

# **MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER**



**Issue 485**

**April 2024**

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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email Keith on  
shelton@live.co.uk

## Your Local Handyman

Minor repairs around the home  
Including taps, immersion heaters  
Flat pack assembly  
Shed & fence painting  
MANY more services provided  
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01449 781993  
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To Advertise here  
email Keith on  
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To Advertise here  
email Keith on  
shelton@live.co.uk

The Mendlesham Community Charity launch their website in August.  
Why not have a look.

Here is the QR Code and the Website address:

<https://sites.google.com/mendleshamcommunitycharity.com/home>

<https://tinyurl.com/MendleshamCC>



Here is a link for guidance on submitting articles for the  
newsletter

[https://sites.google.com/mendleshamcommunitycharity.com/  
home/newsletters/guidance-for-contributors](https://sites.google.com/mendleshamcommunitycharity.com/home/newsletters/guidance-for-contributors)

Or

<https://tinyurl.com/32byjppr>

# Newsletter supported by Mendlesham Community Charity

## Newsletter Team

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 Carolyn Triscott  
 Lorraine Shelton  
 Mark Brennan

We produce 12 issues per year which are delivered to every household in the location of Mendlesham.

### Deadline for May Issue

**6<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Front Cover**  
 Gray Green

### Editorial

Welcome to the April issue. It has been quite a roller-coaster ride through the weather of the past two months and lots of wet stuff. Dare we hope that we are now moving into drier and warmer weather territory? Let's get out and about to join in with the many things planned in our great community.

*Best Wishes*  
*Gemma*

Don't forget the Parish Church & URC from page 41

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## FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Clerk: Amy Johnson  
11 Schools Close, Mendlesham IP14 5UQ  
Tel : 01449 766719.  
Email: [parishclerk@mendlesham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@mendlesham-pc.gov.uk)  
Web site: [www.mendlesham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mendlesham-pc.gov.uk)

- Paul Allen tel 01449 766543
- Andy Davey tel 01449 768862 (Chairperson)
- Denise Foster tel 01449 768978
- Norman Foster tel 01449 768978
- Stephen Hyde tel 07920212139
- Sandie Judd tel 0333 006 2706
- Daniel Lummis 07584630988
- Helen Orton tel 01449 767741
- Charles (Mick) Orton 07388353544
- Liz Ward tel 01449 766562

Emergency Planning Co ordinator for Mendlesham Green: Mr David Nunn  
tel 01449 767158.

Temporary Emergency Planning Co Ordinator for Mendlesham: Please contact the  
Chairperson.

**Wednesday 10 April 2024** Mendlesham Parish Council Ordinary meeting 7pm  
Old School Room, Mendlesham

**Monday 15 April 2024**

Annual Parish meeting 7pm URC Chapel \*

**Wednesday 8 May 2024**

Mendlesham Annual Parish Council Meeting 7pm Old School Room, Mendlesham \*\*

Followed by AGM for Mendlesham Community Centre Charity

Followed by AGM for Mendlesham Memorial Playingfields Charity

Mendlesham Ordinary Parish Council meeting 7:30pm

\* The Annual Parish meeting is an opportunity for the electors of the parish of  
Mendlesham to meet and discuss items of interest to them. It is not a Parish Council  
meeting.

\*\* The Annual Parish Council meeting is a Parish Council meeting, held annually,  
which deals with the election of the Chair and representatives for various  
duties/committees for the forthcoming year.

Agendas for formal meetings for Mendlesham Parish Council, Mendlesham  
Community Centre Charity and Mendlesham Memorial Playing fields Charity are  
published via E News and Parish Notice Boards. Please note any extraordinary  
meetings may not be able to be published in this newsletter due to publication dates.



## Mendlesham Community Café

Saturday 6th April

10am - 2pm

Old School Room, Mendlesham

Come and join us for morning coffee, cakes, and delicious and very reasonably priced lunches.

All food is locally sourced and homemade.

**April's Special will be Pulled Pork Baps**


March Draw Winner

(St Patrick's Day Hamper)

Meg Clarke

*Want to join our team?*

We are looking for volunteers, so if you would like to get involved in this much-loved community project, please pop in and see us or call Helen on 01449767741



### Are you on Facebook?



If so have a look for  
'Spotted in Mendlesham'  
&



'Spotted in Mendlesham Green'

pages to keep up to date with what's going on in the villages.

