



No.91 — Spring 2026



Photo—Peter Maddison—Waldringfield Resident



Waldringfield Gardeners

Plant and Garden Items Sale

If you are digging up or splitting any plants in the next month or so we would be grateful if you could pot them up & save / donate them for our "Plant Sale" which is being held on **Sunday Mar 22nd** @ the Village Hall from 10.30am and includes tea, coffee, cakes and time for chat and is in aid of the **St Elizabeth Hospice**. Please bring cash for your purchases.

We will also have tables for : Books, magazines, unwanted tools and ceramic pots etc. If you would like to help on the day or bake a cake or scones for it please let us know.

Donations can be brought to the hall between 9.30 -10.30. If you don't want to keep them till then they can be left with any of following people :

Betsy - Dormers, Cliff Road, Jacky - Cadges Cave, Deben Lane, Nell - Elm Cottage, Sandy Lane, Sarah - Sweetbriars, 3 Woodbridge Road, Alexis - Windycross, Newbourne Road.

We are not taking part in the St Elizabeth Great Garden trail this year, but will resume next year and then every second year - we hope the Plant Sale will raise a nice sum for **The Hospice**.

Thank you— Waldringfield Gardeners



LOW FARM
COTTAGES & CAMPING

Do you have guests coming to visit?

Low Farm Cottages are open all year-round - In Waldringfield!

We have **five** 1 and 2 bed cottages located at the entrance to the village!

01473 902652—www.stayatlowfarm.com

We offer a 10% discount to Waldringfield residents!

Visit our website for photos, availability and booking information

Update on Brightwell Lakes—February 2026

Not much news to report at the moment as the Brightwell Lakes Community Forum (BLCF) has not met since the last newsletter. The next meeting is in April - please contact myself or Cllr Kay if you would like us to raise at the next BLCF a particular issue or comment that you might have regarding any aspects of the development.

Impact that the government's increased housing targets have had on our area.

East Suffolk Council (ESC) is currently our local district council. One of its responsibilities is to produce a Local Plan which includes calculating the district's projected housing needs and identifying how & where these will be delivered over the plan period in order to achieve a rolling 5 year housing supply.

ESC have had quite a good record of achieving that target. However, the government has recently increased the housing targets across the country. East Suffolk's housing targets have been increased by 80% - the highest increase within Suffolk and one of the highest in the country. The direct result of this is that ESC no longer can show a 5 year housing supply which makes it vulnerable to planning applications in locations not identified in the Local Plan.

To rectify this ESC has been conducting a "call for sites" process and has received 500 responses from landowners across the district, including the Bloor Homes site on Foxhall Road. These are being assessed for their sustainability in terms of deliverability as well as Economic, Social and Environmental impact. The analysis is expected in the Spring from which the preferred sites will be selected.

This is all happening during the period of uncertainty regarding how the government will decide on which "unitary authority" option will be applied to Suffolk. Two options have been put forward:

- a) **"One Suffolk" proposes** that Suffolk County Council will take all the responsibilities for the whole of Suffolk, including those currently in the hands of the different district councils across the county.
- b) "Three Councils for Suffolk" proposes that the county be divided into 3 areas, each a unitary authority combining what are now county and district responsibilities. The area in which Waldringfield would be is **"Ipswich & Southern Suffolk"** - based around Ipswich, covering the town and parts of Babergh, Mid Suffolk, and East Suffolk. (Woodbridge would be in **Central and Eastern Suffolk**)

The decision is expected in March.

So, very busy and uncertain times – what was it the war time posters said ?

Keep Calm & Carry On!!

Cllr. Janet Elliot



Warm Welcome Afternoons for Winter 2025/26

The weekly Warm Welcome Afternoons continue to be popular but there's always room for new guests!!

We are be open from 2pm to 4.30pm every Wednesday afternoon during the winter months.

