

THE ORACLE

SPRING 2026
ISSUE 126

A POSTCARD FROM...

ORAC NEWS

WHATS ON...

LUCY'NEWS



FINAL ISSUE

**QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGE OF
OCCOLD & SURROUNDING AREA**

Sadly this is the last ORACLE Magazine that I am producing. I have been doing this for a number of year now and my circumstances are changing so feel that it is time to step away and pass it on. If anyone is interested in taking on its production please get in touch with me. It requires a few basic IT skills and a bit of a time commitment around production time but I have built up a group of regular contributors and am willing to give support to anyone who feels able to continue it.

Please get in touch via email: orac.treasurer@occold.com or oraccommittee22@gmail.com if interested.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this and any previous editions.

Village Hall Bookings: villagehall@occold.com or 01379 678198

Cover photo: Gill Chapman - Reflections

ORAC News

The Christmas period was a busy time at the Village Hall starting with the Christmas Fair, held jointly with The Friends of Occold Primary. Santa's Grotto was amazing and all our thanks go to Rachel Howard for her creativity and hard work in setting this up. The ORAC Christmas Dinner was another successful and enjoyable evening and big thanks go to the team of people who helped the Committee with the preparations, cooking and delivery of this annual event. January saw the return of The Dove Players with another fun filled pantomime, followed by the Jubilee Baptist Church's annual Darts Night. A number of private hires took place for seasonal parties and family gatherings and now we return to our normal pattern of weekly and monthly hires as we move into the New Year.

As this is the last ORACLE I will be producing I have given a list of dates below for the year for the regular monthly events that go on in the Village Hall. These include the monthly Coffee Morning, Craft Club and Soup Lunch. Dates may be subject to change as the year progresses but we will try to notify residents through the Residents of Occold and the ORAC Facebook pages or notices at the Hall or Village Green Noticeboard.

At some time in the Spring we will be having a Working Weekend where new bark chipping will be spread over the play area and a new fence will be erected around the Forest School/garden area on the field. Our thanks go to The Friends of Occold School for helping to raise funds to go towards the cost of these maintenance tasks. Volunteers to help on this weekend will be most welcome and the date will be notified in due course.

We are grateful to our local Councillor Lucy Ekins, for helping us with a contribution to the cost of some tree maintenance we have had done recently from her Locality Award Grant.

Unfortunately with the new waste and recycling changes coming in June it looks as if the community recycling banks for glass and paper/card will be removed at some point. Households will be able to put glass into their recycling bins as well as to continue to recycle paper and card. See recycling info further in the magazine.

Minutes of meetings are available at occold.onesuffolk.net

ORAC Committee 2025/26:

Vacant	Chair	email: orac.chairman@occold.com
Gill Chapman	Treasurer	email: orac.treasurer@occold.com
Carol Peters	Secretary	email: orac.secretary@occold.com

Nigel Woodhouse, Dan Hull, Gordon Erhorn, Johanna Matta, Janet Erhorn, Emma Beilby-Walmsley

What's on in the Village Hall:

Coffee Mornings

First Monday of the month:

**2nd March, Not in April, 4th May, 1st June,
6th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October,
2nd November, 7th December**

Soup Lunches

Last Friday in the month:

***27th March, 24th April, 29th May, 26th June, 31st July,
28th August, 25th September, 30th October, 27th
November***

Craft Club

3rd Wednesday of the month:

**18th March, 15th April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July,
19th August, 16th September, 21st October, 19th
November**

Table Tennis

***every Monday 6 – 7.30pm - New Players always
welcome, no need to book. £3 per person***

Bellicise

every Thursday morning 10 - 11am

SWAP Classes

***Strength Class with a Physio – Wednesdays am &
Fridays pm – See poster P13 for details***

WI meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

Orac meetings

***next meeting: 26th March 7.30pm - please contact
secretary if you wish to attend. Other dates to be
confirmed***

Parish Council meetings

**1st Monday of the month, 8pm. Please check dates
with Clerk if you wish to attend**

ORAC Christmas Meal 2026

Saturday 5th December

***Occold Village Hall is available to book for various events
including parties, celebrations, sales etc***

£10 per hour

***Please check the booking calendar for availability at:
occold.onesuffolk.net/services/village-hall and complete the
online booking form - or ring Di on 01379 678198***



I offer Gel nails/
pedicure/Builder
gel/nail art/
Eyebrow wax & tint/
lash lift & tint.

Based at Church
Farm, Occold

Contact Zia Hull
07776136438



A Postcard from ...

East Anglia

*(through the
eyes of an Aussie)*

Wayne Wilby



G'day. I am now home in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia, after 8 weeks at Occold. I had previously been to Occold in 2013, with my late wife, Pam, visiting Jim and Gill Chapman. Armidale is situated 1,000 metres above sea level, and about 200kms inland from the east coast, in the district of New England, thus named by the early English settlers whom likened the landscape to England.

“Why return to Occold?” I hear you ask. In 1770 Captain James Cook discovered New Holland (Australia), and in 2001 my son, Josh, discovered the Old Dart and found Anne Chapman. They were married in 2008, and after living in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, for 20 years, they have moved to Occold, together with their son, Cooper, to spend time with Anne's family over the next several years. Perhaps this means that I shall return to Occold.

