

MENDLESHAM NEWSLETTER



Issue 482

January 2024

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email Keith on
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Your Local Handyman

Minor repairs around the home
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To Advertise here
email Keith on
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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>

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

Deadline for February Issue
6th January 2024

Front Cover
Meg Clarke

Editorial

Welcome to the January issue. It seems as though 2023 has flown by in a flash and here we are again looking towards a brand new year.

Let us look forwards with optimism to the new journey ahead and be thankful for the many social groups within our parish and for the volunteers that give up their time to run them.

Best Wishes
Gemma

Dates for your diary

Jan		Page
3rd	WI Knit, Stitch & Yarn	14
6th	Newsletter Deadline	1
8th	Knit & Natter	13
9th	Mendlesham Writers Group	6
11th	Mobile Library	10
12th	MURCies Coffee Bar	13
13th	Coffee Morning - Annual Parish Party	3
13th	Mendlesham Walking Group	9
16th	WI 98 th Birthday Toast & Cake	14
17th	History Group Meeting	17
20th	Booking Line Open for Parish Party	11
22nd	Knit & Natter	13
24th	Walking on Wednesday	9
30th	Over 60's Meeting	15
31st	Deadline for Community Centre Equipment Applications	5

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

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Clerk: Sharon Jones, Honeysuckle, Hockey Hill,
Wetheringsett, Suffolk IP14 5PL

Tel 01449 766139

Email: parishclerk@mendleshampc.org

Web site: www.mendlesham-pc.gov.uk

- Paul Allen tel 766543
- Andy Davey tel 01449 768862 (Chairperson)
- Mike Exley tel 766246 (Emergency Planning Co ordinator for Mendlesham)
- Denise Foster tel 768978
- Norman Foster tel 768978
- Sandie Judd tel 0333 006 2706
- Daniel Lummis 07584630988
- Helen Orton tel 767741
- Mick Orton
- Liz Ward tel 766562

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

Dates for our planned Parish Council meetings for 2024 are currently being finalised. As soon as this happens, we will add the details to our website (please see the new address as above) and place on the Parish Noticeboards.

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.

2023:

This year has provided the Parish with some challenges, not least the recent floods.

Mendlesham Parish Council hopes that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your support over the past year.

Mendlesham Community Café

No Community Café in January
Check out the February Newsletter
for the next one.

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.

Coffee Morning

In aid of Mendlesham Annual Parish Party



Saturday 13th January 2024

10am – 12noon

at United Reformed Chapel, Mendlesham

Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola and Cake Stall

*It would be lovely to see you all for coffee and cake to
raise funds for such a special village event.*

*Any donations towards the stalls would be gratefully
received, please contact Christine on 01449 767841*

Mendlesham Community Charity (MCC)
Charity No: 282391

Website

Mendlesham Community Charity website – our website is live please visit us on <https://tinyurl.com/MendleshamCC>

Mendlesham Community Charity Trustees

Teresa Mills (Chair) 01449 766582
teresa.mills@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com
Letitia Goode (Secretary) 01449 768861
letitia.goode@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com
Sally Lovatt (Treasurer) 01449 541725
sally.lovatt@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com
Nathalie Crisp 07795 491781
nathalie.crisp@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com
Andrew Cullum 01449 767877
andrew.cullum@mendleshamcommunitycharity.com

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who helped make this year's Poppy Appeal for the Mendlesham District such a great success.

The annual Poppy appeal is when we remember those in our armed forces, past and present, who gave so much for us all and a time to raise invaluable funds for this worthy charity to help those in need. This fantastic amount is due to the wonderful committed collectors who give up their time to help with the appeal, the support of local businesses who are kindly happy to have poppy trays at their premises and to all of you who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to you all.

Mendlesham Village raised **£1250**

Mendlesham Green **£228**

The district as a whole raised the grand sum of **£2830**

Jacquie Nash. Poppy Appeal Organiser

Mendlesham Community Centre Charity (Charity no 304795)

Mendlesham Community Centre Charity has equipment in need of a new home.

