31,673.21.

CAPALC were appointed as the Parish Council's Internal auditors for 2024/25.

The Solicitors' advice re Parish Council licence to occupy Parish office was reviewed and Clerk asked to refer licence with amendments back to Village Hall Trust.

3 planning applications were considered and approved.

Further discussions on Holy well & steps took place. Council agreed a donation of £1100 towards cost of steps repair.

Council reviewed and approved 6 of its policies.

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

www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10am – 12pm (Noon)
For any queries outside of these times please contact the
Parish Clerk on Tel: 01480 468451
or by email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com
to book an appointment.

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Defibrillator now installed at the One Stop Shop



You may remember that it was back in Autumn 2022 that Cllr E MacPherson and Cllr S Mortlock with the help of Wayne and Terry at the One Stop Shop began their drive to raise the necessary funds to obtain another defibrillator for our Parish.

Thanks to the perseverance of Cllr S Mortlock, Wayne and Terry we can now report that the defibrillator was finally installed early December 2023 and was registered with Circuit to link up with the ambulance service.

Thank you to the following for their generous support in raising the funds to be able to provide this vital lifesaving equipment for our community and a training session for residents:

Alison & Rod, Hyperion Auctions
Burgess & Walker Transport Ltd
Debbs Wain & Daisy Chains Designs
Jackie Norris & the brilliant knitters for Name the Witch competition
and making Cleo the Cat
Jackie Westwood & Butterfly Legacy Project
Lynn & Needingworth Choir
Margisbakeshop & all our resident star bakers
Sandra King & St Ives Rotary Club
Wayne & Terry at One Stop Shop

And of course, to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause by making a donation or by purchasing raffle tickets, cakes or entering the competition.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Tel: 01480 468451

ZIP WIRE IS OPEN!!



The Parish Council approved the supply and installation of a 30m zip wire at the playing field on Overcote Lane. The installation was completed on 10th November and is now open. Councillors hope that this equipment will be a welcome addition to the play area and enjoyed by all.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council



Notice of Vacancy in office of Parish Councillor on the Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 that due to the resignation of Cllr S Mitcham there is a vacancy on the Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council.

If any member of the Parish would like to be considered for co-option,
please contact the Parish Clerk.

Dated: 4th January 2024

Signed JBowd
Parish Clerk

Address: Needingworth Village Hall, Overcote Lane Needingworth PE27 4TU



**DEFIBRILLATOR
TRAINING
SESSION**



Date: Wednesday 10th April 2024
Time: 7pm

Venue: Needingworth Village Hall,
Overcote Lane, Needingworth

Please contact the Parish Council Office to
book a place on the session.

There is no charge for the training session.

Email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Tel: 01480 468451

PUZZLE CORNER

What is this?



In the December issue, I asked if you could identify this festive object from the close-up?

Answer: A walnut.



This time I am simply asking 'Where was this picture taken?' - you will find the answer within the Villager.

'the Villager'

Extra copies of this quarterly magazine can be obtained from the editor

Jennifer Horn, 16 Willow Green, tel. **468952**
or from **Roger Beaman**, 17 Willow Green, tel. **462379**.

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

To advertise in the Villager please contact the editor
Email: needingworth@aol.com
or telephone 01480 468952

(Adverts start at £11. per issue for a 1/10th page ad.)

Village Hall Report

Well here we are, already well into 2024 – how time flies!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to Spring and warmer weather.

As you may have seen on our Facebook page, we have taken the difficult decision not to hold NFest this year. The two-day event takes a great deal of organising and running, and we just do not have enough Trustees or volunteers to do the work this year. We are hoping to be back bigger and better in 2025 – but for this to happen we need YOU! If you can help by joining the Trustees or the Festival Committee – or just helping to organise and run the event – please do contact us to discuss (contact details below and on the back page of this magazine).

The good news is that we are still holding our Quiz Night – Saturday 6th April – save the date! Tables are £25 each for team of up to six people and full details are on the ad later on in this magazine (page 29). Come along and test your general knowledge – prizes for the winning team!

We also have a Band Nite on Saturday 18th May – again full details are in the ad. (page 28)

The Hall is always in demand for classes and events – you can see what goes on by looking at the diary on our website (www.needingworthvillagehall.com), and an updated list of classes is on display in the Hall foyer – come and join in!

Eleanor Hardy, Bookings Secretary
bookings@needingworthvillage.hall.com

07730 504220

Mark Hebert, Secretary
secretary@needingworthvillagehall.com

Dates for your diary :

Saturday 6th April – Quiz Night
Saturday 18th May – Band Nite



Chatters is held in the Village Hall Pavilion every **Thursday** afternoon from **11am to 5pm**.

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you. Come and try our varied menu of lite bites, snacks, cakes and drinks.

We look forward to seeing you there.

sue.martin22@btinternet.com

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PARISH COUNCIL — Community Defibrillators

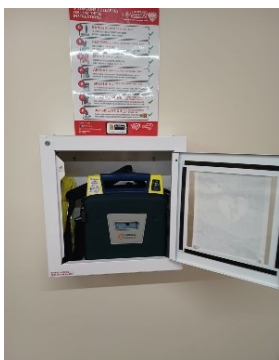
Did you know?

- Sudden Cardiac Arrest claims around 150,000-200,000 lives each year in the UK. Usually only 5-10% of people survive if the SCA occurs out of hospital.
- If a person's heart stops due to them suffering a major trauma or heart attack, the only way to get the heart to return to a more regular sustaining beat is to pass an electrical charge through the heart muscle.
- What happens in the first vital 3-4 minutes will determine the person's chances of survival.
- If FIRST AID and a DEFIBRILLATOR are activated during that time their chances increase dramatically.

Following the fantastic fundraising efforts of the local community in Needingworth and Holywell our village is now fortunate in having five Community Publicly Accessible Defibrillators which could be utilised in the case of such event.

Locations:

- Millfields Pavilion
- Old Ferryboat Inn, Holywell
- One Stop Shop, Needingworth
- St Johns the Baptist Church, Holywell
- Village Hall, Overcote Lane, Needingworth



Location: Millfields Pavilion



Needingworth Village Hall



Location: One Stop Shop, Needingworth



Location: St Johns the Baptist Church, Holywell



Location: Old Ferryboat Inn, Holywell

A free training session has been booked for **Wednesday 10th April 2024, 7pm at Needingworth Village Hall**. Please contact the Parish Council office to book a space. The Parish Council are responsible for maintaining and checking these vital pieces of equipment weekly to ensure they are complete and ready for emergency deployment. It is essential that the instructions on the cabinet are followed including contacting 999 every time the defibrillator is accessed so that the ambulance service are informed that it has been removed from service. The Parish Council are notified by the ambulance service after the deployment that the defibrillator requires checking to bring back into service. This will ensure that the emergency services do not send anyone to the relevant location without a defibrillator being in place and ready for use.

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council
Email: needingworthpc@btconnect.com

Tel: 01480 468451

Important information if someone collapses near you - from Community Heartbeat

IF SOMEONE COLLAPSES FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS **COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT**
The Community HeartBeat Trust

D DANGER ENSURE THE SCENE IS SAFE
FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS. IF IT IS NOT SAFE OR YOU ARE UNCERTAIN CALL 999 AND WAIT FOR HELP TO ARRIVE

R RESPONSE CHECK THE CASUALTY NEEDS HELP
CHECK RESPONSE BY TALK AND TOUCH.
SPEAK TO THE CASUALTY IN BOTH EARS, TAP COLLAR BONES. DO NOT SHAKE THEM!

S SHOUT SHOUT FOR HELP
IF THE CASUALTY DOES NOT RESPOND, SHOUT FOR HELP.
DO NOT LEAVE THEM AT THIS STAGE. DIAL 999 NOW!

