WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

Parish Council: www.greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk

Chair: Ant Mann - chair@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk
Clerk: Jennie Blackburn - clerk@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk
Footpath Warden: Richard Burton - greatfinboroughfootpaths@gmail.com
District Councillor: John Matthissen - councillor@matthissen.net
Tel: 01449 258894
County Councillor: Matt Bentley - Matt.Bentley@suffolk.gov.uk

Great in Finborough Together - GiFT

Tel: 07522 171190

Pettiward Hall

Lettings/Keyholder: Cathy Morgan
pettiwardhallbookings@gmail.com

St Andrews Church

Rector: Rev Sarah Jenkins - revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com
Combs Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, IP14 2AY | Tel: 01449 676065
Associate Priest: Rev Canon Pauline Higham | Tel: 01449 771791
Church Warden: Nigel Brown 01449 675344

Great Finborough & District Gardening Club

Cath Walker - cathwalker85@gmail.com
Tel: 07843 191101

Allotments Association - Mary Smyth Tel: 01449 672533

Primary School: www.finboroughprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Stephen Dodd - admin@greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk
Tel: 01449 613208

Gt Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's Pre-School

Delia Prior - Tel: 07513 140072

Chestnut Horse Pub - Roly & Mandy 01449 553889

Candlestick Club: Keith Proctor Tel: 01449 736598
Buxhall Woman's Institute: Judith Hickman - judithhickman12@gmail.com
Police (Stowmarket SNT): Tel: 101 - stowmarket.snt@pnn.police.uk
Stowmarket High School - Tel: 01449 613541
Stowmarket Health Centre - Tel: 01449 776000
Combs Ford Surgery - Tel: 01449 678333
Bildeston Surgery - Tel: 01449 740254
Stowmarket Library - Tel: 01449 613143
Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - Tel: 01449 674980

GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



November 2026
ISSUE 573

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE DIARY

7th Nov 11am-12.30pm	Save Energy & Money (Page 30)	Pettiward Hall
7th Nov 6pm	Quiz Night	Pettiward Hall
14th Nov 12.30pm	Veterans Lunch (page 10)	Pettiward Hall
14th Nov 10am-12pm	Village Maintenance (Page 12)	Football pitch Car Park

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
16th Nov & 14th Dec - Pettiward Hall

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE - every 4th Friday 2:50 - 3:10pm
Middlefield Drive (opposite playground)

MOBILE POST OFFICE - every Thursday 1.30 - 2.30pm
Middlefield Drive Car Park

The 'Village Newsletter'is published by Great Finborough Parish Council and printed locally. Views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily accepted as being those of Great Finborough Parish Council. The 'Newsletter' accepts all articles, notices and advertisements in good faith. We cannot be responsible for the content of any submissions, nor liable for the quality of goods and services offered. A full copy of our Policy is available on our web site.

To contact the editor (Ant Mann) submit articles, letters or advertising, email: finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

The Combs and Finborough Benefice

Buxhall, Combs, Gt and Lt Finborough, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland

Services in November 2026

Rector: The Rev'd Sarah Jenkins, The Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, Stowmarket IP14 2AY 01449 676065
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Canon Pauline Higham, The Rectory, Woodland Close, Onehouse IP14 3HL 01449 771791

Sunday Services

Please use this link for all services held on Zoom - Meeting ID: 470 378 1299 - Password: Benefice
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4703781299?pwd=doep7y6JYxv0IIXsxROxnbezIda9ME.1

1st November:	**All Saints Day**	
9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Harleston
9.30 am	Spiritual Communion	Zoom Service
11.00 am	All Age Worship	Combs
6.00 pm	All Souls' Service	Great Finborough
8th November:	**3rd Sunday before Advent, Remembrance Sunday**	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Buxhall
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Great Finborough
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Combs
10.50am	Remembrance Service	Onehouse
3.00 pm	Act of Remembrance	Little Finborough
11th November:	**Remembrance Day**	
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Harleston Green
15th November:	**2nd Sunday before Advent, Safeguarding Sunday**	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Harleston
11.00 am	Family Communion	Combs
3.00 pm	Evensong	Little Finborough
6.00 pm	Compline	Zoom Service
22nd November:	**Sunday next before Advent, Christ the King**	
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Shelland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Buxhall
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse
11.00 am	Patronal Holy Communion	Great Finborough
29th November:	**Advent Sunday**	
10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion with Guest Preacher	Buxhall