If you wish to make an application for the following, please write to the Parish Clerk by **31 January 2024**, to include your financial offer and details as to where, how and who would be the beneficiaries of using the equipment.

This is the equipment previously used in the Small Hall, Mendlesham Community Centre which will be surplus to requirements for the planned new Mendlesham Community Hall.

Equipment:

- 1 x Optoma VDHDSL projector with ceiling mounting bracket.
- 1 x MATTE white tension screen. PI No JBD,150821/Model PCW 120 met. 120 inch (16.9) 265-150 Electric 220/240v
- 2 x Speakers Monacur PAB-88-WS 120 W/8-40-20000hz Times plus fixing brackets
- 1 x Metal and glass case with amplifier and digital sound converter.
- 1 x metal storage cupboard 1.8m high ,1.2m wide.

Mendlesham Community Centre Charity reserves the right to accept any offer, not necessarily the highest financial offer. It is hoped that the above equipment will find a new home as one lot.

Applications by close of business 31.01.24 to

Email: parishclerk@mendleshampc.org

Post: Clerk, Mendlesham Community Centre Charity, Honeysuckle, Hockey Hill, Wetheringsett, IP14 5PL.

Mendlesham Carpet Bowls Club

(and short mat bowls)

2023 - 2024 season

Keep fit and active

New comers and Experienced bowls players
are always very welcome

Annual subs £5.00. Weekly Playing fee £3.00
(Includes tea/coffee and biscuits)

Mendlesham Primary School Hall

most Tuesdays from September 5th

7:30 - 10:00pm

Email contact: rfouracre230@gmail.com

Affiliated to the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

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:

Flooding matters:

At our meeting held on 8 November, Parish Councillors, SCC/MSDC Cllr Stringer and members of the public were able to discuss the recent events and implications for those living near to two areas in particular:

- From the Chip Shop to the Heath Centre along Chapel Road.
- From the Mendlesham Playing fields down past the old Fleece PH along Old Station Road

Both of these areas have been the subject of conversations, meetings with professional officers and investigations/work over the years. However, all agreed this was something that needed urgent resolution. Cllr Stringer has been asked to take this matter up with Suffolk County Council or any professional partners as it is having such a detrimental effect on those living nearby, as well as those having to use alternative routes and or experience additional traffic to access Mendlesham services. It may be that part of any resolutions may impact on private landowner responsibilities for the drainage systems, but until we have professional guidance, mitigation solutions cannot be found. Thank you to all of those who attended the meeting or have provided information about the recent floods. Please continue to do so as required.

Parish Council:

Changes to the Mendlesham website and our digital services.

We are excited to announce that our website is evolving to better serve the Mendlesham community. The previous website www.mendlesham.suffolk.cloud has now transitioned to a new domain: www.mendlesham-pc.gov.uk This change marks the first phase of our digital upgrade, reflecting our commitment to accessibility and modernisation.

In the upcoming second phase, we will further enhance our digital presence. Our clerk and all councillors will be equipped with secure email addresses under the [mendlesham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mendlesham-pc.gov.uk) domain, ensuring more efficient and secure communications.

Stay tuned for these exciting updates as we continue to improve our digital services for the Mendlesham community.

RUSSKA by Rita Salisbury

Almost twelve years! Can that really be so
Like the blink of an eye, where on earth did they go?
My future to be sealed for a mere twenty pound
FOR SALE, TEN WEEK OLD PUP, could a buyer be found?

I was one lucky puppy that cold winters day
For two wonderful people just happened my way.
A few years later on two became four
And a more happy life I could not have wished for.

Cuddles and walks, a warm cosy bed
What more could a dog wish for, tho' it has to be said
On the walks my behaviour was sometimes quite bad
Why go home when there's so much more fun to be had.

Chasing anything furry, a squirrel or a bunny
Chasing waves on the seashore was really quite funny.
Playing chase with the doggy friends that I met
The command, 'Come here Russka!' I just seemed to forget.

I'm aware of the times I made the family so cross
Running off, stealing food, thinking I was the boss.
But I'm tired now, won't be running away anymore
After all, in my world, I am eighty-four!