A AIRWAY ENSURE AIRWAY IS OPEN AND CLEAR
OPEN THE AIRWAY BY LIFTING THE CASUALTY'S CHIN AND TILTING THEIR HEAD BACK. DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGERS IN THE CASUALTY'S MOUTH. YOU MAY PUSH AN OBSTRUCTION FURTHER DOWN.

B BREATHING LOOK FOR NORMAL BREATHING
KEEP THE HEAD TILTED BACK & LOOK TO SEE IF THE CHEST IS MOVING FOR 10 SECONDS. DO NOT PLACE YOUR FACE CLOSE TO THEIRS TO CHECK. IF THE CASUALTY IS NOT BREATHING NORMALLY OR YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT, CALL 999!

C COMPRESSIONS NOT BREATHING NORMALLY? START COMPRESSIONS!
PLACE A CLOTH OR COVER LOOSELY OVER THE PATIENT'S MOUTH. THEN PLACE YOUR HANDS IN CENTRE OF THE CASUALTY'S CHEST AND PRESS DOWN HARD. JUST DO COMPRESSIONS, NO BREATHS. PUSH TWICE PER SECOND

D DEFIBRILLATION GET SOMEONE TO FETCH A DEFIBRILLATOR
IF YOU ARE ALONE DO NOT LEAVE THE PATIENT, DO CHEST COMPRESSIONS AND WAIT FOR HELP TO ARRIVE. IF SOMEONE IS AVAILABLE SEND THEM TO GET YOUR NEAREST COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

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CLUBS & SOCIETIES

WI

We have enjoyed a busy and fun end to the year and festive season. At our November meeting local florist Debbs Wain accompanied by her daughter Lottie showed us how to make beautiful Remembrance and Christmas door wreaths. Following the demonstration and undaunted by Debbs creativity, some members vowed to have a go at making their own!

Several of us attended the village Act of Remembrance at the Remembrance Sunday commemoration on the 12 November. Member Lynne Martin laid a wreath on behalf of our WI Group. Our President Carol Peilow, who is also a Licensed Lay Minister at our parish church of St John the Baptist, led part of the service.

2023 was our turn to organise the annual village Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December. It was a very successful and happy event; we were delighted to see so many people come along to look at and support a lovely selection of stalls, enjoy hot sausage rolls and other refreshments and of course meet Father Christmas! It seemed everyone appreciated the opportunity to meet and chat with friends and neighbours and spend some money!

No sooner had we cleared up the Hall after the Fair, we were setting up again to prepare for our Christmas Party on Monday 4th December. We kicked off the festive season with a delicious buffet, and something sparkling to drink – followed by a wonderful performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by the Wellworth Players, who managed to tell the story in about 20 minutes. Great fun – a special



Debbs and Lottie Wain



Lynne and Carol

thanks to them. The evening concluded with a bit of dancing to the music of Cyril and John – thank you both.

Later that week some members enjoyed a lunchtime outing to Burwash Manor Farm for some Christmas shopping.

We celebrated the new year in January with our annual dinner. 40 members enjoyed a meal at the Queen's Head in Needingworth. Thank you to the team there for a lovely evening.

In February, hopefully our version of 'Give us a Clue' will allow us to learn more about members and test us - who can we identify from baby photographs? and in March we will hold our AGM followed by a ploughman's supper. April's meeting sees us welcoming the Papworth Choir who will entertain us with a programme of songs. In May we look forward to a return visit from the Norris Museum with a talk about the Witches of Warboys. Our programme for the remainder of 2024 looks interesting and fun – more of that in later reports.

As always, we are not just about monthly meetings. In addition to Scrabble, Lunch and Well-being clubs, we now have a monthly coffee club meeting at the Golden Lion in St Ives, a good opportunity for a chat. Our Knit 'n Natter group goes from strength to strength with some wonderful projects, and of course several of our WI members are part of the Village Yarn Bombers who continue to delight the residents of both villages with amazing seasonal creations.

We meet on the first Monday of each month in Needingworth Village Hall and extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in joining us to get in touch. Be assured that you will receive a warm

welcome. For further information please contact **Carol Peilow** on **01480 496958**.

Beer and Wine Club

2024: Our first meeting of the year heralded our tea wine competition. This was our last opportunity to gain points towards our yearly trophy. This was won by Danny with his wine made from two sachets of mixed herbal teas. There was a tie for second between Andy and Arthur. All very different but enjoyable.

The AGM is on 1st March at 8pm in the Pavillion (this meeting is for members only).

April is a meal out TBN.

SALMON WITH RED WINE

6 salmon fillets skin on
180g pancetta cut in batons
150 button mushrooms
1 bottle light red wine
1 bouquet garni
3 tsp caster sugar

1 onion thinly sliced
2 shallots
2 tblsp olive oil
120g unsalted butter
4 peppercorns
1 cup(250) beef stock

Place the wine, shallots, bouquet garni, peppercorns and sugar in a wide pan, bring to the boil then simmer over a low heat for 20 minutes to reduce by half. Add the stock and reduce for 10 minutes to a sauce consistency. Set aside. Heat half the oil and 30g butter in a frying pan add the pancetta and onions for 1-2 minutes over low heat, add the mushrooms and cook for 5 minutes. Strain the wine reduction over the mushrooms and season and set aside. Heat the remaining oil and fry the salmon skin side down for 3 minutes turn and cook 2 minutes until cooked through. Re heat the sauce, whisk in the remaining butter until glossy then drizzle over salmon. Serve with mashed potatoes and peas. Enjoy!

Pat Britton (01480 466239)

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on 07793 589284

or e mail parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk

See our website for details of the club

hcngardening.weebly.com

Grant Williamson Chairman

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

The Gardening Year ahead

As I write this article the wind is howling and it is about 6 degrees outside so the idea of getting out in our gardens is not very appealing.

Whilst it is good to have a break from the regular work that a garden needs in the spring and summer months, there are still plenty of jobs to do even in these weather conditions. The gardens needs a bit of TLC at this early stage to ensure that it will blossom later in the year.

Simply tidying the garden of all the debris generated by the winter storms will be a big help to you and the garden.

Now is the time to sit inside and look through all the seed catalogues etc to plan what you will grow this year.

In the same way, the Gardening Club committee has been working to draw up an exciting and interesting range of events for our members as well as the whole village community.

The popular **Plant Sale** will be held on Saturday 11th May in the Village Hall and this is an opportunity for anyone to buy good quality plants at sensible prices.

APPEALS

A. For the Plant Sale, we particularly need lots of **medium** sized clean plastic plant pots (approx. 150 mm wide at the top).

If you have **any** plant pots of this or **any** size to spare, please get in touch with me and I will arrange to collect them (parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk or 07793 589284)

B. **The Village Show** will be held once more this year on Saturday 15th June and there will be more notice of this later in the year.

In the meantime the Club has a busy schedule of monthly meetings, safari evening and garden visits. We have arranged a five day Residential visit to Lancashire in May with over 40 members when we will visit, amongst other gardens, the new RHS garden at Bridgewater.

A Sad Loss

Many of you in the village will have heard about the sad passing



of Mr Charlie Stocker of Needingworth.

Charlie was an amazing gardener and won many, many prizes at the Village Show over his long gardening career. He grew the most enormous onions which no one else could begin to match. His skills covered all aspects of gardening and he was the source of huge knowledge and advice.

He was, along with his wife Daphne, a mainstay of the Gardening Club in the village for more years than anyone can remember. He had so much history about the village and the club and once produced the programme for the 1914 Village Horticultural Show which he had found amongst his papers.

He was a real character who will be sorely missed in the village and the Club.

Next club meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.45 in the Village Hall on 12th March.

Visitors welcome.

Grant Williamson

Chairman Holywell-cum-Needingworth Gardening Club



Scribblers Writing Group

normally hold meetings monthly at Needingworth Village Hall, plus they have a lively poetry group.