I arrived in Suffolk, after 24 hours flight time, on my birthday and celebrated with a traditional Sunday pub roast and a warm pint. I was to learn over the ensuing 8 weeks that tradition plays a big part in British life; the full English breakfast with black pudding and baked beans, cold sausage rolls, cappuccino without a dusting of chocolate, fish and chips, and pheasant shooting

I didn't find the pheasant plucker, but I found a few pheasant shooters, whom in some instances should not have been allowed out after dark. Tradition is certainly alive and well with the shooters. Imagine dressing up in tweed, the establishment check shirt, collar and tie, plus fours, and then paying for the privilege to shoot a bird. One respected village local told me the birds are so quiet, that “they have to be kicked in the bum (my word, not his) to fly, so they can be shot.” Apparently, it is just not cricket old chap shooting the birds on the ground.



With Josh driving, we headed for Whitby, passing through the picturesque flat countryside of Lincolnshire exhibiting hedgerow fencing, pigs and cabbages and other braccias. Then, through North Yorkshire and The North York Moors with a dramatic change of scenery to rolling exposed hills, and stone fencing. Whitby sneaks up on you and all of a sudden you are at the heart of Whitby, the harbour. Whitby is all steps, slopes, and a tangle of cobblestone streets, and of course the home of Dracula. The famous 199 steps lead you to Whitby Abbey and a welcoming boutique brewery. The afternoon we visited, the wind, rain and sleet pierced our clothing as we ascended the steps, but we found comfort in a pint and a pizza, and I am sure Dracula was lurking in the graveyard. The next morning we awoke to a snow covered wonderland, and again we ascended the 199 steps to view Whitby under snow. Captain Cook studied his navigation apprenticeship at Whitby, but unfortunately the Captain Cook museum was closed – we were there after 2nd November - but I'm sure we walked the same cobblestone streets

as the Captain did. No visit to Whitby is complete without visiting the nearby village of Robin Hood's Bay, and a walk along the pebbly beach at Sansend.

Over the next few days we travelled back to Occold via the Peak District, overnighing at the beautiful blue stone village of Castleton, and Santo's Higham Farm at Alfreton, Derbyshire.

Back to East Anglia. My visit to Suffolk, especially during winter, reminded me very much of my home town. I spoke to many people, both during my morning loop walk around Occold, and over a pint at The Beaky, and to most people, Australia is a hot landscape consisting of deserts, and “full of things that want to kill you.” Yes, we do have deserts, but we also have striking countryside similar to East Anglia, and we have tremendous snow fields during winter, in the southern alpine country. An average winter in Armidale and New England district experiences overnight temperatures from as low as -11 to daytime highs of 13 degrees, and we enjoy 4 distinct seasons. Snow falls are infrequent. Unlike Occold, we do have our fair share of things that will make you very sick if you don't die first. We have a collection of venomous snakes and spiders, and even a kangaroo can kill if cornered, but if you understand the country you are safe. And, of course, if you venture to the coast, or up north, you have sharks and crocodiles and dingos to contend with. Sometimes, the most deadliest are two legged.

In the village of Clavering, Saffron Walden, a local resident, whom I struck up a conversation with, became my guide for a couple of hours and led me to what is said to be “the smallest cottage in England.”



While on all things small, at Bury St Edmunds is, according to Guinness World Records, the world's smallest full time pub, The Nutshell. Of course, Josh and I had to make sure for ourselves and we came away with the conclusion that it is tiny; standing room only. It is so tiny that pint glasses are too big for the bar. A sign in the pub reads, “Function bookings of 2 or less welcomed.”

The busker duo playing harp and cello in the Bury market square, on a freezing afternoon, was fantastic, and their rendition of Hallelujah and My Way was very moving, evoking personal memories.

Norwich has a spectacular market and the cathedral is worth whiling away an hour or two. A modern twist in the cathedral is a huge copper font previously used for making chocolate.

After visiting Framlingham, and strolling around Ed Sheeran's “Castle on the Hill,” we stumbled across the village of Laxfield. The 16th century guildhall has pride of place in the village. On the opposite side of the street is All Saints' Church which houses a magnificent historic parish chest dating to the 15th century – made of timber, iron-banded and fitted with multiple locks. Behind the church is The Kings Head pub, locally known as the Low House. The pub, of thatched construction, dates to the 1500's: it has no bar but serves beer straight from the casks in the Tap Room.

Our visit to the villages of Kersey and Lavenham was like stepping onto a movie set, and Harry Potter was filmed in Lavenham. The village boasts grand guildhalls and crooked half-timbered houses, painted in vibrant colours, and a bustling market place and high street crawling with day trippers. Kersey, on the other hand, is much smaller and peaceful, but just as charming with its winding lane that dips into a shallow ford at the entry to the main street.

My last couple of weeks in Occold included a visit to the grey seal colony at Horsey Beach, accessed by a pleasant drive through the Norfolk Broads. A low point of this day trip was a disappointing meal of fish and chips in Great Yarmouth from the “World Famous Harry Ramsden's.” (it seems that Harry has no idea). But to make up for Harry's poor showing, on

an outing to Felixstowe, I had a lip smacking, finger licking, fantastic meal of fish and chips, replete with curry sauce, at Saltwater on the seafront.