I am ready now to take a very long rest
So please don't be sad, you were simply the best.
There's a puppy out there waiting to be lucky like me
So be happy, move on! (Now I am off for a pee).

Mendlesham Walking Group

Saturday 13th January 2024

Meet at

Community Centre Car Park **10:00 am**

2-hour walk led by Alan



AND



Walking on a Wednesday

Shorter, slower walk of about 1½ hours led by Alan

Wednesday 24th January 2024

Meet at

Community Centre Car Park **10:30 am**

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

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.

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 11th January 2024

MENDLESHAM CAMERA CLUB



No meeting for us in January, but we will be back on Tuesday, 6th February - more about that next month.

Seasons greetings to you all - and keep taking photos!

For more details please log onto the website:<http://www.mendleshamcameraclub.co.uk/> or contact mike@favager.co.uk

**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**



Mendlesham Annual Parish Party Booking Details

The **Mendlesham Parish Party** will be held on **Saturday 23rd March 2024, 4.45pm for 5.00pm** in the **Mendlesham School Hall**. This is the 70th year of this tradition in the village and has been enjoyed by many people and generations over the years. The party started in the village hall which used to stand just off Chapel Road in 1954, it provided the retired people of the village with an enjoyable party during the winter months.

The committee have reviewed the party held in April this year with the space and resources available and have decided to go back to having a two course dinner, Roast Beef, Yorkshire Puddings, Roast Potatoes and vegetables and dessert followed by coffee.

The meal will be followed by entertainment and this year we have chosen a great singer, Ben Lake, who will bring you a variety of songs for us to join in and dance to if you wish.

You may want to bring a cushion as the chairs can feel a bit hard after some time and for safety reasons, you are asked to sit no more than 6 to a table.

In the same way as the last party, those of you 66 years old or older or registered disabled and live permanently within the parish of Mendlesham, the booking will commence on **Saturday 20th January 2024**. The phone lines will be open from 9am. Please call Rachel Roshier on 07881 816622 or email rachelroshier@gmail.com You will need to call or email to reserve your place, we will not be making house to house visits with individual invitations.

We will also be looking for a willing bunch of helpers for the party, so if you are free on Saturday 23rd March 2024 between 3pm and 10pm and would like to be part of this special tradition, please contact Rachel on the telephone number or email address above.

We will also be holding a Coffee Morning on **Saturday 13th January 2024 from 10am to 12noon** at the United Reformed Chapel and it would be lovely to see you all there. If anyone has any tombola, raffle prizes or contributions to the bake sale, then please contact Christine on 01449 767841.

Best wishes to you all and we look forward to receiving your call, Happy New Year!!

Word Search - Streets of Mendlesham Area

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. oakfarm | 2. green | 3. tanoffice | 4. middy |
| 5. front | 6. glebe | 7. ducksen | 8. chapel |
| 9. mayfield | 10. cutting | 11. oldstation | 12. mill |
| 13. brockford | 14. oldmarket | 15. freelands | 16. horsefair |

Created by Mark Brennan

Mendlesham Community Charity TOTE RESULTS

Mendlesham Lottery			
9th November 2023		23rd November 2023	
Drawn at Mead Way		Drawn at Mead Way	
H. Dempsey	£35.00	M. Buck	£35.00
C. Deeks	£25.00	A. Webb	£25.00
P. Cole	£15.00	D. Briggs	£15.00
F. Arbon	£10.00	R. Brundell	£10.00

If you would like to purchase Tote Tickets,
please contact Angela Pickup on
01449 766483 or angiepickup@btinternet.com

United Reformed Church

MURCies Coffee Bar

Friday - 12th January 2024 10am - 12pm

Knit and Natter

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

A RUBBISH POEM

We deplore all the litter strewn on the road side
As you enter our village from the One Forty road.
But who drops this rubbish and where do they hide?
They are my reason for writing this ode.

But here is the point which bothers me so
They never are seen committing the offence.
They do it in private so clearly they know
The wrong that they do and it's consequence.