Weekday Services

9.30 am on Wednesday	Holy Communion	Trinity Hall, Onehouse
10.00 am on Saturday	Morning Prayer	Zoom Meeting

Buxhall Community Council

BANGERS, BEANS & BINGO



Buxhall Village Hall
Saturday 21st November
at 7:00pm

Adult £5 Child £2.50

(6 games of Bingo: £10.00)
Includes a raffle, bring your own nibbles, drinks & glasses

Book your place with Mim & Keith 01449 736598

CENTRAL CONNECT

Valid from Monday 13th April 2026

51 SUMMARY TIMETABLE

Stowmarket Railway Station > Great Finborough > Hitcham > Bildeston > Hadleigh

MONDAY TO FRIDAY | Except Bank Holidays

Suffolk County Council | This service is being supported by Suffolk County Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Buses towards Hadleigh	51	51	51	51	51	51
Stowmarket Railway Station	07:40	09:40	11:40	13:40	15:40	17:40
Great Finborough, Post Office	07:48	09:48	11:48	13:48	15:48	17:48
Hitcham, White Horse	07:57	09:57	11:57	13:57	15:57	17:57
Bildeston, Clock Tower	08:00	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:00	18:00
Hadleigh, Bus Station	08:16	10:16	12:16	14:16	16:16	18:16

Buses towards Stowmarket	51	51	51	51	51	51
Hadleigh, Bus Station	07:00	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:00	17:00
Bildeston, Clock Tower	07:13	09:13	11:13	13:13	15:13	17:13
Hitcham, White Horse	07:16	09:16	11:16	13:16	15:16	17:16
Great Finborough, Post Office	07:25	09:25	11:25	13:25	15:25	17:25
Stowmarket Railway Station	07:34	09:34	11:34	13:34	15:34	17:34

For the latest updates, search us on Facebook & X (Twitter) | CENTRAL CONNECT

Welcome to the November Newsletter:

Local tree surgeon, James Firman attended our September PC meeting to discuss the necessary work required to our incredible Horse Chestnut tree on the village green. He explained that a much-needed crown reduction is needed to prevent damage to the tree and surroundings. The results of the work will appear quite drastic and like any tree work, comes with potential risks to the tree but after much discussion and advice, it is the only way forward. Once complete, we can then keep on top of maintenance, meaning such severe action shouldn't be necessary in another 15 years.

The repairs to Knights Bridge are still scheduled for the end of the month as previously notified. Should this change, we will update via Facebook.

Due to graffiti and vandalism, we have decided to have the perspex panels removed from the youth shelter by the football pitch. We also ask that anyone using this area is considerate to those living nearby.

A reminder that we have a village maintenance morning on the 14th November, to cut back the hedges, brambles and unwanted plants and weeds around the shelter and football pitch in readiness for the planting of our community orchard. Thank you to the Woodpecker Hill wood working party who distributed chippings around the paths (see page 9).

At the Chestnut Horse, Roly and Mandy are looking into creating a village shop. They are very keen to gauge opinion from residents to see if it's needed and what items it should stock. Surrounding villages such as Rattlesdon and Hitcham benefit from local shops, and it would be great to have the convenience in Great Finborough. Please come back to PC or speak directly with your views. Also, Mandy has organised a Christmas Gift Tree, starting the 14th November. This great scheme supports local children's homes for boys and girls of all ages. If you can support, please get involved – details on page 25.

Ant Mann
finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com
chair@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk

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I love photographing dogs and children just being themselves – whether that's a beautiful portrait, running around playing, or those funny little moments that happen when they forget the camera is there!