On another day trip I enjoyed a hot chocolate named, Boozey Baileys, on the seafront at Lowestoft – the barista did not stinge on the Baileys. Thankfully, Anne was driving.

No visit to Suffolk would be complete without a visit to the beautiful town of Woodbridge and Sutton Hoo. Of course, it was after the 2nd November, but I did catch a glimpse of the replica of the Viking boat in course of construction.



During my life I have had some great adventures, and done some weird and wonderful things, but I can say “ratting” at the egg farm was a first. The egg man, not the walrus, introduced me to Mexican Train Dominoes, and enticed me to church for the Nativity Carols Church Service. Thankfully, St Michael and All Angels Church, built in the medieval ages, didn't fall in. Tradition dictated that following the service we adjourned to The Beaky for a Christmas Eve pint, and tradition also dictated that we return to The Beaky on Christmas Day for a bevvy. I was really getting the hang of tradition.

I didn't get to experience a white Christmas but it was extremely cold at Occold. Dining on a hot Christmas feast when the outside temperature is -2 degrees, certainly beats an Australian Christmas with a hot meal when the daytime temperature is in the high 30's, but this is offset with fresh prawns, oysters, and all manner of seafood, providing you live on the coast. Inland, is a very different story. Nothing said Christmas to me more than the visit to Helmingham Hall to view the garden light spectacular on a cold, crisp, night, made totally enjoyable by the consumption of caramelised warm almonds washed down with warm, spicy mulled wine – a real novelty.



Dogs - Has England gone to the dogs? I have never seen so many dogs, and don't get me wrong, I am a dog lover. Big dogs, little dogs, rescue dogs, dogs of all colours are welcomed with open arms into cafes, restaurants, pubs, and if they have "clean paws" into Norwich Cathedral. Even some pub menus have a doggy menu, and I don't mean hot dogs. The precious pooches have trained their masters well because I did not see doogy doos anywhere.

I had a wonderful time at Occold, and thank you for your friendship and good humour. I thoroughly enjoyed the village life, and experienced coffee and cake and weekly exercise classes in the village hall.

You aren't all that different to good county folk in Australia, but then again my ancestral roots in Australia date back to 1791, when my 5th great grandfather received free passage from England, for a minor misdemeanour, for a term of 7 years. In the ensuing 40 years a number of my ancestors, both male and female, from Yorkshire to Wiltshire, arrived in the colony due to various offences. As an imbiber in The Beaky said to me, "the best were shipped to Australia."







THORNDON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

A friendly parent-run group for ages 0-5
and their parent/carer.

We meet on alternate Wednesdays for
play, craft, snack and music at Thorndon
Village Hall.

10:00 - 11:45am | £3 per family

First session free

High St, Thorndon, Eye IP23 7LX

2025 - 2026 DATES

10th Sept
24th Sept
8th Oct
22nd Oct
Half Term
5th Nov
19th Nov
3rd Dec
17th Dec

7th Jan
21st Jan
4th Feb
Half Term
25th Feb
11th Mar
25th Mar

15th Apr
29th Apr
13th May
Half Term
3rd Jun
17th Jun
1st Jul
15th Jul

Follow us on Instagram or Facebook
@thorndontoddlers to find out more!

Occold's Community Bookshelf



It has been wonderful seeing so many residents, parents of children in school, teachers and children using our village's community bookshelf outside the entrance to the village hall. It currently has a great selection of books, so come and take a look!



Please continue to donate your books to keep the shelves well stocked.
Feel free to take home as many books as you would like to read or to share
with friends or family.

Thank you!

WEDNESDAYS 8:45 - 9:45AM

FRIDAYS 2:00 - 3:00PM

STRENGTH CLASS WITH A PHYSIO



£10

Occold Village Hall
All ages and injuries
Text Anne for more information:

07907353495

Stoke Ash Gardening Club

Monday 23rd March – Talk on Gardening for Hedgehogs by Prickles Hedgehog Rescue

Monday 27th April – A Guide to Growing Fuchsias by Kristopher Harper-Allison

Monday 18th May – An Outing – to be arranged

Meetings held at Stoke Ash Village Hall from 7.30pm

For more information or to arrange car share contact Caroline on 01379678871



**CRYSTAL
CLEAN**

Specialist Cleaning Services

Carpet

Hard Floor

Upholstery

Mark Underwood

01379 678 806



07984 648 296

info@crystalclean.services

www.crystalclean.services

Suffolk Mobile Library Route 5

The mobile library visits Occold every 4 weeks on a Friday stopping in

The Street, 11.15 – 11.45

**Next visits are: 13th March, 10th April, 8th May, 5th June, 3rd July, 31st July,
28th August, 25th September, 23rd October, 20th November, 18th December**

We have a lift which can be used to help anyone with mobility difficulties
access the bus.

For more information please visit our website: www.suffolklibraries.co.uk or call our
customer service on 01473 351249.

It is free to get a library card.
from the mobile library.