### Mendlesham History Group

Talk on Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm will be given by John Rainer.

He will be speaking about LIDAR - 'The use of technology for revealing the hidden landscape'

URC Chapel

Non-members £4 on the door

## Mendlesham Community Charity (MCC)

Charity No: 282391

### April 2024

It is hard to believe we are already a quarter of the way through 2024- time certainly flies.

We are working hard on the **Parish Summer Fair** to be held on Saturday 22nd June 2024 between 12 noon and 6.00pm on the Mendlesham Memorial Playing Fields. We will have lots of new and exciting things for you to see and do on the day – there will be live music, children’s activities, food stalls and a bar as well as a craft fair in the School Main Hall.

We are holding a **Coffee and Cake Parish Summer Fair Meeting on Tuesday 16th April 2024 from 7pm to 8pm in the Old School Room**. We would like to invite you to join us and chat over what we are doing. Maybe you could suggest something you would like to see on the day.

We would also be very grateful if you could volunteer just one hour of your time on the day to assist us perhaps by directing stall holders to their pitch, doing a session on our Prize Draw table, or by helping to clear up at the end of the day. There are sure to be other things too! We need to know who is available and at what times to ensure things run smoothly on the day.

If you cannot attend the meeting but can offer to help, please do contact one of us - our details are below. Thank you.

### Web site

<https://tinyurl.com/MendleshamCC>

### Mendlesham Community Charity Trustees

Teresa Mills (Chair) 01449 766582

[teresa.mills@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com](mailto:teresa.mills@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com)

Letitia Goode (Secretary) 01449 768861

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Sally Lovatt (Treasurer) 01449 541725

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Andrew Cullum 01449 767877

[andrew.cullum@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com](mailto:andrew.cullum@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com)

**Support your local  
community groups and  
projects**

**Join the Mendlesham  
Parish Tote  
£10 annually for entry to  
26 draws**

**Prizes paid out every 2 weeks**

**£35, £25, £15 and £10**

**Pay cash or pay online  
Please contact Angela Pickup  
01449 766 483  
[angela.pickup@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com](mailto:angela.pickup@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com)**

**Tote managed by Mendlesham Community Charity  
Charity Number 282391**

# QUIZ NIGHT

With Quiz Master : Andi

@ Mendlesham Primary School, IP14 5RT



Tea, Coffee & Nibbles available  
Contact Graham on 07912 353105

SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
**7.30PM START**

ENTRY : £5.00 per person - Teams up to 6 people

*Organised by The Friends of St Mary's - registered charity number 284983*

# Creative Writing

With  
Mendlesham Writers Group

## You are Welcome

**FREE !!**

First visit  
Creative Writing Guidance Pack  
Advice and encouragement  
Guest speakers  
Refreshments

**2nd Tuesday Every Month**  
**Old School Room**  
**Mendlesham**  
**7.30pm**

**Contact: Noel on: 01449 766968**

**Create something worthwhile in your own special way**  
**No previous writing experience necessary**



**Parish Council:**

**Parish Councillor vacancy:**

Mid Suffolk District Council have now confirmed that the electorate do not wish to hold an election to fill the vacancy to the Parish Council. Mendlesham Parish Council are now able to fill the vacancy by co-option. If you wish to find out more and then apply about the Parish Councillor role, please look at our website, ask a Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk. The deadline for receipt of applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 5pm.

**Parish Council:**

**Parish Clerk role:**

We are very pleased to announce our new Parish Clerk, Amy Johnson, 11 Schools Close, Mendlesham IP14 5UQ. Amy and Sharon are currently in the process of a handover and we hope you will welcome and support Amy as your new Parish Clerk.

**Parish Council:**

**Dogs:**

We have been informed by a resident that the ditch that runs parallel to the foot path between Station Fields and Mendlesham's Woodland has a collection of bagged dog waste in the ditch. There are two dog litter bins next to the path going alongside St. Joseph's Centre from Old Station Road to Glebe Way.

**Please pick up any mess and either take home or deposit responsibly at the nearby dog litter bins.**

*Announcing Skulduggery in Stowmarket, Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2024*



Stowmarket Library's Skulduggery team is excited to announce this year's fast-approaching literary crime festival event.