For current activities please ring

Helen on **01487 843437**
or **Joan** on **01840 463966**.

ART CLUB

We meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the Village Hall.

We are a small, friendly group;

if you are interesting in joining us, please telephone

Paul on **01480 465536**

Local History Group

To contact the group email Sally Beaman or Cheryl Frost as below:-

Sally - Email:

rsde.beaman@btinternet.com

Tel: 462379

Cheryl: Email: cheryl.frost@hotmail.co.uk

Or visit our website

www.hcnhistory.org.uk

“Bridge Bunch”

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

We play the Benjii Accol system.

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

For more information call Hannah Dickinson
01480 460132

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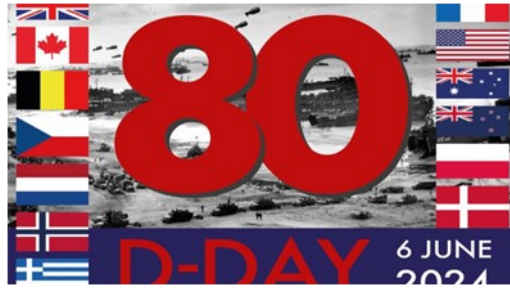
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D DAY 80

Thursday 6th June 2024

The UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on the 6 June 1944 with a series of events across the country.

The Parish Council is planning to bring our villages together to do our bit as part of this momentous occasion.

Join us at the Village Hall at **6pm** when the Town Crier will herald the start of the evening. In the Village Hall, you will find an array of exhibits by the young people of the village together with memorabilia. If you have any memorabilia you would like to share for the evening, we would love to hear from you.

Teas will be served (donations of cakes etc. would be very welcome please), the bar will be open and as it is National Fish and Chip day, Pimp my Fish will be on site – look out for details on how to order your fish supper.

Alex and Dave who you will remember from previous events will provide appropriate music and we will have a couple of sessions of sing-alongs. Don't worry, song sheets will be available!

We have plans for various exhibits on the field – details later so plenty to do and to look at to keep adults and children alike busy.

The Beacon will be lit at **9.15pm** and the evening will end soon afterwards with the National Anthem.

Although there will be some seating available inside the village hall, please feel free to bring your own chairs to sit outside.

So a date for your family diaries - **Thursday 6 June 6pm**. We will keep you updated as plans progress so keep an eye on social media and the village website. Please pass this information on to your neighbours who are not on the internet.

If you need further information, please contact any of the following.

Tyler Head	07452 992161
Sue Martin	01480 494920
Sarah Mortlock	01480 462945
Eda MacPherson	01480 468633
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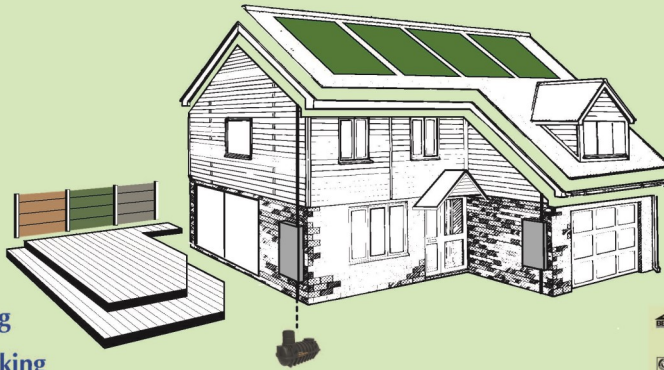
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From our County Councillor

Welcome to 2024. My how time goes so quickly, I guess the unpredictable weather is foremost in our mind and while some of these extremes are of course concerning, it is worth remembering nothing is new or unique as recent TV programmes and weather commenters have pointed out. Still that does not make it any better if you are deep in water on the inside of your house, a number of flood and weather alleviation schemes implemented over the years have definitely improved the situation.

As always this time of the year is for council budgets and while any increase is limited by central government as they impose a ceiling on council tax still hurts us all when the bill lands on the door. However ever I will do my best to ensure any rise is minimal and none at all!

The old A14, including the route between St Neots and Huntingdon, is due to be officially handed over from National Highways to Cambridgeshire County Council. This is the formal "de-trunking" process. The new Road will be known as the A1307. From 8th March 2024 the transfer process will be complete and Cambridgeshire county council will be officially responsible for maintaining these sections of highway. This will include maintenance such as resurfacing, street lighting, signs, barriers, traffic lights, drainage and public works. The relevant sections have already been inspected for our winter gritting routes. As part of the handover process, National Highways has provided the council with almost £25 million towards the maintenance of the road. Upon de-trunking these sections will include safety inspections. Furthermore, work will be undertaken on carriageway patching which is planned to take place by March 2024. The existing 40mph speed limit (Huntingdon section Godmanchester through Huntingdon railway station) was instigated by National Highways, because the safety fencing is overgrown. An inspection and previous inspections have indicated some components are corroded. These issues have been resolved prior to handover. Once handed over the Council will inspect the safety fencing, repair where required and undertake any necessary design works before the end of March 2024. It is anticipated that any necessary works to the safety fencing associated with the 40 mph speed limit will be undertaken in the year 24/25, subject to the results of the above inspections and design. This will enable the speed limit to be reviewed and the County Council will undertake the work to inform this review. The Council is developing a programme for planned closures of the road to allow us to undertake a number of maintenance works simultaneously. We will seek to co-ordinate these closures with the District Councils to enable us to undertake works at the same time. This would, for example, enable verge and drainage maintenance undertaken by the Council to be co-ordinated with cleansing and litter picking operations undertaken by the District Councils. Such co-ordination will minimise the inconvenience to the public and make optimum use of traffic management. The Council's online reporting tool for highways issues will be updated to reflect the change in responsibility for relevant sections of highway. There is likely to be a delay when the system does not reflect the change in responsibility and the portal will not allow customers to register to us for the A1307 / old A14. This delay in the system to the way roads are held and classified on the National Street Gazetteer. The delay should be short. Off



working with the Street Gazetteer to expedite the process. Webpages will be updated to inform customers to use the customer contact centre for reports during this period. Local Town and Parish Councils will also be briefed and updated when the systems are changed.

Following the numerous complaints, I received from Villagers (rightly so) where the councils weed control policy was changed without telling anyone, myself included, by the current Joint Administration. I made multiple representation on your behalf, as it seemed common sense had gone out of the window and the damage being caused was going to be an unnecessary financial burden in the future. A review of the way weeds on the highways are treated across the county will be discussed at the Highways and Transport Committee on 23 January. The original weedkilling programme was set as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process, the council stopped the cycles of chemical weed treatment, and concentrated on removing those causing a safety hazard and a nuisance or as part of preparation before other works were carried out. The change did not affect how poisonous weeds are treated.

During the summer of last year, a high number of concerns were raised by residents and members of the council about this approach. As a result, a review of the change was carried out and it found the council hadn't engaged with key stakeholders about the revised policy relating to weeds. The review looked at the impact of those changes and an engagement exercise was carried out with County Councillors, District Councils and Town and Parish Councils. The committee heard about the findings and the concerns raised from those responding to the survey which included, negative impacts on amenity, drainage, roads and footway surfaces, finances and reduction in carbon. The committee was asked to adopt new standards that could see weeds being treated twice a year. If agreed, a further engagement exercise will be carried out to seek views on the new policy. The Chairman of the Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "I know we didn't get this change right, which is why I asked for a review of the policy. While some communities really appreciated the reduction in chemical weed killing, a large number did not. Local decision making is important, we have listened to that feedback and hope these new changes, if approved, will allow those communities who wish to continue without chemical weed killing to do so whilst allowing those who preferred the previous regime to go back to that."