You can reserve books online and collect

Come and play Table Tennis

Monday evenings 6 – 7.30pm

At the Village Hall

New members welcome

£3 per person

No booking required

Contact Gill on 01379 678446 for more information



Coffee Morning

Hot drinks and homemade refreshments

Every first Monday of the month

9:30am - 12pm

Occold Village Hall

All welcome to join



Next Dates:

2nd March

**No meeting in
April**

4th May

1st June

6th July

3rd August

7th September

5th October

2nd November

7th December

Lucy's news from Mid Suffolk District Council, March 2026

A new post office for our area

I'm happy to share the welcome news that a post office is returning to Eye! The owner of Mendlesham Post Office, Mr Minesh Patel, is opening a new post office and store on Magdalen Street, Eye. Work has started, with plans to open in the spring.

Grants for green spaces

Mid Suffolk District Council has set up two new 'nature recovery' grants. These will help communities to create and look after habitats, such as ponds, meadows or woodlands. Community groups can apply for up to £50,000, with higher amounts available for larger projects - including projects to help reduce flooding. Details here:

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>

New bin collections

Changes are on their way to how our bins are collected. From June 2026 all councils are required to collect the same things – including food waste and more recyclables.

Overall, we'll have more collections in Mid Suffolk. Food waste will be collected every week, with one bin for card and paper, and one bin for other recycleables (including glass, tins, plastic wrapping and Tetra Pak cartons). Remaining 'residual' waste will still go in the black bin.

Smaller bins and sacks are available for anyone who doesn't have space for the new bins. Special collections (for example, for medical waste) will continue. Help will still be available to those who find it physically difficult to get their bins to the kerb. And anyone who prefers to compost their food waste at home can of course continue to do so!

The District Council has been working hard over the last couple of years to get ready for these changes. New lorries and bins have been purchased, and information leaflets are now going out to every household. Detailed information packs – and the new bins – will be delivered in the coming months, ready to start in June.

I'm sure it will take us all a little while to get used to the change (I can never remember which bin day it is now!) But similar systems are already working well in other counties. The result will be less waste, more recycling, and better quality of recycled materials.

You can find lots more information here: <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/> You are also welcome to email or call me if you have any questions, and I'll do my best to help.

See you soon, Lucy (District Councillor for Eye, Occold and Redlingfield)

You can contact me by email lucy.elkin@midsuffolk.gov.uk or phone 07928 512590

For news and updates, find me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CllrLucy

To contact Mid Suffolk District Council phone 0300 1234000. Or drop in to talk to one of the Council's customer service team in **Eye Library, Friday mornings until 12:30pm**

See you soon, Lucy (District Councillor for Eye Ward - Eye, Occold and Redlingfield)

Useful numbers

- Citizens Advice – for advice on benefits, debts, heating bills and lots more, call 01449 676060 / 01449 676 280 – or pop in to see Citizen's Advice in Eye Library on Friday mornings (no appointment needed)
 - Report flooding in your property: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk>
 - Report other types of flooding: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk>
- To report a power cut, call [105](tel:105). You can also search, track and report power cuts online: <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/>
- Damaged power lines – please stay away and call [105](tel:105). If there is an immediate risk to safety, please also call [999](tel:999)
- Fallen or overhanging trees – if there is an immediate danger, please call Suffolk Highways on [0345 606 6171](tel:03456066171). If not, you can report fallen trees or debris on the road at highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk
 - For updates on the Orwell Bridge, please go to www.trafficengland.com or www.twitter.com/highwayseast
- Report a blocked drain to Suffolk County Council: <https://suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/highway-drainage/report-a-blocked-drain>
- If your water supply has been affected, please call Essex & Suffolk Water on [0345 782 0999](tel:03457820999).
- If your property has been affected by sewage flooding or there is a sewerage issue, please report to Anglian Water or call their 24-hour emergency number: [03457 145 145](tel:03457145145)
 - Floodline Telephone: [0345 988 1188](tel:03459881188) or visit [GOV.UK flood alerts](https://gov.uk/flood-alerts) for more information
- Dangerous structures please contact customer services on [0300 1234 000](tel:03001234000) (Option 5) or out of hours call [0808 168 7794](tel:08081687794)



Join the... **Crafty Crafters**

*Every third Wednesday in the month in
Occold Village Hall, 1 - 3 pm*

Dates for the year are:

*Wednesday 18th March, 15th April,
20th May, 17th June, 15th July, 19th August,
16th September, 21st October,
18th November*

*Bring a craft activity to do or share or
just come to socialise and have a chat.*

*Tea, coffee & biscuits
available.*

£2.50 per person



Soup Lunch

Occold Village Hall (Last Friday of every Month)

12 - 1pm

Homemade Soup & Roll £5



All Welcome

Tea, Coffee & Cake also available

The Soup lunches help to raise funds for different organisations in the Village. Your support is very much appreciated.

27th March – St Michael's

24th April – Friends of Occold School

29th May – Jubilee Baptist Church

26th June – ORAC

31st July – Tango 2

28th August – no lunch

25th September – WI

30th October – ORAC

27th November – Jubilee Baptist Church

Redlingfield & Occold WI



In January we welcomed the return of Mary Newton, a retired forensic scientist. On this occasion she used four murder cases that she had worked on to explain how forensic science has developed over the last 40 years. Locards principle explains that the 'silent witness' refers to evidence which is left behind unconsciously; and this is the evidence that forensics can uncover.