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Children – natural portraits, playful moments, smiles, laughter and all those little moments you'll want to remember.

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chezie63smith@gmail.com

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Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's

We are looking forward to an exciting few months at preschool, with lots of fun ahead as we explore our themes of **Animals, Toys and Christmas!**

We will be visiting Finborough Court this term for fun, songs and biscuits. This is always enjoyed by all.

We are currently looking for some **new committee members** as our numbers are currently quite low. You don't have to be a parent to get involved – we would warmly welcome **grandparents, family members and anyone in our community who would like to help enrich the lives of young children.**

Whether you have lots of time or simply feel that you would enjoy being involved, we would love to hear from you. Being on the committee involves attending just a few meetings throughout the year and helping with fundraising events and activities. It's a lovely way to support our preschool and help make a difference to the children and families in our community.

Our **AGM will be held on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm at the preschool,** and everyone is very welcome to come along and find out more.

We are also beginning to collect items for our **Christmas fundraising hampers.** If you have any unwanted gifts, new items or anything you think would make a lovely addition to a hamper, we would be very grateful. We are happy to collect items, or they can be dropped off at **1 Oak Close, Great Finborough** or at the preschool before 10th November. Thank you.

We will be having a stall at the B**uxhall Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th November**, from 12 noon until 4pm, so please come along and say hello and support our preschool and others.

Cont.

We do have a few spaces available at preschool. If you have a child aged 2-4 years, please do get in touch for an informal chat or to arrange a visit. We would love to show you around and tell you more about what we offer.
Email: gfbunderfive@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming new families and members of our community and continuing to make preschool a happy, welcoming and enriching place for our little ones.

Delia and the team





Great In Finborough Together (GiFT)

Our monthly social meet up on 16 September was our last session in the church as we move to Pettiward Hall for the winter months. About 30 of us enjoyed cake, a cuppa and a chat – all served by GiFT volunteers. It's an opportunity to find out about local services and opportunities, as well to share news, joy and troubles. People know they can ask for help with small tasks at home; transport; or with health worries, computer issues and form filling. Whether you are meeting new people or reconnecting with old friends and neighbours, do come along. The next social is on Wednesday 18 November. On 9 December we will have our Christmas party. Both sessions are in the village hall 2-4pm.

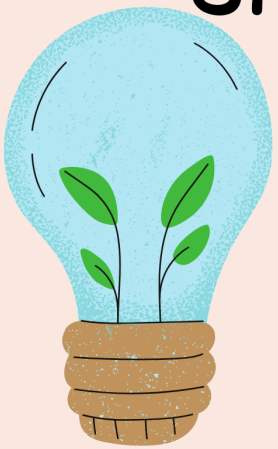
This month we have provided a wide range of lifts for medical appointments, clubs, social events and the bank. We are supporting several households dealing with the burden of caring for family members, and those who have no family or whose family live away. We can pop in and check all is well, and we can sit with someone who needs supervision while their carer is out. We have had successful applications to register power of attorney come through and have found cleaners and carers for people who are unwell. We are often told about neighbours someone is worried about and this provides opportunities for us to offer help. If you would like to join our band of nearly 40 volunteers message us on the mobile number at the back of the newsletter.

Making Groups: In the last newsletter we put out a call to see if there is interest in setting up a craft group in the village – and there is! It will be for the group members to decide how to run it, which crafts to include, and where and how often to meet. The run up to Christmas is usually busy for all so the plan is to set a date for January to have an inaugural meet up. That date will be in the next newsletter. Meanwhile if you still want to register your interest, please get in touch.

There has been less interest shown in a group focusing on DIY and workshop based making skills but it's not too late. Speak up and this can start in January too.