The last session of 2025/26 season is on March 18th

We look forward to seeing all our regular guests and also welcoming residents who may have more recently moved to the village.

There is no charge and everyone is invited.

This is possible because of the grant that the Parish Council receives from East Suffolk Council and East Suffolk Community Partnerships and from the great support of the team of volunteer hosts – so a BIG THANK YOU to all of the team.

If you would like more information please contact Janet Elliot via

Cllr.Elliot@waldringfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you very much for your support.



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships
Bringing ideas to life

Felixstowe
Peninsula





Waldringfield Sailing Club

Established 1921

The Club is now gearing up for the 2026 Season. The First Saturday race is scheduled for 14th March, and Wednesday evening racing starts on 22nd April. The first major event of the year is the Easter Egg Open Meeting, to be held on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th April. We expect to welcome visiting sailors for dinghy and keelboat racing, as well as the regular Club sailors taking part.



During the winter months some sailors have continued to race at local reservoirs whilst others have been maintaining their boats in preparation for the forthcoming sailing season. Some hardy sailors endured the cold on Christmas Eve and took part in a team racing day, using the Club's boats, which was spectated from the shore. We expect more team racing during the season, including a day scheduled in June for members of the different usual classes of boat to sail against each other.



The Regatta Weekend this year is from 3rd - 6th July, with traditional shore events on the Saturday morning. Sandcastles, fancy dress, running and rowing races are open to different age groups, and village residents are very welcome to come and enjoy the fun. The Yachtsman's service this year will be on the following weekend (12th July).

As previously, we will also be running various adult and junior introduction to sailing and dinghy cruising events throughout the year, along with the more formal race training sessions – please get in touch if you are interested in any of these sorts of activities. Information is available on our website www.waldringfieldsc.com, or email secretary@waldringfieldsc.com.

William Sudell



All Photo—Alexis Smith

Waldringfield Parish Council
Councillor Vacancy
**We need members of the
community to join us!**



Waldringfield Parish Council has a vacancy for the role of Councillor, for which all members of the community are welcome to apply. When vacancies arise, Parish Councils may fill the vacancy through the process called Co-option. We are seeking to fill our vacancies through this process.

Parish Councillors are first and foremost members of the local community. We have a wonderful and vibrant village and look to have representation from all areas of the community. The role is varied and enables local people to use their skills and experience to enhance the work undertaken by the Council for the benefit of the community. We do lots of things – so there are lots of opportunities to contribute!

Some of the things the Council does in Waldringfield:

- We provide amenities, such as benches, the village sign and grit bins
- We manage the playing field and its equipment
- We organise community events, such as fetes and the Warm Welcome coffee afternoons
- We produce a quarterly newsletter
- We organise litter picks
- We represent the community to other levels of government on issues such as planning and highways

In terms of time commitment, Councillors are expected to attend the monthly meetings of Council (on the second Tuesday of the month) and some work outside of the meetings.

The Council wishes to invite interested people to contact the Clerk for an information pack, which details eligibility and application requirements. We also encourage applicants to visit www.beacouncillor.org.uk for more information.

Additional Note: Successful candidates if co-opted, would serve until the next elections in 2028.

The Council is committed to achieving a balanced composition of Councillors that reflects the Waldringfield community.

If you are interested – please contact the Clerk:

Jennifer Shone-Tribley - Clerk

Post: Low Farm, Ipswich Road, Waldringfield, Woodbridge IP12 4QU

e-mail – clerk@waldringfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk **phone:** 01473 902652

Your Parish Councillors:



Ian Kay (Chair)
Janet Elliot (Vice Chair)
Serena Gold
Colin Reid
Sue Quick
Andrew Ratcliffe
Robert Forsdike

To contact the Clerk:

Jennifer Shone-Tribley

Low Farm, Ipswich Road, Waldringfield, IP12 4QU

Telephone: 01473 902652

E-mail: clerk@waldringfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and held on the second Tuesday of the month, in the Kennedy Room at the Village Hall—starting at 7:30pm unless otherwise notified.