Mary attended her first scene of crime when she was only 19, at the murder of a young woman in Dulwich village in 1980. The victim, sadly, was the same age; and the perpetrator was her boyfriend, who was convicted of murder. In this case, the patterning of blood on the carpet determined how he attacked the victim. Another case Mary worked on in 1988 was one of the first successes in DNA profiling: a dropped handkerchief had the victim's blood on it, but also male DNA which was a match for the murderer.

Mary worked on the high profile case of the murder of Rachel Nickel on Wimbledon common in 1992 where Colin Stagg was charged and imprisoned. However, it was her work that eventually revealed that the wrong man had been convicted and this led to the conviction of Robert Napper in 2008. Colin Stagg was awarded compensation for the terrible injustice he had suffered and has since written about his experience.

She is an interesting and knowledgeable speaker and will be returning again in November for the final of her 3 talks.

Our February talk was given by a local resident Amanda Hull, who spoke about her recent trip to Vietnam. Amanda has previously given us a talk about her climb of Kilimanjaro so we were really looking forward to hearing about her latest exploit.

She joined an Action Challenge trip to trek 100km in Vietnam starting in the city of Hanoi and then travelling through rural and mountainous areas. During the week of her trip the weather was good and her photos showed beautiful scenery full of vibrant colours. They were very lucky as in previous weeks there had some very wet weather resulting in numerous landslides that made the trek very difficult in places. The group stayed in rural homestays, enjoying the local cuisine. Her photos included the stunning landscape, local wildlife, rice fields and daily life of the homestays.

She delivered a very interesting talk that we very much appreciated.

We have an interesting programme of speakers and activities planned for the year and meet on the first Wednesday of the month in Occold Village Hall at 7.30pm. You are very welcome to join us: contact Sara Hampson (president) on 01379 678868.

Rabbit class visited the Sealife Centre

Rabbit class looked at oceans in their geography topic in the Autumn term. They learned about the different layers of the ocean and the animals that live there. The children went to the Sealife Centre to see some of these animals. They had great fun exploring the centre!



Fox class visited The Suffolk Archives

In the Autumn term, Fox class visited The Hold (Suffolk Archives) to learn about life in Occold during the Victorian period. They looked at old maps, found names and jobs of people who once lived in Occold and even handled and read the school's logbook from 1879 – 1903. Later, they had a behind-the-scenes tour of where the archives are stored. During the afternoon, the children learned about a poor young boy called Walter (born in Occold) who, at age 15, was sentenced to 14 days hard labour and 4 years in Kerrison's Reformatory School in Thorndon – all for stealing a pair of trousers and a coat on a cold Christmas Eve night!



Otter class visited Knettishall Heath & Time and Tide Museum

Last term, Otter class travelled to Knettishall Heath as part of their science topic on habitats. They looked at a variety of habitats and micro-habitats in the area and identified the plants and animals which live in each.

Later in the term, whilst learning about the Titanic Disaster in history, the class visited the Time and Tide Museum for an experience which took them back in time through a series of interactive and immersive activities.



Whole school trip to the Pantomime

Before Christmas, the whole school visited the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds to watch last year's pantomime Rapunzel.

It was a fantastic show!



Whole school trip to Pipers' Vale

Recently, the whole school went to Pipers Vale Gymnastics Club to enjoy a morning of gymnastics using the club's amazing apparatus which included a sprung floor, tumble track, vault, trampettes and a floor level trampoline.

We've got some amazing gymnasts in our school!



Occold Primary School's Amazon Wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/7bKa2pw>

Over recent months, several members of our local community have kindly reached out to ask whether there are ways they might be able to further support the school. In response to this, we've put together an Amazon Wishlist of items that may be useful in school, should anyone wish to make a purchase. Thank you!

MID SUFFOLK

Refuse and Recycling

Collection Schedule to May 2026



December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1	1
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
			30 31

April 2026	May 2026
Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31

See below for information about changes to waste collections from June 2026



- REFUSE** (general rubbish) collection week
- RECYCLING** collection week
- Refer to the MID SUFFOLK Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2025-26
- Collections following a bank holiday will be one day later than normal for the rest of the week

Changes to waste collections from June 2026

From June 2026, nationwide changes to waste collections will give households more opportunities to recycle.

Weekly food waste collections will be introduced, making it easier to dispose of unusable or expired food items. **Expanded recycling services** will allow more items to be included in your recycling collection.

These changes mean a new collection schedule is required. Full details, including your updated collection calendar, will be sent to all households nearer the time.

Please put your bin out by 6.30am

Check for delays and report a missed collection
 Online: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling
 Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)

Scan for more information



YOUR BIN COLLECTION FROM 2026

From 2026, every council in Suffolk will start to collect a core set of materials for recycling, this scheme is called 'Better Recycling'. This means that more materials will be collected at the kerbside.