Our fine Parish Council and willing volunteers
Show pride and value in the place they call home.
So litterers-all, open your eyes and your ears
And sense the feeling expressed in this poem.

By Jack Kelly

Lots of apologies for absence at our November meeting – a shame as we welcomed back Jackie Norman to talk to us about male and female clothes of the Tudor period. Think of Tudor dress and think of Henry VIII – clothes were to impress and show status. Jackie was an entertaining speaker and dressed two mannequins showing the layers involved – impressive as Jackie had made the lovely garments, not in the materials originally used – silk, wool, hemp and linen but modern alternatives for convenience and durability.

With our president away, Jill ably took the chair supported by Chris as secretary – her first meeting in the role. We heard of plans for a visit to the Regal cinema in the Spring; arrangements for decorating the Christmas tree in St. Mary's and thanks to all those who had knitted poppies for the church gates, URC notice board and Mendlesham Green memorial. The 2024 programme is ready for the printer and will be available at the December meeting. Thank you to Linda for running the plant stall at this meeting.

On the last Saturday in November we met in the O.S.R. for the much anticipated Christmas workshop led by Jane. This year we made Christmas tree decorations from Suffolk puffs. Jane had done a great deal of the prep work of cutting out endless graduated circles of pretty Christmas material ready for us to sew. We all went home either with completed 'trees' or the materials to make three different designs. Thank you Jane – it was a lovely morning.

For the diary:

Jan. 3rd: - Knit, Stitch and Yarn in O.S.R. 10am – noon.

Jan. 16th - WI in the U.R.C. at 7.30pm – our 98th Birthday toast and cake. Speaker Marianne Brame, subject silver and gemstones – there will be items on sale. The competition is for an item of silver jewellery.

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

Season's Greetings to you all.

MENDLESHAM OVER 60s CLUB
NOVEMBER 2023

Members were welcomed to today's meeting. We had apologies from several members due to the time of year for colds.

Our speaker, Ms Paula Short, spoke on "Castro's Cuba".

Cuba was a Spanish island run by Batista who ran it by corruption and made it a millionaire playground. The poor people were fed up with being badly treated and when Castro formed the People's Revolutionary Party he was supported by the Cuban people. The rich up and left the country, leaving behind their posh cars and homes. You see lots of old American cars in Cuba that were abandoned. They welcomed tourism, showing off the lovely old buildings and beautiful landscape. He introduced a health system and made sure children were educated. Cigars are their most famous export and they also had sugar plantations. The Cuban people are very happy and welcoming. Castro was idolised by his people.

It was an eye opening and interesting talk.

The competition:

First - Annette Taylor

Second - Linda Stocker

Third - Linda Geyman

Tickets for St Marys draw were sent round and members were told a box for Christmas cards will be at our next meeting, which the W.I. have offered to deliver free of charge.

Next Meeting: January 30th – Mr Geoff Clarke "Mendlesham 2023"

Competition: Your favourite Christmas card

We all said goodbye and went home in the cold wind!!

Introducing the Friends of Stowmarket Lions

Giving people the opportunity to help our local community when and where they can

About Stowmarket Lions

Stowmarket Lions are a group of likeminded volunteers who seek to help those in need in our local community

Now in our 43rd year we have raised over £1M since the club started and last year raised some £50,000.

We raise money throughout the year with fundraising events such as our Boxing Dinner, Golf Day, Bike Ride, and Santa Sleigh.

We help groups and individuals via our Community Services team who typically meet monthly to consider requests for help.

Recently we have been able to help groups supporting people with conditions such as Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, dementia, cancer and the partially sighted, as well as the local food bank.

About Friends of Stowmarket Lions

We recognise that people lead busy lives with multiple demands on their time including work and family commitments. These time demands mean people may be hesitant in committing to full membership of our club but there's another way to help.

We are introducing the Friends of Stowmarket Lions to enable people to help our local community when and where they can.

How can the Friends of Stowmarket Lions help?

Friends of Stowmarket Lions can help in many ways.

It could be by supporting one of our events by buying or selling event tickets. For example gathering a group of your own friends or colleagues for a table at our boxing event in March.