Next meetings: 10 March and 12 May



Waldringfield Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 22 April 2026

7.30pm—Village Hall (Deben Hall)

Although arranged by the Parish Council, this is not a Parish Council meeting – it is an opportunity for various groups that are active in the village to present information on their activities, and for people to meet, find out what is happening in the village and discuss any aspect of village life they choose. Refreshments will be served half way through.

If anyone wishes to give a presentation on behalf of a village group, would they please contact the Parish Clerk by email at clerk@waldringfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk by **FRIDAY 03 APRIL 2026**. The Village Hall also has display boards that can be used to publicise information about groups.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an excellent way of keeping in touch with what is happening in the village. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you wish to contribute. A reminder will be posted on Waldringfielders nearer the date.

Ian Kay (Chair, Waldringfield Parish Council)



Waldringfield Wildlife Group
Talk Series Understanding Wildlife In Our Community



Suffolk Swifts

Why swifts need our help & what we can do to help.

Guest Speaker

Eddie Bathgate, Chair of Suffolk Bird Group and lead volunteer for Save Our Swifts (SOSS).

Saturday 11th April, Waldringfield Village Hall, 11am (doors open 10:45am)

Admission

£5 non-WWG Members. (Includes Refreshments)

Free for WWG Members

SAT
11th
April



All enquiries: Linda Wilkins 07788286482 email: linda.thequay@btinternet.com

This talk is preceded by the WWG business meeting at 10am followed by refreshments at 10.45am.

Swifts – Mysterious, Prehistoric, Endangered (*words by Helen Lucy 2024*)

Providing Homes for Swifts in Waldringfield:

Many residents are supporting the Save Our Swift (SOSSwifts) project by protecting existing nest spaces and keeping existing nest spaces accessible and /or by putting up mountable external swift nest boxes under eaves and on walls. It is also possible to incorporate swift bricks into the house build or by installing a soffit nest box if you are having new soffits fitted.

Since residents started supporting the Waldringfield Swift project the numbers of swifts seen circling our skies from May onwards have significantly increased and the nest boxes are being explored and taken up by our visiting swifts.

One of the most lovely and thrilling sights and sounds after a long hot summer's day is a happy band of screeching swifts swooping over the rooftops in perfect synchronicity. Swifts can be seen spiralling high into the sky in what is known as the vespers flight. Up to nearly two miles above the Earth, they can spend the night without fear of predators. When swifts finally decide to take up one of your nest boxes it is a moment of pure joy as they are so exciting to watch out for when we know they have taken up residence.

Nesting swifts are so quiet and tidy they can often go completely undetected by the human residents of the building.

Free Swift boxes are available from SOSSwifts:

These nest boxes are available to residents who already have swifts showing interest in or have taken up one or more of their nest boxes or who live next to a property that has.

Swifts take time to colonise new nesting sites but once they do it's important to add more nest sites to expand their colony. Swifts are not solitary nesters, so they are encouraged if they find other swift nests in the vicinity. Nest boxes should ideally not be installed singly but in a minimum of two side by side.

We could help to create a swift street in Cliff Rd where many swift boxes have already been installed to add to the natural nest spaces under the eaves and roof tiles of buildings that already exist.

Contact Linda Wilkins who has free nest boxes available and who is keen to find locations for them in the key locations described.

Swift Boxes available for a donation to Suffolk Wildlife Trust:

SOSSwifts can offer free advice to help you decide the best solution if you decide to take action to help our troubled swifts. Swift nest boxes are available for a small donation by contacting Linda Wilkins WWG or contact Swift@SuffolkBirdgroup.org

As April becomes May, our swifts leave Sub-Saharan Africa and fly some 5000 miles to their breeding sites in the UK. It takes about 5 days storms permitting.

Now is the time to prepare for their arrival by offering them nest boxes.