GiFT Steering Team

SAVE ENERGY
SAVE MONEY



Come to Watts Next

An informal drop-in session helping people choose when/how to move from LPG/oil to solar power, heat pumps and electric cars

PETTIWARD HALL
GREAT FINBOROUGH
7 NOVEMBER 2026
11-12.30
PARK: VILLAGE CAR PARK
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WELCOME

LOCAL SUPPLIERS, VILLAGERS WHO'VE COMPLETED INSTALLATIONS, COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENERGY ADVISERS AND RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

STAN (Suffolk Theatre Arts Network) is a new theatre and events company based at Finborough School Theatre, perfect for residents of Great Finborough.

Run by former Finborough resident Jon Bridgeman, they have monthly theatre events (normally on the second Saturday of the month) for the whole family.

Stan's Movie Sing-Along is at 10:30am, where the audience watch a movie musical and the Stan cast sing to them then pass around microphones for you to Sing-Along. Greatest Showman, Frozen, Wicked, Hamilton and many more at only £5 with lots of popcorn and snacks available.

Then there is Stan's Diner at 7pm, a great new night out for Suffolk. A welcome drink, graze board starter and pizza/pasta main course and your waiter/waitress serves and sings to you. Based on the famous Ellen's Stardust Diner in New York. Only £20 per person and a paid bar also available.

So, Jon and his cast and team would love to see you at their events and bring a bit of theatre magic into your lives. With full productions coming in 2027 get all the details and book tickets at:
www.stantheatre.co.uk
Next events: Saturday 14 November 10:30am FROZEN Sing-Along and 7pm Stan's Diner - Crime and Dine



Citizens Advice - Mid Suffolk

November is a time of remembrance and reflection, providing an opportunity to recognise and remember those who have served, and continue to serve, in the Armed Forces.

It is also important to recognise their families, and those who provide care and support to them. This period gives everyone a chance to reflect on their service, commitment and on occasion sacrifice, and to ensure that their contributions are remembered and valued.

At Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice, we are proud of our strong connection with the Armed Forces community and recognise the importance of continuing to support those who have served, and those who remain connected to the Armed Forces.

Our commitment is summed up in our motto: "You served us. Now we are here for you." Since 2025, through our Veteran Connect Project, we have been committed to ensuring that members of the Armed Forces community know that support is available and that they do not have to navigate challenges alone. During this time, we have had the privilege of working with individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

We provide free advice on:

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- Education
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- Managing Finances
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- Legal
- Money Advice & Debt
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Cont.

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Thoughts from a country gent!

A new season is here. The leaves are changing colour. Some autumn drilled cereals are up which will feed us in 2027.

The four wheat sheaves I cut in July did four different Harvest Festivals. They made Great Finborough, Little Finborough, Onehouse and Mickfield . Free range chickens had them to rummage in afterwards.

It's cooler and I am grateful for the rain but may be it's too late to save my oilseed rape. Small plants are so fragile in a drought. Blue tits and robins born here still feed with me daily. The owl is back and two red kites.

I'm most grateful to my neighbour who has excavated three more sites to catch winter storm water and create year-round habitats for nature. The effect it will have on Burford Bridge is lifesaving.

The local shoot started yesterday, Saturday 9th October.

Sadly, I had a message from Ady Smith telling me Steve Hammond had passed away. The next day Steve's daughter Suchitra confirmed it. Easter Monday antics he created have always been a constant in my life. It's now affected three generations; fifty Bogg Races in 2027! When I heard some lies about how it all began, I decided I 'd better sit down and clarify the facts with Steve. I'm glad I did. Then Kelvin Studd became ill which was another disaster. I decided then I had better find out how it works; not just turn up on the day although I have had roles over the years. I'm glad I did this too. It was Steve's wish it continues for the community. He was so happy how 2026 played out. It was busy. Steve was at Theatrical College in London with Lenny Henry, Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French. I would like to thank Steve for all the joy he brought to thousands over six decades. It is simply a legacy nobody else will recreate in Great Finborough. R.I P.

His last goodbye will be at St Edmunds Chapel, Risby IP28 6RR on Monday 26th October at 1pm. Please dress colourfully. The wake will be at Ravenwood, Rougham. Please text if you wish to attend. 07866190972.