Join us at Stowmarket Library on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and meet our guest authors: Susi Holliday, Lauren North, Tim Sullivan, Vaseem Khan, Olivia Kiernan, & James Henry. Tickets are £5 per author, or £15 for all-day Saturday. Light refreshments are available throughout the day.

Book your place:

[www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/skulduggery-in-stowmarket](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/skulduggery-in-stowmarket)

## Betsy Self

One of Mendlesham's oldest residents, Betsy Self of Ducksen Road sadly passed away on Sunday 3rd of March, at the grand old age of 101. Betsy had lived in the village for almost 40 years and will be sadly missed. Her cremation will be at West Suffolk Crematorium Bury St Edmunds at 11.30 on Friday 5th of April.

## Old Newton Art Exhibition 2024

We are delighted to announce that ONART will be holding its second exhibition on Saturday 18th May and Sunday 19th May in the Old Newton Village Hall (IP14 4ED)

For more details please contact Libby Brooks [onartexhibition@btinternet.com](mailto:onartexhibition@btinternet.com)



**ONART**

# ART EXHIBITION

18 May SATURDAY NOON-6PM → 19 May SUNDAY NOON-5PM

PREVIEW 17 May FRIDAY 7.30-9.30PM

Contact Libby Brooks for more information  
[onartexhibition@btinternet.com](mailto:onartexhibition@btinternet.com)

ARTWORK BY CHRISTOPHER SUTTON

The **Mobile Library** calls at Mendlesham & Mendlesham Green every 4 weeks on Thursday afternoon at the following times:

Mendlesham Fish & Chip Shop

15.15 - 15.30

Mendlesham Playing Field

15.35 - 15.50

Mendlesham The Green

16.00 - 16.20

The van's next visit is **Thursday 4th April 2024**



# Mendlesham Walking Group

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Meet at**

**Community Centre Car Park 10.00a.m.**

**2-hour walk led by Colin & Linda**



**AND**



**Walking on a Wednesday**

**Shorter, slower walk of about 1½ hours led by Alan**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Meet at**

**Community Centre Car Park 10.30a.m.**

**PLEASE WEAR STURDY WATERPROOF BOOTS**

**Dogs on leads welcome**

**Come and join us**

**Stay safe and keep walking**

**For more information please contact**

**Angela - 01449 766483**

**Alan - 07790 124 509**

**If you would like to join Mendlesham Walking Group, please  
e-mail Angela : [angiepickup@btinternet.com](mailto:angiepickup@btinternet.com)**

## **DISCLAIMER**

All adverts are placed in good faith and the publishers cannot undertake responsibility for work carried out. Please note that the opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Mendlesham Newsletter committee or the Community Charity. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication, however we reserve the right to include, edit or amend as we think appropriate. Mendlesham Newsletter is produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that these errors may be corrected in future editions.

FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY INVITE  
FAMILIES & FRIENDS TO

# THE VILLAGE WALKING QUIZ

**START:** Mendlesham Primary  
School (parking available)

**WHEN:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**TIME:** 9.30-11.30am

Walking throughout Mendlesham Village following the clues and getting quiz points! Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits at the ending point – Old School Room Mendlesham (opposite the Fish and Chip Shop)

**£2 per Adult**

**£1 per Child**

**Raising Money for Youth Sports Trust**

**COME AND HAVE SOME FUN!**

## MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



The next meeting will be on  
Tuesday 2nd April in the  
Old School Room at 1930.



At this meeting we will review  
the images of light trails taken on a freezing cold night last month plus  
any more taken since.

There is always time for a cup of coffee and a biscuit.  
We pay a fee at each meeting to cover the cost of the hall.  
The club is a small group of mixed photography ability and new  
members are always welcome.

For more details please contact [mike@favager.co.uk](mailto:mike@favager.co.uk)



Hi everyone,

Often charities, a bit like businesses, are judged by the largest number of customers for the smallest costs. However, successful community-based projects like The Debenham Project almost always follow an alternative principle – provide the care and support now, and worry about the cost later. We have always applied this approach by “getting on and doing something” – something that might help a family carer, or the loved one they care for, even if only just a little. We hope that The Debenham Project will always be somewhere to find help. The numbers that come to the Carers Club, Fit Club, Lunch Clubs, Songs for Sharing, etc. are great, but the real benefits of the Project lie in the difference that it can make, personally and individually, from having someone to talk to, assistance with forms, information, advice, guidance, friendship, etc. All acts of kindness not readily to be measured by statistics. I am convinced that it is these, and the personal relationships involved, that help and strengthen the well-being of those families amongst us who are having to live with dementia.