Hemsby Compost Junction

The Wheatsheaf crossroads junction improvement works were discussed at an earlier Highways Committee, where a preferred solution to install a traffic light-controlled junction was agreed on the B1040 Somersham Road/Wheatsheaf Road and Bluntisham Heath Road to reduce the number of collisions involving drivers failing to give way. Funding of £6.8m for the traffic lights and widening is already in place and when finally agreed at the committee, construction could begin in April 2024. However, this is dependent on being able to buy the additional land needed to widen the road, which is necessary to construct the new junction. The detailed design is complete and will see a four-way signal junction installed, the existing layout will be widened to allow right-hand turn lanes to be provided and separate lanes will be built on the approaches to the new junction.

You may recall I highlighted the problems we (county council) face regarding roads with a peat and clay sub base, A plan to tackle peat soil affected roads, focusing on safety, was considered by members of the Highways and Transport Committee on 23 January. In October 2023, members unanimously supported a motion concerning peat roads across parts of rural Cambridgeshire, and for the Highways and Transport Committee to publish a plan following consultation with parish councils. These roads have been particularly vulnerable to the extended periods of hot, cold, and wet weather we have seen recently as the peat soils expand and contract leading to cracking and bending in the road surface. This is an issue not only being faced in Cambridgeshire but other parts of the country where roads have been built on similar soils. The report which was considered by the committee on 23 January provides a short, medium and long-term plan. This includes

emergency repair work, lowering speed limits or imposing weight limits, identifying the worse sections of roads, and estimating the investment needed for this essential work. Each year, as part of the Highways Maintenance budget, repairs have been carried out on peat soil affected roads. With the country experiencing continued extreme weather, there are a significant and increasing number of roads affected, a total of 156 roads have been identified. Currently, repair work has included edge treatment, recycling the road material and re-laying, the use of grids to provide structure and grip fibre. Some roads have required lower speed limits, safety signage, traffic lights, temporary road closures and weight restrictions. The traditional methods of repairing roads are not providing a long-term maintenance free solution to these roads. Highway officers / engineers will continue to assess routes and make the necessary repairs in the short-term, but the committee also heard about medium-term investment which could see engineering assessment work for all routes, starting initially on 25 of the most used roads. Safety is obviously the most important factor and so safety assessments will be undertaken across all roads. Furthermore, the longer-term plan is to secure the extra investment desperately needed to tackle peat affected roads. The council therefore plans to lobby key funders and stakeholders and continue working with the Department for Transport to raise awareness of this national issue.

Again, another project that seems to drag on and well past its anticipated completion date is the "Smart Energy Grid Project" at the St Ives Park and Ride which impacts upon many villagers. On pushing for a firm completion date, I received the following response. *A smart energy grid is where you connect a range of technologies together such as solar PV, electric charging, battery storage and local energy customers. Clean, green electricity is generated by the solar PV which will supply a local business directly and the EV charge points. The smart grid is also now connected to the grid to allow the import of any supplementary electricity needed during the winter when solar PV generation is at its lowest. The project will help cut carbon emissions and tackle climate change whilst also building up greater levels of locally produced energy. When the works are complete, cars will be able to park under the solar canopies and use the EV charge points. This project is part of the Council's commitment to become a Net Zero county by 2045 and is an innovation project generating learning for ourselves and others. Much of the project is complete but we are waiting for some materials to arrive in January 2024 to allow us to fully complete electrical works. The site will not be opened until this is complete but we hope that in the New Year the fencing will come down and the whole site will be available again to use. We apologise for any inconvenience especially those that are keen to use the EV charge points. I am hopeful by the time you receive this update; it will be up and running.*

I am often asked when the General Election will take place, to be honest, I have no idea. It may be the case that when you read this a date in May could have been set but I would not hold my breath. The only thing I can be certain of will be the County Council elections, which are due to take place in May 2025, which I will obviously be involved in, one way or another.

As always if anyone would like me to publish a more in-depth report about any item within the County Councils remit, I am more than happy to do so. As you may know the County Council is responsible for many areas from Adult Social Care to Highways, so if there is something you would like explaining in greater detail and you feel it would interest other readers, please get in touch and I will do my best to publish a concise but interesting overview of the subject requested. Please remember your representatives at all levels County, District and of course your excellent Parish Council work very hard behind the scenes to ensure Needingworth and Holywell remains 'a special place'.

Kevin Reynolds

County Councillor Needingworth & St.Ives
kevin.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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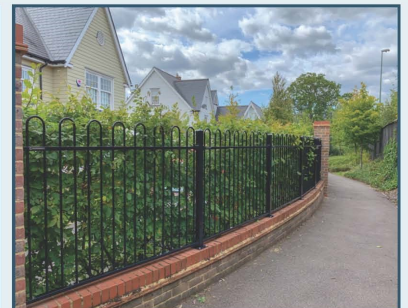


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NEW VICAR

After being 'in vacancy' for 15 months, we at last are able to welcome our new vicar to the Meridian Benefice. On Sunday 17 March, 5 p.m., at St Mary's church, Bluntisham, the Bishop of

Huntingdon will install **Revd Valmor Alves Pimenta** as the Vicar of the Meridian Benefice, which includes the parishes of Holywell-cum-Needingworth, Bluntisham-cum-Earish and Colne. All are invited to attend this service and enjoy refreshments afterwards. We are especially pleased to welcome a party of visitors who will be coming by coach from Valmor's previous parish of Northolt, west London, to attend the ceremony. This is an exciting time for our churches and not least for Valmor, who also was married in January. Over the next few months we hope as many people as possible will get to know Valmor and his wife Thais, pictured here on their wedding day; they will be taking up residence in the Rectory in Bluntisham in early March.

REGULAR SERVICES

Although some changes may have to be made once our new vicar gets into the swing of serving three parishes, for the time being our services at Holywell-cum-Needingworth will remain as before.

Any future changes to timings and services will be announced in The Herald, on the Benefice website and on the noticeboards at the church gates. The current pattern is: 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at the church, followed by Café Sunday in the Village Hall Pavilion, on the first Sunday of the month; Holy Communion at 10 a.m. on the second Sunday; All-Age worship at 10 a.m. on the third Sunday; and Morning Worship, 10 a.m. on the fourth Sunday.

We also meet at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month for **Compline**, the traditional short and peaceful service at the end of a day; we invite anyone to write a short prayer on one of the labels in the church porch, and all those prayers are offered up at the Compline service.

Until further notice, please continue to contact one of the churchwardens to arrange baptisms and funerals, and weddings@meridianbenefice.org.uk for future weddings. If you are unable to get to the church and would like to receive Communion at home or for any other church matters, please contact one of our churchwardens (see contact list on the back page) in the first instance.

THE EASTER SEASON

On 10 March at 10 a.m. we celebrate mothers everywhere at our family-friendly **Mothering Sunday** service, complete with posies for the mums and simnel cakes for everyone. On 24 March we mark **Palm Sunday** at

Morning Worship, 10 a.m., at which we receive our palm crosses to keep for the year. There will be short 7 p.m. services on Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday (25 and 26 March), a Taizé service on Holy Wednesday (27th) at St Helen's church, Colne, and an Agape meal with Communion at Bluntisham Church Room on Maundy Thursday (28th). On **Good Friday** (29th) we invite villagers from Holywell and Needingworth join the Walk of Witness to Bluntisham, beginning at 9.30 a.m. at the church in Holywell; at 2 p.m. the same day we will hold our Good Friday service of reflection at our church. Then comes **Easter Day**, Sunday 31 March, when we will have our traditional Dawn Communion in the churchyard at 6.30 a.m., as well as Easter Day Communion in the church at 9.30 a.m.