Simon Waspe

Our service is designed to connect veterans, serving personnel and members of the wider Armed Forces community with the right organisations and services, helping them access the support they need and deserve. By providing guidance and connecting people with appropriate sources of support, we aim to make it easier for individuals to navigate the services available to them and take the next steps towards improved wellbeing and stability.

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. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Woodpecker Hill Wood

If you regularly walk through our lovely wood, you will have noticed that some much-needed tree work is being done. The first trees had to be felled as they were in a dangerous state. This resulted in two large piles of chippings – and on a sunny October morning a merry band of volunteers spread them on the boggiest path. Hopefully this will make walking in the wood during wet winter months much nicer.

We will also be moving the large logs into habitat piles to increase the biodiversity of insects and other animals in the wood.

The Primary School uses the Woodpecker Wood for Forest Schools and June asks if anyone could donate 6ft length 2x4 planks – approx.4 – for the benches, that would be greatly appreciated.

There will be more tree work during the autumn/winter so there will be lots of opportunities to help. If you would like to be involved in the work parties or any other aspects of the wood, please contact June Nathan – junenathan1@gmail.com or Mary Smyth - blossomz001@btinternet.com

Councillor Jacqueline Tarabella & Mary Smyth

Great Finborough

Veterans' Lunch – Saturday 14th November



Armed Forces veterans and serving members of the military and partners are warmly invited to attend.

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact leemorgan32@gmail.com

Pettiward Hall - Starting at 12:30

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Trustpilot

Buxhall and Great Finborough

'Candlestick Club'

The Candlestick Club is hosting Bingo and Raffle at Buxhall Village Hall on

Thursday November 12th

Join us between 2.00pm and 4.00pm

Everybody welcome!

Save the Date - Thursday December 10th Candlestick Club Christmas Lunch
Location to be confirmed

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BUXHALL WI

We meet at Buxhall village hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. We are a very friendly group of around 55 members enjoying a varied range of activities and interesting visiting speakers.

At our September meeting we welcomed Chantal Dawson whose talk entitled 'Grow My Wellbeing – the mental health benefits of plants' described how plants can help us calm the stresses of modern life. She demonstrated this by creating a Glass Terrarium Bottle in which, with a little help from members, she patiently and skilfully placed a growing medium base upon which she added plants inside the bottle to produce a beautiful self-perpetuating miniature garden. It was fascinating to watch and several members left determined to create their own.

Forthcoming Speakers and Events

18th November - our AGM
9th December - our Christmas meeting
20th January 2027 – Fire Safety in your home with Tracey Grimwood

Christine Hagger christinemhagger@gmail.com

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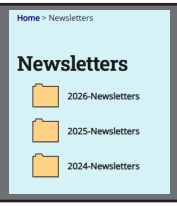
Saturday 14th November
10am - 12pm

Help is required to tackle brambles and hedgerows around the youth shelter on the football pitch car park. The area requires clearing before we can plant the new village orchard.

If you can help, please come along with sturdy gloves and any useful tools.

Archive copies of recent newsletters can be found on the Parish website:

www.greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk



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kjb@suffolktaxreturns.co.uk 07870680766

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Gt. FINBOROUGH

Christmas Gift Tree

for Local Children's Homes

We are supporting local children's homes and will be collecting gifts for boys and girls of all ages.

Together we can make Christmas special

From 14th November

Pick a tag from our Christmas Gift Tree and help bring a smile to a child this Christmas.

Please drop your gift into the pub by the **19th December**

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Great Finborough & District Garden Club

Our gardens certainly don't know what to expect with some days feeling like an extension of Summer and others feeling like we are well into Autumn chills. But regardless of the changeableness of the season, it's time to think about tidying up the flower and vegetable beds and making plans for what we can grow in the spring.

Our October meeting was an engaging talk by Kate Elliot, the head gardener at Columbine Hall. Kate talked about the development of the gardens from scratch and shared photographs of the initial tree and hedge planting to give the garden structure. She also shared that the project did not always go smoothly and that the Yew hedges needed to be planted three times before they were successfully established.