Or perhaps you could sponsor an event such as our bike ride. The more of our event costs we can cover with sponsorship the more we raise to help those in need in our local community.

It could be that you would like to join us by helping at one of our events. Our Santa Sleigh is a great example where groups and individuals already walk with us collecting and spreading festive cheer around Stowmarket and surrounding villages.

What would be expected of a Friend?

All we ask is that you look to help when and where you can. With your agreement we will include you on our regular activities updates which will typically be shared by email. We will update you on forthcoming events as well as funds raised at previous events.

How can you become a Friend?

If you know one of the Stowmarket Lions then please contact them direct. Otherwise please email your contact details to:

friends@stowlions.org.uk

Please consider helping us to help those in need in our local community.

Thank you.

Bob Cuff

President of Stowmarket Lions

Mendlesham History Group

Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm in the URC Chapel

‘The story of Trinity House’
Karl Lumbers

Non-members welcome, £4 on the door



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

Every Friday
in the Old School Room 12-2 pm.

MENU

Bacon roll
Or
Panini-
cheese & ham And
or cheese &
tomato



Piece of
homemade
cake
And
Endless tea &
coffee



£2.50

Supported by a grant from
BMSCC

Monday Morning meet-up



We are now open again!

**Every Monday morning
in the Old Schoolroom
10am-12pm**

EVERYBODY welcome. If you are on your own, retired, widow, widower, new mum/dad, looking for work or whatever your situation...

Come on down and enjoy free tea, coffee, cake and sausage rolls, plus good friendly company.

There is also a selection of jigsaws, books and magazines to take away free of charge.

Funded through Suffolk community foundation through the East of England Co-op lunch club/warm hub fund.

Mendlesham Baby and Toddler Group

Meets in the large hall of the Community Centre.



Tuesday Mornings
9:15 to 11:15



Come and join us for a drink, snack, activities and a large space to play in.

Contact Simona Pounds 07585093311

MendleshamBabyGroup@gmail.com
Facebook; Mendlesham baby toddler group
for further information.



Could you spare a morning or afternoon a week to help local people in need?

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk support local people by providing free, confidential, independent and impartial advice. Demand for the charity's service has continued to increase, and the wonderful team of volunteers are so important to the help Citizens Advice provide.

Could you be a friendly face to greet people?

The charity are in need of volunteer receptionists to spare a morning or afternoon a week, as a friendly face to greet people who come into the Stowmarket office.

Could you help people find a way forward?

Volunteer advisers talk to local people on the phone, face to face and online to explore their problems and the options available to them.

No experience is needed for either role, as training will be given, and you will be part of a friendly team of existing volunteers supported by specialists and supervisors.

Citizens Advice volunteers come from all walks of life and choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons.

Current volunteers said:

"I volunteered to help others, but didn't realise how much I would get back! I love the feeling of satisfaction at the end of the day and the feeling you get from being part of a brilliant, friendly, professional and happy team."

"You gain skills and experience that stay with you for life. There is a great support system in place...it makes you feel like you are part of something great."

"The most enjoyable part of volunteering is seeing the difference we make. You meet a person who might be nervous and not know what will happen to them. At the end of the day they leave smiling and thanking you for all that you have done for them."

"Volunteering with Citizens Advice is not only mentally stimulating but also very rewarding."

Volunteers are Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk are often looking for ways to make use of their skills or to gain valuable experience and make use of the fantastic training. They also enjoy the opportunity to meet different people and be part of a friendly, welcoming team of existing volunteers. They find it rewarding to support local people and make a difference to their lives.

Interested in volunteering?

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk would love to hear from you! Go to midsuffolkcab.org.uk/volunteer or call 01449 676060 for an informal chat.