Swifts are entirely dependent on humans to provide their nesting places. Their traditional nesting places under the eaves of buildings accessed through little breaks in brickwork or fascias are increasingly being blocked by modern building materials and therefore UK swift numbers have reduced by 60% since 1995. The common consensus amongst swift experts around the country is that this is due to the accelerating loss of nesting sites.

Note: Swifts emerged over 60,000,000 years ago as a distinct species just as dinosaurs became extinct. Please consider how you can address their rapid decline by finding out more about what's happening to swifts and what you can do to help.

Linda Wilkins, Waldringfield Wildlife Group



Waldringfield Village Hall Winter Talks

Andy Beharrell

 Met Office

The general synopsis at midday:
Low Shannon 970 expected west of Bailey 975 by midday tomorrow. New low expected just west of FitzRoy 976 by same time

THE SHIPPING FORECAST:

100 Years old and counting.....

Andy is the editor of the Royal Cruising Club's *Pilot Guide to the Baltic*. Many will remember his excellent talk on East Coast Smugglers a few years ago.

Friday 6th March 2026 7.30 pm

Adults **£5 – cash or card** Under 18s Free

New members welcome:
Annual Membership
only £10.



Find us on
Facebook

Waldringfield Wildlife Group

Waldringfield Wildlife Group exists to conserve, enhance and record the local wildlife; to protect wildlife habitats and encourage biodiversity; to encourage wildlife-friendly management of land, gardens and public spaces and to encourage a greater interest in the knowledge and love of wildlife in general.

Meetings & Talks

are in the Deben Hall at the Village Hall.

All Talks start at 11.00am unless otherwise stated.

Talks are preceded by Members meetings which start at 10.00am with a Refreshment break at 10.45am.

Admission: Members – No charge. Non-members –£5
Visitors welcome.

Field Trips:

Please inform Linda Wilkins or Jill Winter if you are joining any of the field trips/guided tours.

Note: Priority to paid up members for all field trips.



For further details contact:

The Coordinator: Linda Wilkins 01473736044

mob:07788286482

linda.thequay@btinternet.com

Secretary: Jill Winter 01473 736125 jillwinter2@gmail.com

Treasurer: Alexis Smith 01473 736257 gldik@btinternet.com

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2026

- February 7th** Grasshopper and Crickets: Identification and Conservation in a Changing Climate by Dr Tim Gardiner, Essex County Recorder for Grasshoppers and Crickets (Orthoptera).
- April 11th** Suffolk Swifts: Why Swifts need our help, what can we do and are we making a difference? By Eddie Bathgate, Save Our Swifts (SOS) Suffolk Bird Group.
- April 27th** Guided bird sighting walk with local resident Chris Baldry: Nightingales and Warblers along the northern river wall, Waldringfield. Starts 10.00 am at the corner of Sandy Lane and Fishpond Road.
- May 5th** Nightingale Walk at Newbourne Springs guided by Peter Maddison. Meet at NS car park 6.30am followed by alfresco breakfast.
- June 13th** A full introduction to Lichens followed by a Lichen Walk by Anthony Speca, County Lichen Recorder for Suffolk.
- June 24th tbc** Visit to the Wildflower Meadows of Landseer Park, Ipswich for Butterflies with Peter Maddison 10.30am – 12.00.
- July tbc** Moth Trap Opening at Julia's Garden with Sandra and Tony Fox.
- July 21st** Big Butterfly Count at Church Fields with Peter Maddison 11.30 am followed by Members bring and share Picnic Lunch at 12.30 pm.
- October 10th** Relocation Projects of White-Tailed Eagles and Ospreys: Do the birds have a future in Suffolk? by Peter Merchant, Suffolk Bird Group. Preceded by AGM.
- October/November** Guided bird sighting walk with Chris Baldry tbc for sightings of early winter migrants and maybe the Osprey.
- December 12th** 'Life Underground: What's Living in Our Soils and Why Does it Matter so much?' by Helen Bynum, Farm Wildlife Advisor, Farm Wildlife, part of the Wilder Landscape Team, Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Followed by members bring and share Christmas lunch.