OTHER NEWS

First of all, a big thank-you to our generous village community, whose donations at our Christmas carol services enabled the church to give £300 to each of two charities for the homeless – Crisis at Christmas and Jimmy's Night Shelter. As well as the traditional evening candlelit carol service we held two well-attended outdoor carol services; one of them was, for the first time, held on the green at Needingworth Park, where we were made very welcome by the residents of this new area of our village. In February we held our always-popular Snowdrop

Coffee Morning to raise funds for the work and upkeep of the parish church.

The little building over the Holy Well in the churchyard has been in a poor state of repair for some time, made worse by the cold weather of winter 2023. The church PCC has commissioned a complete overhaul of the structure – work was planned to start as soon as weather permitted, at the time of writing. Repairs to the bottom steps leading to the Well will be undertaken by the Parish Council. A group of local volunteers continue to look after the Remembrance Garden in the churchyard; their main concern at the moment is to repair the damage to the surrounding hedge from last summer's invasion of the box caterpillar. If you would like to join this group, please contact Stephen York, tel. 07768 924249, hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk.

An application has now been completed to obtain a faculty from the Diocese of Ely for the major re-ordering of the church interior – our long-awaited **Welcome Space** project. Details and architects' impressions of the new look can be seen on the display panels at the back of the church. This will make the church a more comfortable and convenient place not only for worship but also, we hope, as a meeting place for village groups. It will be a costly exercise and as well as continuing our local fund-raising we shall be seeking substantial contributions from grant-awarding bodies.



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Needingworth Baptist Church

High Street, Needingworth,
PE27 4SB
Elder – David Mann

Website: www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services are held each Sunday morning in the chapel at 10.30am. In the summer months (April to September), on the 4th Sunday of the month, we also meet at 6pm. We warmly invite you to join us.

Not having a pastor at present, we are grateful to visiting preachers for leading our services. Services are recorded and posted on our website on Sunday afternoon for those unable to make the in-person services. You can find the recorded services here:

www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk/recorded-services

EASTER SERVICES

Do join us for our **Good Friday Service** on 29th March at 10.30am when our sermon will be: "The death of Jesus – Tragedy or Triumph?"

And join us at our **Easter Day Service** on 31st March at 10.30am when our sermon will be: "The Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus."

These are very important subjects for us all to consider.

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

This is held every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm at the chapel (but on Zoom during the winter months – see the website for details) and all are welcome.

TEA AND TIME TO THINK

The aim of these meetings is to provide a friendly home for those with time on their hands to come for a cup of tea and a chat. But more than that, we want to encourage folk to think about important issues that may touch us or those we love. We sometimes watch a short video. And we finish each meeting with a brief look at a passage from the Bible. Do come and join us at 2.30 - 4.00pm at 29 Priory Road on the third (note change!) Thursday of each month as follows: 21 March, 18 April, 16 May.

If we can be of help to anyone, or pray for you, please feel free to contact us.

* * * * *

A HAPPY EASTER!

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter! Now, what does that mean? Well, it could just mean that we hope you enjoy yourselves during the Easter holidays. I suppose that is what many people would mean when they wish a Happy Easter. But we, at Needingworth Baptist Church, would like to mean more than that.

What we really hope for, is that you would understand the meaning and the importance of Easter – and its relevance for you. Easter is about the Lord Jesus Christ. The events surrounding him in Jerusalem 2000 years ago have changed the world. On Good Friday we remember the day he was cruelly killed by being nailed to a cross. We call it the Crucifixion. On Easter Day we celebrate him coming back to life again. We call it the Resurrection.

But what is good about Good Friday? Jesus was cruelly put to death. Can that be good? The sermon in our service on Good Friday will be called "The death of Jesus – Tragedy or Triumph?" We will seek to explain the significance of his death. There is a hymn that starts "There is a green hill, far way, outside a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all." It continues "He died that we might be forgiven..." Forgiveness. That's something good, isn't it? And something we don't find a lot of in our world today. But this forgiveness is even more special because it is about being forgiven by God.

Jesus was killed – dead and buried. His body was placed in a tomb, sealed with a large stone and guarded by soldiers. But on Easter Sunday he rose again. He came back to life and was seen by many people over a period of 40 days. His followers were not expecting that. He had conquered death. Now since we must all face death sooner or later, the fact that this enemy of ours, death, was overcome by Jesus must be good news, mustn't it? But did it really happen? Is there any real evidence, or is it just a nice religious story? This is so important. That is why, in our service on Easter Sunday, our sermon will be on "The evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus."

We would like to wish you a Happy Easter. We believe that Easter will be truly happy for all those who put their trust in the Lord Jesus and in his death and resurrection. Because they will find forgiveness for all the selfishness and wrong of their lives, and they will find the true hope of heaven and eternal life.

May we sincerely encourage you to come to our Easter services and consider these matters? You will be most welcome.

David Mann – Tel. 300382

Email: david.mann@cantab.net

Website: www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk



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1st Needingworth Guides

Festive fun STEM day

Eight Needingworth Guides joined 60 others from around the county for an action-packed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) day. We made paper helicopters and jet powered sleighs as possible transport for Santa, bath bomb and slime gifts and snowflake

decorations. Afterwards, we were treated to a roast dinner, and were then sent outside to light a fire and cook our pudding – pineapple upside down cake, which was delicious. We'll certainly be making this again!

Wrapping up the term in style

We had our own craft day in December, making beaded bracelets, holly cake toppers, table decorations and trying pyrography. Our last meeting of the term was a Christmas Party organised by the Guides, featuring favourite foods, Christmas jumpers, gingerbread decorating and a game of charades.



January jollies

Members of our unit have put together a lovely account of our visit to watch a pantomime:

In January we all enjoyed our trip to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Burgess Hall. We thought it was very funny, especially the Mayor as the dame, and the many dad jokes. The music and singing were great, and it was fun to be there and enjoy a good laugh with friends. Oh yes it was!



If you'd like to find out more about our Guides unit, check out our website: ggneedingworth.co.uk

Pre-School Events

The pre-school has two events coming up to raise funds for outdoor play equipment, like the soon-to-be updated mud kitchen. Last year's Mother's Day Hamper was full of wonderful prizes and this year's is shaping up to be the same. The Easter Trail will take children around the village looking for clues until they find a special treat at the end. (See ads on pages 28 & 29)

Please support these events and support the pre-school.

Sarah Newbold



Little Tigers

This is a friendly under-5s play group that meets on most Monday mornings in term-time in the village hall. Come along for a cuppa and chat and let your 'little tiger' play with the toys and other children.

Entrance (including refreshments): £2 per family.

For more details contact:
Abi 07824 810532

Join us on our 'Needingworth Little Tigers' Facebook page.

Pre-School

If you would like your child to attend our very popular pre-school, it is never too early to get them on the waiting list.

Children can start from 2 years 10 months but our register is full until September 2024.

For a registration form, or any other information, please visit our website:

needingworthcommunitypreschool.org.uk

Music Makers

Great fun for pre-school children and a real opportunity for parents or carers to meet others. Forty-five minutes of music and song, playing instruments and dancing ending with a well-earned rest and a cuppa while the children play with toys. Second Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. at the Village Hall.

Entrance £2 (£2.50 for two or more children)

For more details contact:

Carole 07788 925708

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For Under 5's

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Emma Hawksford
Tel: 01480 467127
Mob: 07941 236872

E-mail: emmahawksford@icloud.com
Web: www.facebook.com/ELKdogs

I offer two types of dog walks:

Long – Approx 1hr. Usually covering 3-4 miles, preferably out in the fields or down local tracks.

Short – Approx 1/2hr. Ideal for puppies, older or smaller dogs that don't like to go too far.

My time is for your dog(s) only and I do not share walks unless specifically requested.

Company visits also available for puppies or dogs that are too ill or old to want to go out properly, but who like a fuss, a wander round the garden and a treat during the day.

Pet care visits for other animals that require feeding and attention when you are out, or away for the night.

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The world is growing darker every day.
BUT GOD offers HOPE through salvation. It's as easy as...