With all my best wishes,  
Lynden Jackson

[www.the-debenham-project.org.uk](http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk) ; 01728 862003

# Mendlesham Community Charity TOTE RESULTS

<b>Mendlesham Lottery</b>			
<b>1st February 2024</b>		<b>15th February 2024</b>	
Drawn at Mead Way		Drawn at Mead Way	
P. WEBB	£35.00	J. KNOCK	£35.00
S. PADDY	£25.00	D. HALES	£25.00
G. BAKER	£15.00	H. COLMAN	£15.00
J. MONAGHAN	£10.00	J. QUESTED	£10.00
<b>29th February 2024</b>		If you would like to purchase Tote Tickets, please contact Angela Pickup on 01449 766483 or <a href="mailto:angiepickup@btinternet.com">angiepickup@btinternet.com</a>	
Drawn at Mead Way			
B. ABBOTT	£35.00		
N. SHIMMIN	£25.00		
D. TAYLOR	£15.00		
J. BAKER	£10.00		

## **United Reformed Church**

### **MURCies Coffee Bar**

Friday - 12th April 2024 10am - 12pm

### **Knit and Natter**

Monday - 8th & 22nd April 2024 2pm - 4pm

Friends of St Mary's

**Soup, Coffee & Cake**

**Every Tuesday 11:00am - 1:00pm**

In St Mary's Church

All Welcome!

No Charge ... donations welcome



21 members attended our February meeting. Anne, v. president chaired the meeting and we all wished Anita, our president, best wishes for a speedy recovery. A card was signed for Anita and also for Sandra plus a collection taken for a farewell gift.

We had updates on our March upcoming events and plans for the July Flower Show. Our 'growing' challenge this year is to grow a dwarf bean from supplied seeds. There will also be an exhibition as part of the show to showcase the varied skills our members have.

Stuart Bowell was welcomed, we were very grateful to Stuart for standing in at short notice - Stuart told us about the Round Tower Churches Society. In Suffolk we have 38 round towers and we heard how they were built and why. Many of the towers, built with uncut flints collected from the area, could only be built from March to September at 5 to 6 feet in a year. They were double skinned plastered with lime mortar – only about 9 inches could be built before it had to be left to dry. We watched a slide show of many varying examples in the area. I am sure we will all now take note as we travel around and spot a round tower. Di thanked Stuart.

**For the diary:**

April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Knit, Stitch and Yarn in O.S.R. 1000 – noon. £2.50 per meeting.

April 13<sup>th</sup>: Workshop decorating a tote bag. O.S.R. 09.30-noon.

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Our meeting in URC 7.30pm. Subs. due by tonight. Talk and demo. - Blood, sweat and tears – led by Jill Norris. Competition: a red flower.

If you are interested in joining us please contact president Anita (766902). You will be made welcome.

## MENDLESHAM OVER 60'S CLUB

### FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

Twenty-five joined us for this meeting. After the minutes were read the speaker was introduced – Mr Chris Parfitt on the topic of “Romania after Dracula”.

Romania is a relatively new country, made up from joining several small countries and has been Romania for about 100 years. It is bigger than the UK but the population is 10% smaller than ours. Mainly Catholic churches were fortified so people and their animals could go there for safety. The houses look like normal homes but most have small farmyards at the back. Towns are mostly traffic free. Transport is mainly carts pulled by horses who wear red tassels to keep them safe from the evil eye. The old salt mines that are no longer in use are turned into these massive entertainment areas. The place looks like the modern world has missed it out but looks lovely, with its mountainous regions. Bears and wolves are wild in the forests.

A very interesting and informative talk enjoyed by all.

#### Competition

First: Jenny Mayes

Second: Val Laws

Third: Linda Geymer

We were invited by the W.I. to put entries into their Flower Show in July. Members were also asked for volunteers to help with our Coffee Morning on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Next Meeting

April 24<sup>th</sup> – Susan Jones from Stonham Barns Owl Sanctuary.  
Competition “an owl in any medium”.

A very good afternoon. Thanks for all the help we were given.