Waldringfield Church Field Trust



All photos—C Fisher-Kay



The volunteers who helped move a bench to a more open position.

On 17th February we had a work party when we were joined by volunteers from National Landscapes (formerly Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB). Winter it is the best time to carry out maintenance in areas where birds may nest later. Long grass areas can be reduced by scything or mowing with a tractor. Dead hedges can be made from cut material providing more nesting sites and shelter. Trees can be thinned out and some branches removed to allow light and air through. Seedling trees can be dug up and if possible re-located where they will be in a better position. Over seventeen volunteers turned out in all and had a very productive day completing useful tasks, so well done to all of them!

The trustees are working on a new survey to ask residents' views on the field, the last parish plan which involved a survey was in about 2015. The sort of questions we might ask are: how often do you use the field, what activities do you like to do there as a family, is there anything you would like to see in the way of more facilities, which can be considered in the light of the resources we have.

Even though it has been there over twenty years run by the Church Field trust, people still get confused thinking the Church owns the land, or the parish council is responsible for it.

While most of Waldringfield parish is closely managed farmland, Church Field is 2.22 Hectares of land which is never sprayed with any insecticides or pesticides. Although formerly agricultural land it has had no fertiliser put on it since 2003 when the Trust was formed. This means that the native flowers and grasses are encouraged to flourish. It is periodically cut down so that the open areas do not revert to woodland. This management is not intensive so it can go a little way towards woodland with a lot of self sown trees and shrubs, but in time some are removed and others used elsewhere.

Photo above shows the work party scything longer grass areas, natural regeneration of woody plants – trees and shrubs; fruit in abundance which can be eaten by wildlife.



There is always something interesting to be seen on a walk round Church Field. Red cotoneaster berries. Although not native these are useful winter food for migrant thrushes such as fieldfare and redwing.

Christine Fisher Kay

INTRODUCING WILDLIFE WISE



Wildlife Wise is a new team on the Suffolk Coast that is working to help protect our rare wildlife. Their focus is to engage with local residents and visitors in order to raise awareness of what makes our coast, estuaries and heathland so special both locally and internationally and what we can all do to help to avoid damage to habitats and reduce disturbance to wildlife. The team is led by Sam Kench and currently has three rangers who have been in post for 10 months.

They are working tirelessly, patrolling along our coastline and estuaries, attending events, providing guided walks, promoting community engagement and improving interpretation and guidance signage across Suffolk.



The team, along with Greener Waldringfield and Waldringfield Wildlife Group, recently organised a children and family '*Winter Wader Wander*' event in Waldringfield on Friday 20th February to raise awareness about the diverse habitats and wildlife that we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep.

Education starts young and Wildlife Wise is taking its message to local schools delivering a free educational programme '*Becoming an Environmental Hero*' for children and young people. The team have already delivered this message to more than 1700 children and young people in our area.

There are many factors which are adversely impacting our internationally and nationally important wildlife sites such as climate change, pollution and pesticides to list just some. One major contributing factor on the Suffolk coast is that our wildlife and habitats have not evolved for so many people and dogs to visit these spaces that they need to survive.

The simple guidance from the team to help us **Get Wildlife Wise** when visiting the Suffolk Coast and Heaths is for all of us to:

- FOLLOW REQUESTS ON SIGNS
- KEEP PAWS ON PATHS
- LOOK OUT FOR WILDLIFE - GIVE IT PLENTY OF SPACE
- KEEP TO PATHS
- CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG
- AVOID WALKING ON PLANTS ON BEACHES



You can keep up to date with the latest news on their projects and events by either signing up to their free newsletter in the 'Get Involved' section on their website www.wildlifewise.co.uk or by following them on Instagram or Facebook. If your school would like to take advantage of their free Educational Program, please do get in touch by emailing info@wildlifewise.co.uk

If you see the Wildlife Wise rangers visiting these wildlife sites, please do take the opportunity to stop and have a chat about your visit, your interests, sightings, concerns and Wildlife Wise.