The gardens now incorporate a variety of features including a wildflower meadow, woods, walked gardens and a new bridge across the moat. Kate also talked about the history of the hall and that they found names painted on the walls in one of the outbuildings that were most likely the names of the cows when the building was the dairy and the empty Bovril jars in the ground that were presumed to have been thrown there by the land girls stationed at the hall.

Kate was an enthusiastic speaker whose pride in the current gardens and in the potential for the future really came through. The talk was well attended by members and some non-members who thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

A reminder that subscriptions are now due in
They remain at £20.00 per household and £5.00 for guests.

Finally, if you are interested in joining the garden club or would like to join us for any event you will be very welcome.

For further information contact: Cath Walker on 07843191101 or cathwalker85@gmail.com

News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

Representing Onehouse, Great & Little Finborough, Combs, Harleston & Shelland

Grants for 2026/27 have now opened for applications, until 22nd November. The Living Well in Winter grant is now in its fourth year and exists to help local VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) organisations deliver accessible, inclusive spaces and affordable activities during the colder months.

Since its inception, the grant has supported dozens of projects designed to bolster the wellbeing of residents – particularly in rural areas. Last year, successful projects included everything from warm spaces with coffee and meals to craft workshops and indoor activities.
Eligible projects might include lunch clubs, after-school clubs, low-cost sports sessions, community cafes, or any other initiative that brings people together during a time of year where many may feel isolated.
Up to £2,000 can be applied for. Information and application form see: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding-1

John Matthissen
councillor@matthissen.net | 07976 308128
Council Phone No: 0300 123 4000



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WHAT'S ON!

From 14th November
Christmas Tree Gift (page 25)

Thursday 19th November
Pub Quiz 7.30pm

Sunday Roasts
12-3pm - booking advised

Christmas Menu - coming soon
Details will be posted on Facebook

We are considering opening a Village Shop - please let us know if you want a shop back in the village and what it should stock.
Roly & Mandy

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Non-members wild birdseed order form for November 2026

The next order will be placed on **18 November 2026** the birdseed collection will be on **Wednesday 25 November 2026 between 14.00 and 16.00 hrs. from Abbey Farm Cottage.** If you would like to place an order please let me have your requirements together with a cheque made payable to "Great Finborough Garden Club", or **by BAC's** "Gt Finborough & District Garden Club", sort 09-01-54, account no 20213287 please reference your name followed by B/S. Orders may be posted to or dropped off at The Little House, High Road, Gt Finborough, IP14 3AA, or if it's more convenient dropped off at 1 Valley Lane, Gt Finborough.
Thank you. Peter Turner 07789727974 or p.turner125@btinternet.com

Please note there are some price increases on some birdseed products

Name **Tele No.**

Product	Weight	Price	Quantity	Cost
Wild Bird Mix	20 kg	£15.00		
W.B.M. Premium	20kg	£17.50		
W.B.M No Wheat	20kg	£20.00		
W.B.M NEW High Energy	12.75 kg	£18.00		
W.B.M. No Mess	12.75 kg	£18.50		
W.B.M Robin & Songbird	12.75 kg	£18.00		
Finch Mix	20 kg	£18.00		
Mixed Corn	20 kg	£12.50		
SUPER Poultry Mix	20kg	£14.00		
Peanuts (superior quality)	20 kg	£37.00		
Peanuts (half sack)	10 kg approx.	£20.00		
Black Sunflower Seed	15 kg	£19.00		
Sunflower Kernels	20 kg	£31.00		
Sunflower Kernels	10kg approx.	£17.00		
Nyjer Seed	20kg	£44.00		
Nyjer Seed	10kg approx.	£23.00		
Suet Pellets	12.75kgs	£23.00		
Suet Balls (Superior quality)	Price each 150 £22.50/Box	15p		

If your school, club, committee or community group would be interested in arranging a free session, please get in touch.

Richard.Lock@eastamb.nhs.uk

Once again, a massive thank you to everyone who has supported our team. Your generosity helps us to keep our equipment ready, our team operational and, most importantly, gives us the ability to be there when someone in our community needs us most.