Coffee Morning – April 6<sup>th</sup> 10-12 in URC Chapel.





A warm welcome awaits you at the

## **Mendlesham Art Group**

Meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

2pm - 4.30pm in the Old School Room.

£10 yearly subscription. £4 per session

(includes a drink and biscuits)



This is an informal friendly group where everyone can create what they want in their preferred medium and style.

Help and advice given if wanted!

## Friends & Food Friday

In the Old School Room 12-2pm

### Dates for 2024

April - 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> May - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

June - 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> July - 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

### MENU

Heinz tomato or  
chicken soup  
& buttered roll

Or

Panini with a choice  
of fillings -  
ham, cheese,  
tomato , bacon

Plus A piece of  
homemade cake

**£3.00**

Plus Endless tea  
and coffee

\*\*\*\*\*

Always books, jigsaws and magazines to borrow

Supported by a grant from BMSCC



## FOMSA

### Friends of Mendlesham School Association

Mendlesham Primary School is having a Bag 2 School Fundraising collection.

If you have any unwanted items from those listed below then please bag them up ready to recycle them whilst raising money for the school.

Please fill bin bags with *GOOD* quality:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags,
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers).



The company **DO NOT** accept:

- *Duvets and blankets*
- *Pillows and cushions*
- *Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)*
- *Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing*
- *School uniforms with and without logo*
- *Corporate clothing and workwear*
- *Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material*

Please bring your filled bags to school on:

**Wednesday morning 24<sup>th</sup> April at 9:00am**

Please leave bags near the front of the school, not blocking any of the entrance doors. A FOMSA member will be there to show you.

Please note we do not have anywhere to store filled bags so please wait until the collection date before bringing them to school.

Thank you in advance for your support.

**My council tax bill is coming out in March, and I am dreading opening it as it always goes up. My income has stayed the same but everything else seems more expensive and I have hardly anything left over - how will I cope if my payments for this year go up?**

Many of us are feeling overwhelmed as we see our basic bills and essential costs go up. You're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

First off, there are discounts available to some people depending on their circumstances. You can check your bill or contact your council to find out if you might be eligible for an automatic reduction to your council tax.

If you're not getting a discount, you might still be entitled to one. It depends on who lives in the property. So, if you're the only adult in your home, you'll get a 25% discount on your council tax bill.

When working out how many people live in a property, some people aren't counted - they're called 'disregarded people' and include under 18s, a student nurse or someone on an apprenticeship scheme and many more. Checking the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/who-has-to-pay>) for more details. If everyone who lives in the property is disregarded, you will still receive a council tax bill, but it will have a 50% discount. However, if everyone in your home is a student or severely mentally impaired, you won't pay any council tax.

Additionally, if someone has moved out, tell the council as this might change your eligibility. If you are entitled to a discount as a result, it will be valid from the date when the person moved out, even if you told the council after the event, and the reduction may be backdated.

If you think you might be eligible you should apply to your local council for a discount as soon as possible. You can find your council's contact details via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount>

You mention that your income hasn't increased. If you are on a low income, you might be able to get your council tax reduced. If you get benefits or have other people living with you, this might affect how much your council tax is reduced by.

Your local council will ask you details about your income and your circumstances, so they can work out if you're entitled to a council tax reduction. They will then calculate your new bill and tell you how much council tax you need to pay.

*Continued on page 18.....*

.....continued from page 17

If you have other people living with you who are aged 18 or over, you might all be responsible for paying council tax. Only one of you needs to apply for a council tax reduction. The council will make a decision and reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay accordingly.

You may also be eligible for additional support if you've reached State Pension age which you can check on the government website via <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>. If you're under State Pension age, the 'working age rules' apply and if you've reached State Pension age, it depends if you or your partner get certain benefits.

The working age rules still apply if you've reached State Pension age and you or your partner get:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support

If you've reached State Pension age and don't get any of these benefits, the 'pension age rules' apply.

Even if none of the reduction criteria applies to you, your local council can still reduce your council tax bill or cancel it altogether, this is called 'discretionary reduction'. They'll normally only do this if you can show that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax.

If you're in this situation you should ask your local council for help. You'll need to show them evidence of your circumstances. If your immigration status doesn't let you claim public funds, you can still apply for a discretionary reduction. A discretionary reduction doesn't count as public funds.