MENDLESHAM DIRECTORY

1 st Mendlesham Guides	Emma Munday	01449 768843
3 rd 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	Peter Coleby	01449 766985
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
Computer Club	Giles Godart-Brown	07500 042836
District Councillor	Andrew Stringer	01449 780339
Explorer Unit	Jonathan Freeman	07756 761590
Football Club	Ashley Roshier	07909 113676
F.O.M.S.A	C.P School	01449 766224
Friends of Mendlesham Health Centre	Phil Tucker	01379 678400
History Group	Sue Michell	01449 766434
Mendlesham Art Group	Anne Heaton	07719 244076
Mendlesham Community Charity	Teresa Mills	01449 766582
Mendlesham Education Foundation	Mike Favager	01449 766007
Mendlesham Welfare Foundation	Mike Favager	01449 766007
Old School Room Bookings	Daphne Lambert	01449 766320
Over 60's	Annette Taylor	01449 766552
Parish Council & Playing Field	Sharon Jones	01449 766139
Parish Party Committee	Rachel Roshier	07881 816622
Rainbows	Becky Froude	07774 581503
St Mary's Parish Church	Father Philip Gray	01449 766359
St Mary's Church Council	Chris Elstone	07530 769676
Toddler Group	Simona Pounds	07585 093311
United Reformed Church	Margaret Jackson	01449 766321
Village Recorder for Mendlesham	Geoff Clarke	01449 766447
Walking Group	Angela Pickup	01449 766483
Walking on Wednesdays	Alan Chattell	07790 124509
Woman's Institute	Anita Scruby	01449 766902
Writers Group	Noel Fletcher	01449 766968

If you have any amendments to the information on this page, please email the editor at gemma.green1202@gmail.com or call on 07733 333659 so they can be corrected. Thank you

Brockford Sidings Dog Park

A fun and secure place to exercise your dogs in the countryside!
Bring your own dogs' toys or make use of our supplied agility equipment.

Park inside the field so no need for a lead! Shelter for rain cover and a clean water tap for dog bowls and washing your dog off also available.

Bookings online only at:

www.brockforddogpark.co.uk

Location: Brockford Sidings, Brockford Green, IP14 5NN

D. I. ALSTON LTD.

THE CEDARS, CEDARS HILL, BROCKFORD. IP14 5PQ

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SELF STORAGE CONTAINERS

(20FT, £100 PCM inc. VAT)

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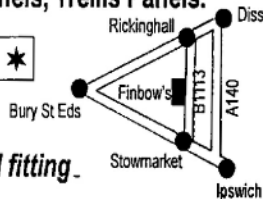
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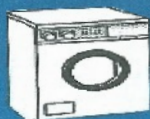
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17th 2.00pm Afternoon Fellowship – Rev'd Robert Sheard
28th 10.45am Rev'd Robert Sheard - Holy Communion

MURCies Coffee Bar – 2nd Friday from 10.00 - 12.00 (12th January)

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Dear Friends,

As you read this letter, Christmas will be over for many of us, but a few will still be celebrating. For us Christmas is the 25th December but in the Eastern Churches many will not celebrate their Christmas till the 6th January which is Epiphany, 12 days after Christmas, when they remember the coming of the Magi to the baby Jesus with their gifts. Legend tells us that there were 3 of them. This comes from the fact there were 3 gifts. There are other legends that say there were others. One such story by Henry Van Dyke, tells 'The Legend of the Other Wise Man' He was called Artaban, a medium from Ecbatana. He descended from the heavens, and from studying ancient writings learned that a king was about to be born in Israel. He sold all his possessions and purchased three gems, a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl, to give to the newborn king. He missed meeting the other three magi, who met at the Temple of the Seven Spheres, because he had stopped to save a poor man from dying, for which he had had to sell his sapphire. He continued his journey alone. He arrived at Bethlehem too late. Herod's soldiers were massacring the innocents. Artaban saved a baby boy's life by bribing a fierce soldier to spare him, but the price was the ruby. Now he only had one gift for the king. For years he wandered, seeking the king, and found himself in Jerusalem at Passover, which was in uproar. Artaban now had only one of his gifts left - the pearl, but he decided to keep searching for the king. Finally, after 30 years searching, he came to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover. The city was buzzing with talk about the man named Jesus who claimed to be the son of God and who was to be crucified.

Continued on page 42.....