Thank you again, Rich

Did you know we have a Village Facebook page?

Take a look at:
facebook.com/parishcouncilgreatfinborough

The Beacon Club



The Beacon Club was set up nearly 3 years ago for two reasons, firstly to have the money to have the iconic steeple of St Andrews Church illuminated every night of the year at lighting-up time until 23.00hrs. Secondly, to support the running of the Church which costs £20,000/year to keep the doors open. The Church has 2 services a month but is usually open 5 days a week for moments of quiet reflection
We are still looking for new members of the Beacon Club, members donate £100 a year to support the steeple lighting & Church. We hold an Autumn Equinox supper in the Church by way of a small thank you. If you are interested in joining, please get in touch: p.turner125@btinternet.com or 07789727974

Peter

A Massive thank you from your Community First Responder

It's been a little while since I last wrote a piece for the Great Finborough Newsletter, but over the past few months we've received some incredibly generous donations from local groups, and our thanks is long overdue!

A huge thank you to FFD Running Club, all involved in the Great Finborough Golf Event, Mandy and Roly at the Chestnut Horse, and everyone involved with the Pettiward Hall quiz nights.

Between these brilliant people and groups, they have donated more than £1,000 to our local Community First Responder team.
We genuinely cannot thank you enough.

Every penny donated goes directly back into the local team. It helps us stock and maintain our response bags with diagnostic equipment, trauma kits, medications, defibrillators, communications equipment and all the other essential kit we need to provide life-saving care.
These donations help us remain operational in our local area and ready to respond whenever we're needed.

Community First Responders (CFRs) are medically qualified volunteers who give their time completely free of charge to support the NHS ambulance service. Our role is to respond to 999 emergency medical calls in the local area, providing vital care while a blue-light ambulance is making its way to the patient. In the most serious emergencies, a CFR can often be the first person on scene, starting life-saving treatment during those crucial first few minutes.

During March, April and May 2026, our group received 88 emergency dispatches. On 59 occasions, a member of the local CFR team was first on scene. Of those calls, 23 were Category 1 emergencies (time-critical, immediately life-threatening).

We also offer free "Restart the Heart" training to anyone who would like to learn how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator. Recently, we've been fortunate enough to provide free training to the public at Stowmarket Carnival, the Food Festival and Finfest.

Cont.

Letter from the Rector

Within the church, and throughout the country, November is the month of remembrance. There are two dates in particular that focus on remembering those we have lost, All Souls' Day on 2nd November and Remembrance Day on 11th November.

All Souls' Day is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed, when people remember deceased friends and relatives in various ways through prayers and attendance at special church services. We will be holding such a service on Sunday, 1st November at 6pm in St Andrew's church, Great Finborough. Everyone is welcome to this quiet, reflective service, especially those who have lost a loved one.

The 11th November is Remembrance Day, a Memorial Day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries to recall the signing of the armistice and the end of First World War hostilities.

The Sunday nearest to the 11th November is known as Remembrance Sunday and this year falls on 8th November. It's marked by ceremonies at local war memorials in most cities, towns and villages, attended by civic dignitaries, ex-servicemen and -women, members of local armed forces, military cadet forces and uniformed youth organisations such as guides and scouts.

There will be services to mark Remembrance Sunday throughout our benefice to enable people to pay their respects:

10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Buxhall
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Great Finborough
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Combs
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Onehouse
3.00 pm	Evensong with Act of Remembrance	Little Finborough

Cont.

We hope you will be able to join us at one or more of our services this month, and especially one of those to remember the loved ones we have lost.

With blessings
Revd Sarah

If you spot something in the village in need of attention, please get in touch. It could be overgrown footpaths, missing or hidden signs, broken or damaged play equipment in the playpark.

Contact the Parish Council:
clerk@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk

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Any unforseen class cancellations will be news flashed on our website so customers are advised to check before travelling.

HELPING EVERYONE TO KEEP ACTIVE

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