Paper & Card



Cardboard



Paper

Containers



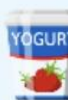
Glass bottles
& jars



Metal food &
drinks cans



Cartons



Plastic pots,
tubs, trays &
bottles

Food Waste



Plate
scrapings



Meat (inc bones)



Fish
(inc bones)



Fruit & veg



Tea bags &
coffee grounds



Breads



Dairy

General Rubbish



Soiled fast
food containers



Bagged vacuum
contents



Nappies



Bagged animal
waste



Other non
recyclable waste

Garden Waste

Subscription only



Small
branches



Leaves



Dead plants
& flowers



Grass
trimmings

Bulstrodes



SHOES@BULSTRODES

VISIT OUR NEW SHOE DEPARTMENT



PROFESSIONAL CHILDRENS MEASURING SERVICE

**STARTRITE—REIKER—RAMONTE—LOTUS—LUNAR—and
many more including Base, Rocket Dog & Hush Puppies**

FRAMLINGHAM TOY SHOP

**LEGO, POKEMON, TONIES, SQUISHMALLOWS, BARBIE, AIRFIX,
HOT WHEELS, PUZZLES, GAMES, ART, CRAFT & STATIONARY**

SPORTS

**PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALLS & MERCHANDISE, MITRE BALLS,
OUTDOOR GAMES, BASKETBALLS, SWIMMING, FITNESS**

PASSPORT PHOTOS—DIGITAL & PRINTED

PHOTO PRINTING SERVICE

BILL BULSTRODE CARPET & FLOORING

CARPETS—VINYL—LVT—BLINDS

FREE ESTIMATES—PERSONAL SERVICE

27, Bridge Street, Framlingham IP13 9AJ

01728 621152

billbulstrode@googlemail.com

OCCOLD PARISH COUNCIL

The current list of Councillors and their responsibilities is:

Cllr Stephen Hubner - Chair and Planning

Cllr Andrew Duggett - Vice Chair/Personnel/Planning

Cllr Kevin Chittock

Cllr Tim Weller

Cllr Angela Hall

Cllr Roy St Pier

Cllr Janet Erhorn

Clerk & Financial Officer: Tina Newby - parishclerk@occold-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council News

We have seen changes since the last issue of this magazine. After many years serving as chairman Colin Cripps has resigned his position and we wish him all the best in his move to a new life across the border. Heidi Stone has also left the Council and we thank her for her contributions, particularly her effort in getting a Neighbourhood Plan developed - we do hope to have a final version to share with residents soon.

We have welcomed Janet Erhorn as a new Councillor but there is still a vacancy so if you want to play a role please just contact the clerk (Tina Newby - parishclerk@occold-pc.gov.uk) or chairman (Stephen Hubner - stephenhubner@occold-pc.gov.uk or 07507 357869).

We are aware of the substantial number of potholes that have been developing in the village and report these regularly. It seems that Suffolk County Council might be a little overwhelmed by this issue at the moment but we will continue to chase.

The big news of the moment is, of course, the proposed solar farm development, with plans for a large area of solar panels and associated infrastructure to be built between Occold and Eye. This project is still in a non-statutory consultation period and by the time you read this the Council will have responded to a scoping report for the Environmental Statement, which will be a key part of the formal project submission. We expect the formal process to start in the summer and it will be on the agenda for every Council meeting (first Monday of each month, except August, in the village hall commencing at 8:00 pm). If you want to share your views then please do attend.

We are seeking a modest increase in funding in 2026 (which comes through Council Tax) with a view to having funds available to make a difference in this parish, from making full representations to NSIP applications like the solar farm to, subject to statutory limits, assisting with local projects that will benefit the community. We always welcome

comments from parishioners so please do get in touch, either through email (as above) or by coming to a meeting.

Stephen Hubner, Chairman

Occold Book Club



We do not meet in January so at our February meeting is a 'show and tell' where we report on the books we have read over the festive season. There is usually an interesting variety that gives ideas for other reads. Our reads this year included:

Spook Street – a spy thriller by Mick Heron;

The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell;

The Mitford Sisters by Mary S Lovell – a biography of these interesting sisters, now a TV series on Channel 4 called Outrageous;

The Shadow Sister by Lucinda Riley – 3rd of The Seven Sisters;

The Last Remains by Elly Griffiths – 15th & final story in the Ruth Galloway series;

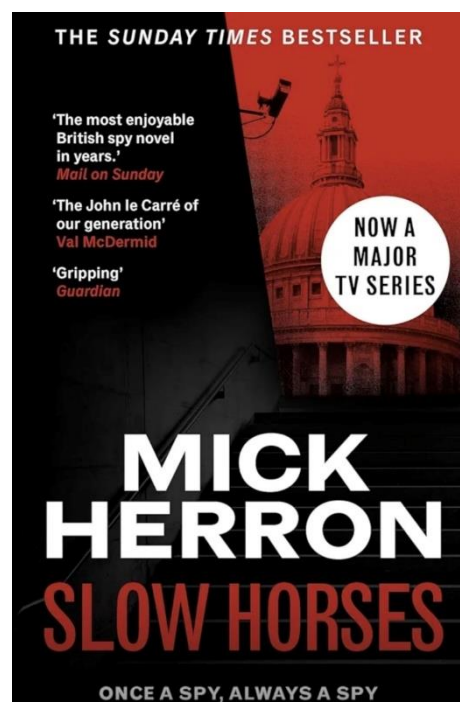
The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan – a humorous easy read;

Clockwork Angel by Cassandra Clare – an urban fantasy;

Midnight at Malabar House by Vaseem Khan – 1950s murder mystery set in Post independence India;

All the light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr;

The Corinthian by Georgette Heyer.