.....continued from page 41

Artaban wondered whether he could use his last jewel to save the life of this man, Jesus.

But as he hurried through the streets of the city, Artaban came across a young girl who was crying. She told Artaban she was crying because she was going to be sold into slavery to pay her father's debts. Artaban could not pass by and leave the girl crying so he gave her the pearl, the last of his jewels. At that moment Jesus passed by carrying his cross to the place of execution. He looked at Artaban, and on his face Artaban could see three big drops of blood that looked to him just like a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl. He knew that Jesus was the king he had been looking for all these years, and he also knew that although he was not able to worship his King, his precious gifts had been sold, or given away, to help others, and that was the same as giving them to Jesus.

This story reminds us that Christmas does not stop on the 25th December or even the 6th January but continues all the year as we carry it in our hearts.

Happy New Year.
Robert.

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Holy Days - 10am & 7:30pm

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Weekday Mass is usually 10am, see the weekly Newsletter or
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All are welcome to "Coffee and Chat", 2 - 4pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of
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First Mass of Sunday: Saturdays
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Weekday Mass: offered every day.
For times, see calendar on church
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**Wed 10th Jan: 2.30 pm: MONTHLY
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Sun 14th Jan: Plough Sunday:
9.30: Parish Mass. Preacher: Bishop Mike
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11.00 (approx.) procession around village.
For further details, see church website.

Fr Philip Writes

**Epiphany – celebrated this year on Sunday 7th
Jan – is when we
celebrate the
arrival of the Wise Men.** One of the gifts offered
to the infant Jesus was **GOLD** – a sign of his
Kingship. We think of kings being remote, but
Christ is not like that; he came primarily to **SERVE**
and expects us to live out our faith in the same
way – by serving other people. Unless our faith
finds such expression, such as in visiting the
lonely, comforting those who are bereaved, feeding those who are hungry, giving
clothes to those without any, Jesus says our faith is irrelevant. In the Judgment scene





described vividly in Matthew's Gospel - ch 5 v 31-46 – people are condemned not because of what they have done, but for what they haven't done – sins of omission which include failure to serve other people.

There are many ways to put our faith into practice in a practical way; the **Sockbank** for homeless and vulnerable in Norwich cared for by **St Martin's Housing Trust** is open for socks, hats, gloves, scarves and good used trainers until 7th January, as is the tub by the Crib in church, collecting for **Christian Aid** to people far poorer than we are. All year round the red boxes just inside the church door are there to receive gifts of non-perishable food and toiletries for the **Stowmarket Foodbank**. These are just some ways we can show our faith in practical ways.

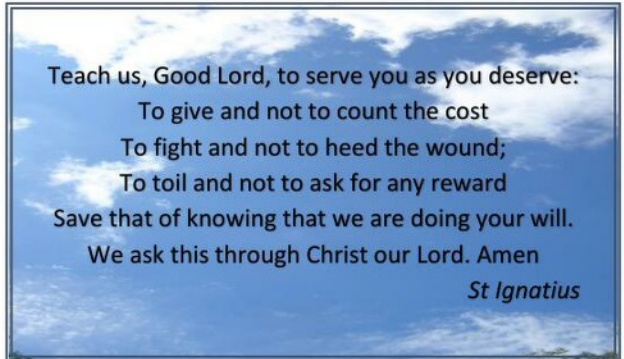
The last words said by the celebrant at each Mass is **“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and to serve each other.”** May we fulfil this today: I can't think of a better resolution for 2024.

Blessing of Chalk:

It's a custom to bless chalk at Epiphany, for writing a blessing near the main door of a house at the start of the new year:

20 + C + M + B + 24

You ask Christ's blessing on your home as you write the year date and the letters CMB. They represent both the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazaar and also the Latin '**Christus Mansionem Benedicat**' – '**May Christ bless this House**'.