Danny Thorrington Wildlife Wise
Linda Wilkins WWG

Landscape & Nature Notes

Having spent a morning this week at the National Landscapes Forum, I have come away with more understanding of how they support the conservation of our landscape in this rather special part of Suffolk.

The statutory guidance empowers the AONB (which incidentally is still its official title), and in turn us, the mandate “to insist on retaining the landscape’s scenic quality, the beauty, and tranquility. This includes a lack of built environment, our dark skies, and feeling of being in nature, without too much light and noise”. I’m quoting from their planning officer. She was passionately clear that their duty, from the Countryside & Rights of Way act (CRoW), as amended in the Levelling- up and Regeneration Act 2023, gives them stronger purposes in law to impact the legacies that do not fulfil these strong principles of conserving and enhancing, and that we should all read Section 85 of the act! So I did.

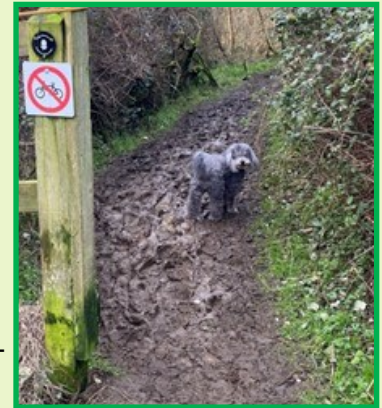
It seems they really do have decision making powers to affect positive outcomes for preservation of the natural beauty, in its holistic sense, for all the elements of the landscape: so views, landscape character with its components of dark skies at night, trees, hedgerows, natural open spaces, waterways and all that means for its residents, human and otherwise. Great news, so do look at their website, get in touch or support with their conservation work: coastandheaths@suffolkandessex-NL.org.uk

From conservation to conversations... Mud for example; a big topic as I have met walkers in recent weeks (February). We have mostly been talking about footpaths (see photo), which, with the incessant rain, have caused bogs, pools and streams. This dog is not impressed!

Someone suggested this equation (they must have had the brilliant maths talk in mind!) Footfall + Rain = Mud

I find that walking straight through the pools the best way to navigate, with proper footwear of course, then more puddle splashing to get them clean.

It is about the footfall though, we have seen quite a bit more than your regular winter traffic due to it becoming the King Charles III Coastal Path. It’s certainly the best way to enjoy the rain, and walkers are very cheery I find, proving that ““There’s no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing” (Alfred Wainwright).



Talking of the coastal path, the scouring on the beach side of the sea wall along with the sodden backfill, you may have noticed is causing it to collapse onto the beach! Much concern and a lot of research is going into finding a solution, and quick! It seems worse every day. If you want to help to raise funds get in touch with the sailing club who are responsible for maintaining it, even though we all benefit: vicecommadore@waldringfieldsc.com

Some birds though love the mud, it’s full of food! This Avocet for example. Thanks to Shaun Pook from The Boatyard Gallery for photo on the Deben mud. If you have been walking you will have seen Ringed and Grey Plover, Widgeon, Teal, Turnstone, Oyster Catchers and Curlew, all enjoying feeding on the mud.



Photo—S Pook

In Spring food is important for wildlife so spare a thought when cutting back trees, and general clearing; leave some mud, piles of debris, sticks and wood to make homes and food for nature. There are literally millions of microorganisms, invertebrates and bird life that need us to create the right environment for their survival, so spare a thought as you restore your own patch of the AONB.