We know that times are incredibly tough and council tax is a priority bill so it's important to keep in contact with your council if you can't keep up payments. Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward, without judgement, working with you side by side.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm. Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

## MENDLESHAM DIRECTORY

1 <sup>st</sup> Mendlesham Guides	Emma Munday	01449 768843
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Book Club	Doug Williams	01449 766498
Ancient Order of Foresters	Beatrix Wrinch	07885 909869
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Martyn Bryant	01379 788998
Bowls Club	John Player	07747 592899
Brownies	Brenda Stannard	01449 766308
Camera Club	Mike Favager	01449 766007
Carpet Bowls Club	Roger Fouracre	01449 766229
Community Centre Hall	Becky Herbert	01449 672531
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Writers Group	Noel Fletcher	01449 766968

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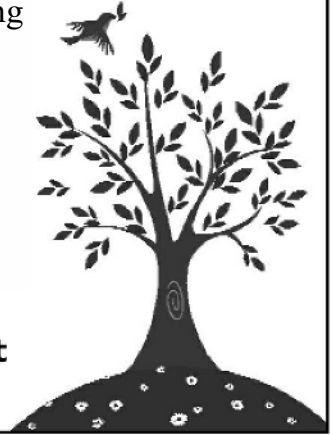
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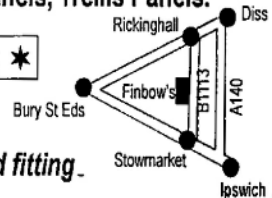
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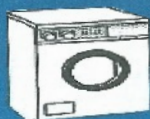
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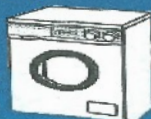
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# MENDLESHAM CHAPEL

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SERVICES FOR APRIL  
As shown below



3<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm Afternoon Fellowship – TBA  
7<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm Mrs Veda Berriman  
14<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Rev'd Mary Playford  
17<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Afternoon Fellowship – Miss Anne Scarff  
28<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Rev'd Norman Tharby

**MURCies Coffee Bar – Friday from 10.00 - 12.00 (12<sup>th</sup> April)**  
**Knit & Natter – Mondays 2.00 - 4.00pm (8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

1 Corinthians 4:10

*<sup>10</sup>For Christ's sake we are fools; but you are wise in union with Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! We are despised, but you are honoured!*

The 1<sup>st</sup> of April has become (at least till 12 noon) a time to play tricks and pranks on people, and if they do not realise what is happening, they are called an April fool.

There is even a reference to April fool's day in [Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales](#) from 1392. In Medieval times many well-off houses would have their own fool or court jester, their primary purpose was to keep political leaders grounded by entertaining the court aristocracy with crude jokes and performances.

In the Old Testament, a fool was someone who refused to listen to wisdom or learn from discipline, failing to fear God or respect the rules of reality, they repeat their folly much like a dog returns to it's vomit. "Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them." (Proverbs. 26:27) But St Paul encourages us to be fools for Christ. I am sure that many people that are not Christians, do think that Christians are fools to believe in something or someone that can't be seen or science can prove. But if we become Fools for Christ it's not about being silly and doing jokes on people, it's about standing up for what we believe in, speaking out for those who cannot speak for themselves, not going along with the latest trends and ideas but being true to God.

*Continued on page 42.....*

.....continued from page 41

Being a fool for Christ or Foolishness for Christ is an old idea that refers to behaviour such as giving up all one's worldly possessions upon joining an ascetic order or religious life, or deliberately flouting society's conventions to serve a religious purpose—particularly of Christianity. Such individuals have historically been known as both "holy fools" and "blessed fools". The term "fool" is often perceived as feble-mindedness, but in these terms, "blessed" or "holy" refers to innocence in the eyes of God.

Today we are all called to be fools for Christ. Our calling is a different way of thinking and being, a way that the world will regard as foolish. If we live out this calling with integrity, if we are truly people of love and grace, if we live sacrificially in service to others, many in the world will be drawn to Christ.