A ADMIT you're a sinner
Romans 3:10 - "There is no one righteous, no, not one."
Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

B BELIEVE Jesus is Lord
John 14:6 - "Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
Romans 10:9-10 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

C CALL upon His name
Romans 10:13 - "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
Psalm 145:18-19 - "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him. To all who call upon Him in truth."



1st Needingworth Brownies

Magic and mayhem

One of our highlights this term was a Magic and Mayhem evening - our version of Hallowe'en. The Brownies had a fabulous time eating donuts from a string without using hands, making slime, creating edible wands and apple bobbing. There was quite a lot of mess but an enormous amount of fun was had!

Seasonal celebrations

On Bonfire night, the Brownies enjoyed a camp fire with songs, yummy s'mores and sparklers. As Christmas approached, we tried our hand at a range of festive crafts using recycled



materials. These included snowmen and Christmas trees using corks. The term ended with a Christmas party, complete with party games, dancing and lots of presents.

Hitting the big 7-0!

This year, we are celebrating 70 years of Brownies in our village. We have lots of exciting events planned to mark this special anniversary, and will be kicking things off by hosting a silent disco with tasty treats for all Needingworth units. We're also taking a key role in the upcoming Well Dressing festival and will be learning lots of camp songs for that weekend.

Springing into the new term

The coming term will also see us marking Valentine's day, Chinese New Year and Easter with a selection of seasonal crafts and games. We are really looking forward to a visit from the village Yarn Bombers and local Trefoil Guild to teach us crochet and finding out about recycling from Waterbeach Recycling Centre.

If you are interested in finding out more about our unit, check out our website: ggneedingworth.co.uk or contact Jules at: Needingworth.Brownies@yahoo.com or 07597 569582.



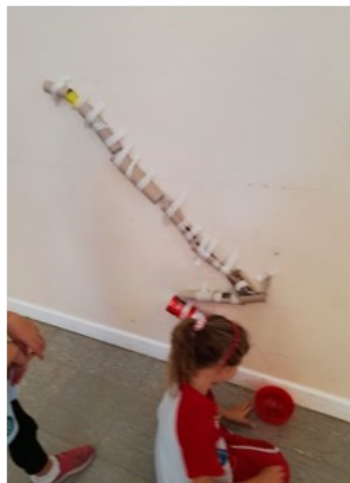
1st Needingworth Rainbows

Festive fun: Autumn highlights at Rainbows

We had a busy autumn term at Rainbows, celebrating seasonal events and holidays with a range of fun craft activities. These included making spooky Hallowe'en ghosts and salt dough pumpkin lanterns, crafting poppies, and creating some fabulous Christmas door hangers and stockings. We even put our brilliant crafting skills to the test to create our own marble run!

Calling all potential volunteers!

Do you like the sound of what we do? We have a lovely group of Rainbows but need more adult help to run the sessions. Helping with our unit is a great way to gain experience in working with children – as well as being lots of fun! If you are interested and would like to find out more, check out our website: ggneedingworth.co.uk or contact Helen at: Needingworth.Rainbows@yahoo.com





A Warm Welcome Awaits in Our Scouting Community!

In this charming village of ours, the Scouts group stands as a beacon of adventure and camaraderie since 1954. As we warmly welcome new families to our community, we're thrilled to see a growing interest in Scouting among the younger generations. To accommodate this delightful surge, we're excited to announce plans for a new Beaver Colony! This initiative is a testament to our commitment to nurturing young minds and spirits. However, such an endeavour requires the support of dedicated adults. Thus, we extend a cordial invitation for volunteers to join us in this rewarding journey. Please contact Chris via gslfirstneed-ingworth@outlook.com to express interest or find out more.



equipment, which help us provide these opportunities.



"70 Years of Scouting in Needingworth: A Milestone to Celebrate!"

This year, we proudly mark a remarkable milestone—70 years since our Scouts group embarked on its journey of adventure, learning, and fostering community spirit back in 1954. Plans are afoot to commemorate this momentous anniversary. We invite you to keep a keen eye on the next edition of The Villager for more details of what promises to be a summer celebration to remember!

Egg-citing Times Ahead: Join Our Easter Egg Hunt!

Spring is in the air, and with it comes the anticipation of our eagerly awaited Easter Egg Hunt! This family-friendly event promises a day of joy, laughter, and community spirit. Mark your calendars for Easter Monday, 1st April, and prepare for a day filled with delightful surprises and Easter fun!

New Adventures on the Horizon: Our Scouting Gear Gets an Upgrade!

Our Cub Pack and Scout Troop are set for new adventures, thanks to some fantastic additions to our equipment! We're thrilled to announce the acquisition of "new-to-us" kayaks. Keep an eye out for us making a splash on the river this summer! In addition to this, our culinary skills are set for an upgrade with brand new Trangia stoves. These investments in our gear are crucial for the continued offering of diverse and enriching experiences to our Scouts. We're always grateful for donations of camping and outdoor



Wanausha Campbell,
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K	R	A	L	V	A	L	C	H	I	G	I
Φ	A	F	A	L	H	U	N	J	D	G	J
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Φ	P	D	O	N	C	O	N	F	E	N	F
Φ	N	N	Y	Φ	R	T	K	B	R	A	S
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L	A	Y	C	R	L	A	I	S	L	X	T
T	K	Φ	P	Z	K	T	L	A	N	E	C
E	V	A	E	N	A	V	P	E	R	I	S

Answers to Word Search

- DAFFODIL
- CROCUS
- BONNET
- CHICK
- BUNNY
- CHOCOLATE
- HUNT
- EASTER EGG
- LENT
- RISEN
- CALVARY
- PALM SUNDAY

Bowls Club

We love the warm weather down at the Bowls Club. It means play our beloved game is getting closer.

We officially start our season outdoors on April 26th this year.

Before that our Short Mat bowling, that takes place in the village hall every Thursday at 2pm, will come to a conclusion. There is a trophy for the best performing Player from the winter months.

The short mat continues until the end of March. Well done to Ali Reid and his team.

We are excited this coming season to be entering an extra team in the Cambridge & District League.

Last year our C&D team won the Division Three title but more importantly they went on to win the Champion of Champions competition for the winners of all four leagues.

So Holywell-cum-Needingworth Bowls club are basically the C&D Champions of Cambridgeshire !

No one was prouder of our achievements than Team captain Graham Purse. Well done to him, and this year we fight on two fronts - in division 2 and now also in division 4. Good luck to all involved.

We would love to see some of you come and have a go on the green. So we are taking part in the Bowls England Big Bowls Weekend. On May 25th We are hosting beginners sessions to anyone and everyone. They start at 2pm on hopefully a sunny afternoon. Just come along have a drink with us and enjoy the weather and maybe we can get you chucking some bowls!!

Its all very laid back and friendly. Go at your own pace. Bring the family - its one of the only games you can play equally with 3 generations of the family. Grandparent, grandchild & great grandchild can all play together. Its so good to have some fun with the family in the sun. Don't miss out.

Frank, our ever fantastic green keeper has kept our surface going well through the winter and he will get the opportunity to show it off to the best bowlers in the county in July when we host the Federation Competition finals for the 2nd year running.

Our club is full of great people who all come together to bowl all through the summer. But, we also enjoy a varied social side with ten pin bowling, gameshow nights, Bingo. These events are spread through the year.

If anyone has any questions contact **Alan** on **07368422241**.



Needingworth Tennis Club

With Spring on the way and longer nights heading our way, the Cambs Winter League has come to an end for our teams. A total of 4 teams took part in the League. Well done to all that were involved.

Say Hello to our new chair Sue Pandey. Sue has settled into the role and we wish her all the best.

A huge congratulations to Head Coach Ian Haigs who has been recognised with the Integrity Value Award from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) which was presented to him at the National Tennis Centre. We can't thank Ian enough for the incredible volunteer work he does at the Club and behind the scenes.