Sue Quick, Chair, Greener Waldringfield - [@greenerwaldringfield.org](https://www.greenerwaldringfield.org)

Waldringfield History Group

Village Hall - Winter Talk

Friday 27th March 7:30pm

Admission £5.00 incl Tea and biscuits

‘Have we got News for You’



An update on Joe Clark and Stan Baston's original talk

‘A Walk around Waldringfield – 100 years ago’

Originally given in 2007



Waldringfield History Group

Our December meeting was very interesting with a 'show and tell' by one of the Detectorists who had come to the Tideline Exhibition in the Village Hall in August. They had Kit Clarke's permission to explore part of her land and bought some of the results to the meeting. We had also accumulated quite a lot of Roman & medieval pottery picked up locally and the Detectorists were interested in seeing them alongside their metal finds.

Work on researching the Village History continues apace. 2026 sees Members busy producing another talk, this time entitled "Have We Got News for You" booked for **Friday 27th March 2026** at the Village Hall. We have also several projects which have been suggested for us to explore, all of which sound very exciting.

Our members have a wide range of historical interests, some prefer the more recent past, some prefer the genealogy information, others favour the medieval times, and yet others like the Roman and earlier times. everyone has something to offer.

We meet from September to March in the Kennedy Room at the Village Hall usually on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.00 p.m. Our next meeting will be **12th March 2026**. Do come along if this has wetted your appetite.

The WHG Website Waldringfieldia.com, contains much of our research although some is only available to members, but becoming a member is very simple and costs only £12 per year. Come and join us for a meeting.

For more information please contact Hon Sec: Margaret Lake or Chair: Alyson Videlo Waldringfieldhg@gmail.com

Talk by DK9 Search and Rescue

Friday April 10th @ 7.30 pm - £5 CASH at the door—Waldringfield Village Hall

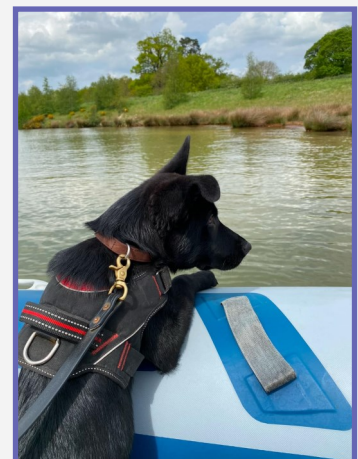
DK9 Search and Rescue train their dogs from puppies & take them out to do search & rescue for missing persons—including having the dogs on a boat, sniffing out bodies in the water & finding sharp blades in children's pencil cases!!! They also go to dangerous situations where the dogs wear bullet proof vests!

When called out by the police to assist / help, they don't get paid!

This is a fundraising talk that we're sure a lot of people would find interesting.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564354360779>

For Info/inquiries : Alexis Smith g1dik@btinternet.com





Waldringfield Village Hall Trust

Required:- Bookings Manager for the Village Hall— After 10 years, Marian Bradley has decided to step down from her role in order to devote more time to her family. We are very grateful to Marian for all that she has done to support the Village Hall. Whilst we can't replace Marian and all that she has done, we are looking for someone who is willing to devote a couple of hours a week to act as Bookings Manager for the Village Hall. The hours are flexible. The role is evolving, with most hirers now booking online. The Bookings Manager is supported by a Bookings Team who monitor the Hall on a day-to-day basis. The new role is therefore largely one of client liaison and invoicing of hirers. It is a great way for anyone new to the village to get to know everyone. Full training will be given on the bookings system, Hallmaster.

Required:- Chairman of the Village Hall Trust— Whilst I will have only done a 6 year stint, I also am stepping down from the role to help my wife Jane with grandchild duties. It has been an amazing experience for me, starting as it did with an empty Hall and Covid and now seeing a Hall which has probably never been busier. Prior to coming to Waldringfield I had never really had much involvement with village halls, so it has been an eye opener to me to see how important the Village Hall is to our community. When people from outside the village come into the Hall they often comment on what a marvellous facility it is and how lucky we are. That is true and long may it continue. The role of Chairman is pretty self-explanatory. The trustees meet approximately five times a year to discuss plans and programmes and my job has been made so much more pleasurable by having a brilliant, supportive, committee.