Our choice for March is the first book from the Slough House series by Mick Heron – Slow Horses

All are welcome, we meet at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.



Repairs, Servicing & MOTs to all Makes of Cars & Light Commercial Vehicles

(Including Hybrid & Electrical Vehicles)

Tyres, Exhausts & Batteries @ Competitive Prices

Diagnostics to all Management Systems

Air Con Servicing and Repairs

24Hour Accident Recovery & Breakdown Service

Free Local Collection and Delivery

Courtesy Cars Available

All Work Guaranteed



**INSTITUTE OF THE
MOTOR INDUSTRY**



Camp Green, Kenton Road, Debenham, Suffolk IP14 6LA

Telephone: 01728 860597. Email:

Tim Bloomfield



Painter and Decorator

2 Ash Tree Close

Occold, Eye

IP23 7LD

01379 678638

Mobile 07708644135

Church Farm
Suffolk Free Range Eggs



Self serve vending machine
offering our fresh
free range eggs
and other local produce.
Open 24/7



LAI BY OUR HENS AT
CHURCH FARM,
OCCOLD

GARDENING TIPS FROM CAROLINE

Fresh Food for Free – Growing fresh food from Scraps

Cut back on waste and save money by using the parts normally thrown out. Lots of fruit and vegetables will grow from scraps very easily providing you with organic food. The main requirements are a bowl or jars of water and a sunny windowsill.

A super-easy one to start with is lettuce. After using up your lettuce don't throw out the brown stump, pop it into a jar of water, place on a sunny window sill, in 2-3 weeks it will have grown more leaves, once you've used the leaves, put the stump back into fresh water and it should regrow.

Carrots will regrow leaves in water too. Keep the top end of the carrot, place in water and it will regrow foliage. These tops are very nutritious, high in potassium and vitamin K, taste similar to parsley and can be used to make carrot pesto or chop up and saute. If you want to grow a carrot, once the tops are shooting plant out in the garden – should produce roots in 2-3 months.

Garlic can be grown either by putting the cloves in a jar with water and harvesting the shoots, these taste milder than the garlic cloves, or by planting cloves in the garden in the Autumn. These will mature in approx. 5 months.

Beetroot leaves can be eaten fresh in salads or chopped into stews, stir-fries or soups. They contain iron, magnesium, potassium and vitamin K. Use the top of the beetroot like a carrot, it will soon grow fresh foliage in water.

Mint is an extremely useful herb which is easily rooted from stems in a jar of water kept on a sunny windowsill. Basil, coriander and thyme can be grown in the same way but best in early summer.

Spring onions are probably the best for beginners as they are so simple – just put the bottom half in a jar of water and in 2 weeks you will be harvesting your own shoots, or plant bottom in soil and they will soon produce bulbs.

Potatoes cut into pieces with eyes on them can be started off in water. Once they shoot plant in a large container of soil with eyes uppermost, or out in the garden. Any variety of potato can be used, if possible use organic ones as these are less likely to have been treated with growth retardant chemicals.

Up for a challenge? Grow your own pineapple

You must have patience as they may take 2-3 years. Pineapples are bromeliads, they flower once, produce fruit and then die.

Place your left over pineapple top in a glass of water, when several roots have grown pot up and place in the sun. Pineapples need lots of space to grow and can reach 6 foot before flowering so a large greenhouse is required.

Some of these ideas are also fun activities for children to try and introduce them to gardening and growing food.

FOOD FOR FREE, WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?

COUNTRYSIDE, CONSERVATION & TREE SERVICES

Peter Kerry



01359 230100
07792 995483



peterkerry2018@gmail.com



SPECIALISTS IN

Tree surgery

Hedge management

Patios/Paving

Resin bound driveways

Fencing

£5,000,000 public liability
insurance



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



For anything not listed above please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss

**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A FREE, NO OBLIGATION
QUOTE**

St Michael's Church Flower Guild.

We are now approaching the end of another year, finishing with our Annual Dinner at the Beaconsfield.

Having had a very varied year, which included a Celebration evening; A Garden Party; A very interesting talk by Sheila Barrett about The life & Times in Occold. We also had a flower demonstration & Edible Christmas Gifts evening.



Our programme for the next year is also looking to be a very enjoyable one which will include a Flower Festival at Occold Church on the 16th & 17th May - see below

Gentlemen are invited to our Guild meetings when stated. Visitors are always welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 30 pm in church unless otherwise stated.

You are most welcome to come along to one of our meetings. You do not have to be a flower arranger to join us. We hope to see some new faces this year. Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

Best wishes Judith. February 2026.

Secretary- - 01379 873530.

Save the Date

St.Michael and All Angels Church ,Occold.

Flower Festival 2026 "God's Creation "

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th of May 11a.m. - 4p.m.