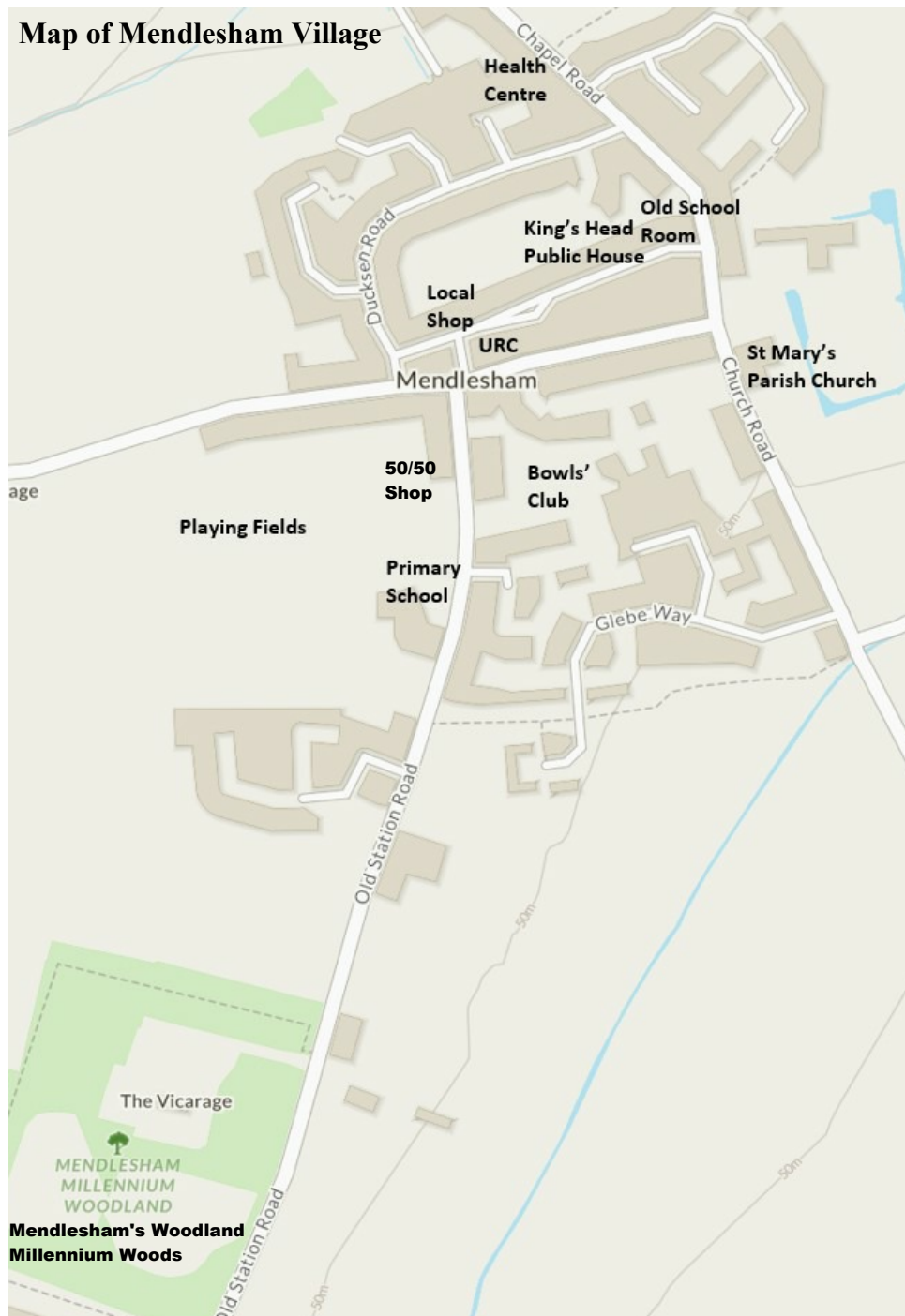
Save the date: Monday 6 May 2024 – Mendlesham Heritage Fair: Reconnecting our community with its unique Tudor heritage.

in St Mary's Church and Churchyard.
part of our Armoury Facelift project

For more information unable to fit into the 2 pages allotted to the Parish Church, see 'This Month's Newsletter' and 'What's On at:

www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk

Map of Mendlesham Village





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