We are delighted to announce that LTA President Sandi Proctor will be visiting Needingworth Tennis Club on Friday 16th February - we look forward to hosting Sandi as part of her 2-day visit to Cambridgeshire.

Our annual Start-the Year Tournament is coming up on Sunday 14th April. This is a fun filled mixed doubles tournament for all standards. All you have to do is come along at 9.30 am to register. Names will be drawn from a hat to establish partnerships. BBQ with vegetarian option available from 12.30 pm.

Junior group coaching is about to re-start in the Spring and is available to be booked on our website with courses including:

- LTA Youth - Red (5-8 years)
- LTA Youth – Orange (8-11 years)

Not forgetting our Easter Camps (5-11 years) Tuesday 2nd April till Friday 5th April - details of this are available on our website.

In addition, Rusty Rackets is back for the Spring for those who want to get back into tennis. Further details and booking information can be found on our website.

Do keep an eye out on our website for additional coaching programmes which will be added on a regular basis.

Or come along for free and try out one of our club sessions:

- Wednesday morning, 9 until 11 (the most social session, aimed at those who don't normally play for our teams)
- Wednesday evening, 6:30 until 8:30 (for players of all standards)
- Sunday morning, 10:30 until 12:00 (for players of all standards)

The internal Fast4 singles league continues to be popular with 27 players competing in 5 divisions with Ian Haigs winning Div.1 in January.

MEMBERSHIP

At Needingworth Tennis Club we offer both competitive and social tennis, and pride ourselves on being a very friendly club that offers great value for money. We are always happy to welcome new players of all abilities. The new year for membership commences on 1st April and fees have been held at last year's prices. You can join on the website or contact Debbie for more details.

CONTACTS

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

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

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

Needingworth Karate Club

Another Year has passed – looking back on the last gradings everyone worked hard, passed and received their new belt. The recipient of the Dojo trophy was Charlie, Congratulations to him and everyone else who passed.



We are always on the look out for beginners to join our small, friendly but successful club. We accept beginners of all ages (+7 years) into a friendly supportive environment – no kit initially required.

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

Pop along or contact the highly experienced instructors.

Kyoshi Burton 7th Dan – 07770685608

Sensei Morris 3rd Dan - 07917155254

Decorating eggs for Easter

I distinctly remember that, when I was a child, my mother would serve boiled eggs at Easter which she decorated just using onion skins, but strangely I cannot remember the details of how she did it. My memory only goes as far as thinking that she wrapped the onion skins round the eggs, but how did she keep them in place whilst boiling? I decided to experiment to see if I could reproduce the effect and this is the result.



I chose white eggs and used just the outer thin skins of both red and white onions hand torn into pieces. Looking around for something available to wrap the eggs I found a pack of disposable cloths

(similar to J-cloths but the ones I had been using are white) and, having wet the eggs to help sticking, made little parcels containing the onion skins and an egg, each tied up tightly with string. One cloth cut in half wrapped these two eggs and I used the skin from one red and one white onion for each egg. The onions of course could go back in the pantry for use when required.

Then I simply hard boiled the eggs, in their parcels, in water with salt added for the usual 10 minutes or so. Carefully unwrapping the parcels whilst still warm and wiping off the onion skins revealed my patterned eggs.

MOTHERS DAY RAFFLE

Needingworth Community Pre-school
Passionate about the Power of Play

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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR INFO

WHAT'S ON in the Village

March 2024

- Fri. 1st Beer and Wine Club AGM (members only)
8pm in the Pavillion
Mon. 4th WI AGM and Ploughman's Supper
Sun. 17th Installation of new vicar of Meridian Benefice
(see page 19)
Fri. 29th Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt
Fri. 29th Walk of Witness to Bluntisham (see page 19)

APRIL 2024

- Mon. 1st Scouts Easter Egg Hunt
Sat. 6th Village Hall Annual Trivia Quiz
Mon. 8th WI Papworth Choir
Wed. 10th Defibrillator Training, see page 7 for how
to book

May 2024

- Mon. 13th WI "The Witches of Warboys" talk by
the Norris Museum
Sat. 18th Village Hall Band Night

Advance Notice

Thursday 6th June, D-Day 80, 80th Anniversary event

If your organisation would like any future planned events listed here in the next issue of the Villager, to help avoid clashes, please send me details by the next copy date (1st May)



Needingworth Community Preschool
Passionate about the Power of Play

EASTER

Egg hunt

Friday 29th March

Scan QR code for info



www.gofundme.com/feaster-egg-trail



Needingworth Village Hall
Charitable Trust presents its

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

6th April 2024

7.30pm start

£25 per team plus booking fee

Teams up to 6 people

Doors open 7pm

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
needingworthvillagehall](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/needingworthvillagehall)

Tickets go on sale 14th Feb

Fully Licensed Bar

Raffle

Prize donations welcomed



Needingworth Village Hall
Charitable Trust presents....

**Live music
from 8pm
18th May**



2024
**Tickets £5 incl.
booking fee**

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
needingworthvillagehall](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/needingworthvillagehall)

Fully Licensed Bar

Doors open 7.30pm



Facebook:
@BoftheTape

Tickets go on
sale 4th March



Swavesey Camera Club
Annual Photographic Exhibition
 Saturday 23rd March 2024
 From 10 am to 4 pm at Swavesey Memorial Hall

Swavesey Camera Club are back on 23rd March 2024 for our Annual Photographic Exhibition. This event is one of our major opportunities to demonstrate our photographic skills to the public. Visit us and vote for your favourite image. In addition to the beautiful prints on display, there will be a continuous display of projected images and AV presentations. Some of the images will be available as greetings cards with all the proceeds from the card sales going to Over Day Centre. Coffee, excellent cake and other refreshments will be available all day.

Visit our website www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk where you can find further details about our club and the exhibition. On the website you will also be able to see an online version of the exhibition.

(Our exhibition is kindly sponsored by Ash Croft Veterinary Surgery and Tait Financial Services Ltd).



Wheelie



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
 & Northants**

**Huntingdonshire
 Local Group**

A History of Amphibian Conservation

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Arnold Cooke on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

This is our final indoor talk for the winter season and Arnold will describe the development of amphibian conservation from our local and national perspectives.

Arnold moved to Huntingdonshire in the late 1960s and has been involved with amphibian conservation and research since that time, including working for the national nature conservation agencies. Since leaving English Nature in the late 1990s, Arnold has continued to pursue his interests in amphibians, reptiles and birds. He has published widely in these areas, including on the status of Britain's amphibians and reptiles, pollutants in birds and the environmental impact of the introduced species of deer.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £3.50 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com)

Spring Walks – April 2024

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to come along to the following walks in April.

The first walk will be at Portholme Meadow on Saturday 20th April beginning at 10.30 am. Dr. Pat Doody will lead this walk and will focus on one of Portholme's specialities, the snakeshead fritillary. We also hope to see and hear corn bunting and skylark. Please meet at the entrance to the meadow at Godmanchester Lock, TL241704. What3words: amused.finishing.bulky. Nearest postcode PE29 2NB.

This will be followed by our annual bluebell walk at Brampton Wood on Sunday 28th April at 10.30am. The walk will be led by George Cottam and other Wardens, depending upon demand. We will look at the rich variety of spring flora, focusing on the bluebells. We also hope to see and hear the wonderful birdsong at this time of year. Please meet at the Visitors' Barn, near Brampton Wood Car Park, Grafham Road, Brampton, nearest postcode PE28 0DP. GR TL 184699. hat3words:skinning.rhino.headboard.

Both walks take approximately 2 hours. Please note that paths at both sites are very uneven and likely to be wet.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com).