Yours. Robert

### **CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET - IP14 1AP**

Parish Priest - Rev. Simon Leworthy The Presbytery, 29 Lockington Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1BQ Tel: - 01449 612946  
email - pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk

#### **MASS TIMES:**

**Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) - 6pm**

St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG

**Sunday - 8:30am & 10:15am**

Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1AW

**Holy Days - 10am & 7:30pm**

Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1AW

Weekday Mass is usually 10am, see the weekly Newsletter or the Parish Website - [www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk](http://www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk)

All are welcome to "Coffee and Chat", 2 - 4pm  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

This is held in the Parish Hall above the Church -  
a lift is available.



**New USAAF 34th Bomb Group  
Memorial Mendlesham Flower Rota**

Ken Abbott  
April



# ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM

www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk



**Vicar: Fr. Philip T Gray, BA, SSC** Mendlesham Vicarage Tel: 01449 766359  
**Churchwardens: Andrew Fleming: 01449 711065 Chris Elstone: 07530 769676**

## WORSHIP

**SUNDAYS: 9.30 a.m. Parish Mass**

*also LIVESTREAMED on Facebook  
stmarysmendlesham*

**First Mass of Sunday: Saturdays**  
10.00 am.

**Weekday Mass:** offered each day.  
For times, see calendar on church  
website and porch notice.

**For pastoral visits, Marriage,  
Baptism (Christening), Naming &  
Blessing etc. contact Fr Philip.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** see  
church website & porch notice.

**You are welcome to any of our  
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## EVERY TUESDAY

10.00 – 12.00 in church

## COFFEE & CAKE

*Note revised time from April*

No charge but donations welcome for  
Friends of St Mary's

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Mar: Easter Day:** 9.30: Parish  
Mass + Easter Eggs for children. Easter  
Egg Draw after Mass.

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Apr: Quiz Night – School Hall –**  
7.30pm £5 entry – teams of up to 6

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Apr: Transferred Feast of the**  
**Annunciation.** Mass 9.30 (said) 7.30 pm  
(sung) with shared refreshments after.

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Apr: Monthly Healing Service –**  
2.30 pm: Mass, laying on of hands and  
anointing.

## Fr Philip Writes

**St Thomas presents a difficulty.** His nickname '**Doubting Thomas**' could imply that his faith seems to be in doubt, but so often we overlook other aspects in his life: When the

other apostles weren't keen to follow Jesus to Jerusalem when he said he was going to die, it was Thomas who said, "**Let us join and die with him!**" So what was it that Thomas doubted after the Resurrection? Was it the Resurrection itself or rather the attitude of the others to it? Thomas wasn't with them when the risen Jesus had appeared to them in the locked room where they were hiding. When Thomas returned they said they'd seen Jesus and that he'd eaten with them, but they were just sitting behind locked doors waiting for a new appearance. They weren't giving any sign that his Resurrection had made any difference in their lives, which seemed to be going on

just as before. Was this the reason Thomas didn't believe they had seen the Risen Christ?

Thomas wasn't behind those locked doors but had been bold enough to go out whilst the others were afraid. The enemy to anyone experiencing Christ's resurrected life is FEAR. Fear stops a person opening a door, it disables and causes faith to wither. Thomas was later in the same room when Jesus appeared again and did believe. He said, **"My Lord and my God!"** Jesus then gave authority to all the apostles to forgive the sins of others – the Sacrament of Reconciliation - which enables us to walk as faith people assured that we are healed of the sins and failings that keep us behind locked doors.

A saintly nun told her bishop she was having visions of Jesus. To test her, the bishop said, **"Next time you see Jesus, ask him what my great sin was before I became a bishop."** Months later when nun returned, the bishop asked what Jesus had told her that sin was. The nun replied: **"Jesus said he no longer remembered it!"** When Jesus forgives, he forgets. So often we won't let our sins go. Let us make sure we aren't behind 'locked doors' and go out as people of faith, not fear. I pray we will say with St Thomas, **"My Lord and my God!"** and show by our lives that Jesus is alive in us.