Waldringfield Village Hall – The Future

The 'new' Village Hall is now 25 years old and was built by the village for the village, with many villagers contributing financially to its creation. It has proven to be a great success and our thanks go out to the many people who helped in its creation.

Many villagers have helped out with various roles over the years and it is pleasing to see how many people in the village take ownership of it and want to help. However, I am all too aware that many people are 'time poor' and for various reasons cannot commit to taking on additional responsibilities. However, we do need to fill these two vacancies.

If we can fill the two existing vacancies and can call on a wide range of volunteers to help at Village Hall events, our Village Hall will have a bright future. If we can't, then we face making some stark decisions.

The Trust can afford to pay someone to undertake bookings in the short term as we have been financially prudent and therefore have sufficient resources. To meet the additional costs, hire fees would need to be raised and inevitably the Village Hall would become more of a commercial venture than it is at present. In addition, the remaining volunteers on the Committee would need to focus their efforts on maintaining the ongoing viability of the Village Hall, which might mean fewer events being organised for the benefit of residents. It may sound a cliché, but the future direction of the Village Hall is very much in your hands. If you are interested in either role please contact me on 0787 2375784 or email me at chairman@waldringfieldvillagehall.co.uk— **Philip Hall, Chairman, Waldringfield Village Hall Trust**

Waldringfield Village Hall Focus

REGULAR EVENTS

- Monday** Post Office Van 11.30am-1pm
- Tuesday** Pilates 9.30am Joanne Powley 07823 382272
Parish Council Meetings *Parish Clerk 01473 902652 (2nd Tuesday of each month)*
Karate Leonie Kersey 07868 139743 Email: info@evolutionkarate.co.uk
Brightwell Ukulele Group 2-4pm (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month) John Nayler 01473 736228
- Wednesday** Warm Welcome 2-4.30pm (last session Wednesday 18th March 2026)
The Seasons Art Classes more information Jenny McEvoy 01394 248434
www.seasonsartclass.com
Come Dancing 6pm robfisher05@gmail.com 01473 613428
- Thursday** Coffee morning 10am (first Thursday of each month)
1.30pm-4pm Art Group Kit Clark 736670
2-4pm History Group (monthly) Margaret Lake 01394 283347 , mgtlake@aol.com
Wine Club (monthly) David Eaton 01473 736754 ; danteaton@btinternet.com
Woodbridge Table Tennis Club Clive French 07487 399794 eightbitmosaic@gmail.com
- Friday** Back 2 Balance 9.30am Laura Lopez 07763 59387
Post Office Van 11.30am-1pm
Stretch and Tone 1-2pm Emma Khangaroot 07583 653579

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 5th March Coffee Morning — 9.00am
- Friday 6th March Winter Talk 7.30 pm The Shipping Forecast: 100 years and counting...with Andy Beharrel
- Tuesday 10th March Woodbridge Arts Society Special Interest Day - 07889 054193
- Saturday 21st March Live Folk Music headlined by Alden and Patterson
- Sunday 22nd March 10.30am WWG Plant Sale and More in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice
- Thursday 23rd March from 9.30am Waldringfield School Easter Coffee Morning
- Friday 27th March 7.30 pm Waldringfield History Group Talk—Have I got News for You
- Thursday 2nd April Coffee Morning 10.00am
- Friday 10th April 7.30 pm Talk by DK9 Search and Rescue - their work with dogs trained for search and rescue. *(May be need to be rescheduled at short notice if they are deployed)*
- Saturday 25th April Seasons Art exhibition

Forward Notice: There will be no Coffee Morning in May due to the local elections.



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