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Bus Times

Dews Service No. 21 (Ramsey—St Ives)

Monday to Friday

NEEDINGWORTH, nr. Church St.	10:05	13:05	16:45
St Ives Morrisons (grounds)	10:09	13:09	16:49
St Ives Bus Station	10:15	13:15	16:55

Service No. 21 (St Ives—Ramsey)

Monday to Friday

St Ives Bus Station (Bay 2)	12:00	14:00	17:15
St Ives Morrisons (grounds)	12:05	14:05	17:20
NEEDINGWORTH, opp. Church St.	12:10	14:10	17:25

Dews Service No. 301 (Ramsey—St Ives)

(M-F Monday to Friday, S Saturday)

	M-F	M-F	S
NEEDINGWORTH, Bluntisham Rd.	06:30	07:15	07:30
St Ives Bus Station	06:42	07:27	07:42

Dews Service No. 301 (St Ives—Ramsey)

(M-F Monday to Friday, S Saturday)

	M-F & S	M-F
St Ives Bus Station	16:30	19:00
NEEDINGWORTH, nr. Church St..	16:39	19:09

Vectare Service No. 22A (Warboys-St Ives) Saturday only

Needingworth (Church St.)	10:47	13:47
St Ives Bus Station	10:57	13:57

Vectare Service No. 22A (St Ives-Warboys) Saturday only

St Ives Bus Station	11:45	14:45
Needingworth (Church St.)	11:55	14:55

Above times are correct at time of printing, but it is wise to check before travelling, contact details on next page.

Grove Medical Practice



New appointment booking software

Grove Medical Practice is changing from Klinik, the current software used for online bookings, to a system called **Anima**.

It is widely used in many GP practices and has several helpful features:

Patients will be asked to establish an

Anima account When you require an appointment, you will then just need to log in, rather than having to enter all your personal details every time.

Anima uses Artificial Intelligence to better tailor the questions it asks when you. It also provides a box where you can summarise, in your own words, what you are most concerned about.

Anima links with your NHS records to provide the clinician with a summary of your health background as well as the current issue you are concerned about. This saves a huge amount of time for clinicians.

All appointment requests will still be reviewed by a clinician, unless completely straightforward, such as booking a blood test.

To set up an account, go to the Grove website <https://www.grovemedicalpractice-stives.nhs.uk/> and put 'Anima' in the search box. There is a short video showing you how to create your account.

Patient Participation Group

Would you like to have your voice as a patient heard? The PPG is a group of patients who work with staff from Grove Medical Practice to improve the quality of care and outcomes for patients. The PPG meets 4 times a year to share updates from Grove and discuss issues raised by members of the PPG. You do not have to attend meetings to be part of the PPG.

Interested? Visit <https://www.grovemedicalpractice-stives.nhs.uk/patient-group/> to find out more.



PUZZLE CORNER

EASTER WORD SEARCH

The Word Search contains 12 words or phrases related to Easter. How many can you find? (Words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, backwards or forwards.)

Answers on page 26



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

BUS TIMETABLES

Details of the Dews Coaches services no 21 and 301 are given on page 30 but we recommend checking the web site www.dews-coaches.com before travelling. Vectare service no 22A (Saturdays) is also detailed on page 30. To check times go to <https://vectare.co.uk/local-bus-services/> For guided bus service from St Ives to Cambridge or Huntingdon telephone **01223 433 250** or go to web page <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/east/>

POST OFFICE (within One-Stop Shop)

Please note current Post Office opening hours are: **9 am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday** and **9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays (closed Sundays)**

POST COLLECTION TIMES

from the post Office:
Monday to Friday, 4.15 pm;
Saturday 9.45 am
(Sundays & Bank Holidays no collections)

MOBILE LIBRARY

1st Wednesday of every month

Holywell - Ferry Boat car park
3.25pm to 3.45pm

Needingworth - Playing field (Overcote Lane)
3.50pm to 4.30pm

For renewals or enquiries ring 0345 045 5225

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

To print a calendar of collection dates go to the following web site, enter your post code and click on your address.

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins>

Most addresses in Holywell-cum-Needingworth have collections on the following days:

GREY BINS (normal waste)

March Thurs. 7th and 21st
April Thurs. 4th and 18th
May Thurs. 2nd, 16th and 30th

GREEN BINS (garden waste)

March Wed. 13th and 27th
April Wed. 10th and 24th
May Wed. 8th and 22nd

BLUE BINS (recycling)

March Thurs. 14th and 28th
April Thurs. 11th and 25th
May Thurs. 9th and 23rd



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Hospital - Huntingdon (Hinchingsbrooke) 01480 416416
Hospital - Cambridge (Addenbrookes) 01223 245151
Gas Leaks (Any Supplier) Transco 0800 111 999
Electricity Power Cuts & Emergencies 0800 316 3105 or 0333 323 2105
Drinking Water - Supplies Failure/routine enquiries (Cambridge Water Co) 01223 706050
Sewerage, Services Failure (Anglian Water) 0800 145 145
Rivers - Pollution and Flooding (Environment Agency) 0800 807 060 or Floodline 0345 988 1188

PUBLIC & IMPORTANT SERVICES - ROUTINE ENQUIRIES

Cambridgeshire Country Council 0345 045 5200
Electricity (UK Power Networks) 0800 029 4285
Sewerage Services (Anglian Water) 03457 145 145
Telephone Services (British Telecom) 0800 150 111
Police (non-emergency no.) 101
Trading Standards (business queries) 0345 045 5206
Age UK 0300 666 9860
To stop unwanted mail 0845 703 4599
To stop unwanted phone calls 0845 070 0707



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WHO'S WHO

Baptist Church David Mann **300382**
david.mann@cantab.net

Beavers Chris Huddleston
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Beer & Wine Petronella Britton **466239**

Book Club Sue Forrest **464082**
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Bowls Alan Blackley **464804**
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Brownies Julie Swindells **07597 569582**
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https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/brownies/

Chatters Community Cafe Sue Martin
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Church, Parish Church of St John the Baptist Roger Beaman **462379**
Stephen York **465120**
hcn@meridianbenefice.org.uk

Cricket Dave Roberts **07800 834780**
davez76@hotmail.com

Cub Scouts Chris Huddleston
agslfirstneedingworth@hotmail.com

Football Email via web site:
https://needingworthcoltsfc.com/contact/

Gardening Club Grant Williamson **493360**
parkingcare@globalnet.co.uk
www.hcngardening.weebly.com

Good Neighbours Client Contact Team Helen, Cheryl and Ruth - **07794 680475**

Guides Helen Whitehead **460838**
Needingworth.guides@yahoo.com
https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/guides/

Holywell School Association Michelle Dolan
Holywellschoolassociation@outlook.com

Karate Glenn Morris **07917155254**
sensei_morris@gmail.com

Little Tigers Abi **07824 810532**

Local History Group Sally Beaman **462379**
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https://ggneedingworth.co.uk/rainbows/

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Scribblers Joan Tucker **463966**

Tennis Club Debbie Yates
dyates4physio@gmail.com
www.needingworthtennis.co.uk

Village Hall Trustees Mark Herbert
secretary@needingworthvillagehall.com

Village Hall Bookings Eleanor Hardy **07730 504220**
email: hardy.derek@sky.com

Wellworth Players Karen Bays **01480 463505**
Website: *www.wellworthplayers.co.uk*
mailto:admin@wellworthplayers.co.uk

Women's Institute Carol Peilow **01480 496958**
caroltyrrell@btinternet.com

Youth Cricket Stephen Mitcham **301679**

Chairman Parish Council Cllr Andrew Whyte **464223**

Parish Clerk Jane Bowd **468451**
needingworthpc@btconnect.com
www.holywell-cum-needingworthpc.org.uk

District Jon Neish **466110**

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

Post Office **465121**

Village Hall tel:
Outgoing calls emergency line only
Incoming calls **01480 498351**