## Mendlesham Heritage Fair

St Mary's Church/yards IP14 5SF

Monday 6 May

12 noon - 5 pm

£10 - U16s Free



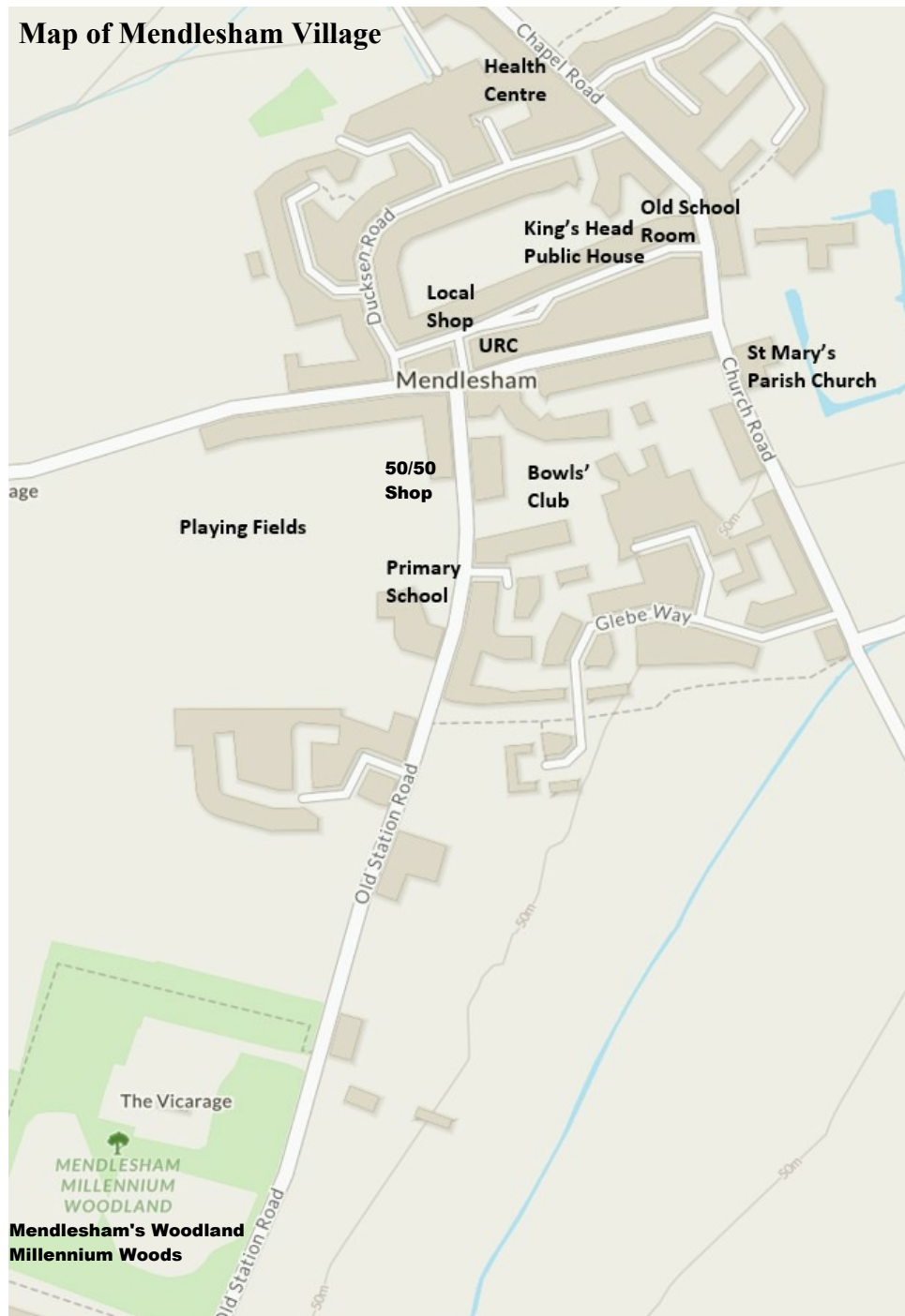
[stmarysmendlesham.org.uk](http://stmarysmendlesham.org.uk)

- Tudor Re-enactment of village life + Parish Militia training with Swords and Muskets
- Expert Talks about Armour + Longbows + Replica Armour to try on
- Art & Craft Exhibition by Mendlesham Primary School pupils
- Heritage Crafts Demonstrations incl. stonecarving, stained glass, wattle & daub, pottery, timber, spinning, weaving, Tudor food and more
- Children's Games and Trail
- Film about the Armoury
- Launch of new Armoury Booklet + Children's Activity Book:
- Ale tent, Food, Music, and lots more...

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help, but could do with more..... If you can help prepare, steward or clear up -

Please email April :  
[april46sw@hotmail.com](mailto:april46sw@hotmail.com)

# Map of Mendlesham Village





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