We are holding our annual flower festival in May again this year which is for all ages and abilities.

If anyone is interested in taking part or helping over the weekend, please contact
Gill Richardson01728 627916

Besides the displays of flowers, we should have a few outdoor stalls, street organ music and a bbq for lunch. Refreshments will be available all day, consisting of drinks and home made cakes, scones etc.....

Come along and bring some loose change.

Come and have a lookfor as long or short time as you like, we look forward to seeing you



**JUBILEE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

**Here are some of the
events we usually run.
We'd love to welcome
you too!**

Please call Rob (01449 774609) Greg
(01379 678198) or Andrew (07809
516273) for more details

Weekly Sunday Service

10:45am Chapel Hall

Sunday Service available via WhatsApp

Sunday Talks also available via our website

Youth Club

Alternate Fridays in the Chapel Hall

For teens ages 13+ 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Thursday 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Chapel Hall

www.jubilee baptist.co.uk

Youth Club

Friday Night Youth Club returns on 5 September in the chapel hall at 7:30pm. We meet fortnightly (usually!) throughout the year and sessions include table top football, pool, darts, football over on the field in the summer, console games in the winter and table top games and activities. We round off each session with a time of exploring a theme or story from the Bible.

Youth Club is open to all teenagers from the point of turning 13 in Year 8 upwards

EYE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE Charity No 1156968

Do you have difficulty arranging transport?

Eye Volunteer Centre have a team of Volunteer Drivers to take you, wait and then bring you home. There is a charge of 45p per mile, ie Ipswich hospital from Eye costs £23 return approx..

If you require our assistance please telephone Gill at Eye Volunteer Centre

Telephone No: 01379 871200

Eye Bach Choir Press Release Reaching New Heights

In November 2025 a full audience in Eye Parish Church had the pleasure of experiencing truly stunning renditions of Scarlatti's Laudate Pueri, Bach's Cantata BWV 36 and Handel's Dixit Dominus. Eye Bach Choir had been working hard to put on this concert under the expert tutelage of their Musical Director and conductor Benedict Collins Rice. Fine soloists, Charlotte La Thrope (soprano), Rachel Allen (soprano), Matthias Dähling (countertenor), James Micklethwaite (tenor) and Jack Comerford (bass) plus The Geldart Ensemble made the evening's performance a resounding success. Members of The Geldart Ensemble gathered the finest period instruments in the country to perform choral works with professional and amateur choirs throughout East Anglia and beyond.

The view of an audience Member: "I was pulled inside the music, amazed by the unity between orchestra, choir and soloists as well as the tender playing of the first violinist and overall vivid energy guided by the conductor. What a performance, what an experience! It will stay with me for a long time".

Benedict Collins Rice, the choir's fourth Musical Director in 50 years, was appointed in January 2025. As a very accomplished conductor, musician and tutor, his extensive experience and qualifications equip him with skills to challenge and inspire choral singers keen to learn from him.

Eye Bach Choir, first founded by Merlin Channon in 1974, has a rich history of providing significant musical events for Eye. As soon as Merlin saw inside Eye Parish Church he could see potential for choral performances with orchestral accompaniment. In 1974 Melin's early choir also took part in an Arts Festival held in the gardens of the home of Sir Frederick Ashton in the centre of Eye. Both Peter Pears and Frederick Ashton were patrons of that Arts Event. In fact Merlin Channon had a close association with Peter Pears and Benjamin Britten, including conducting music at Britten's funeral.

With a significant Suffolk heritage, beautiful town, church and other local venues, Eye Bach Choir goes from strength to strength as we look to the future.

Upcoming concerts:

March 7 2026 in Eye Parish Church

Tallis: Lamentations

Purcell: Funeral Sentences and music for the Funeral of Queen Mary

Howells: Requiem

Organ accompaniment

May 16 2026 Debenham Parish Church

Dobrogosz: Mass

Choral Jazz Standards

Jazz ensemble accompaniment

Membership and concert tickets: www.eyebachchoir.co.uk

Contact: info@eyebachchoir.co.uk

Press Contact: [Melissa Needham](mailto:melissa@eyebachchoir.co.uk) - 07931538548

melissa@eyebachchoir.co.uk

Eye Bach Choir

Sorrow & Serenity

Saturday 7 March

7.30pm Eye Parish Church

**Thomas Tallis Lamentations Henry Purcell
Funeral Sentences & music for the funeral of
Queen Mary Herbert Howells Requiem**



Eye Bach Choir
Founded in 1974



**Conductor
Benedict Collins Rice**

**Organ
Stanley Godfrey**



MUSIC
For Everyone



www.eyebachchoir.co.uk



BOOK TICKETS

Eye Bach Choir is a Registered Charity No. 1414948

News from St Michael and All Angels

We would like to start by looking back to Christmas and the fantastic turnout to the Carol Service - more people came along than in any year since 2019 and it was great to see people supporting the church and getting into the festive spirit. Thank you to all those who helped decorate the church and also to those who participated in the service, both by reading and by taking figures up to the crib. We hope you all enjoyed the service as much as we did.

Looking forwards, by the time that this magazine is published we very much hope warmer and drier weather will be with us. It has been great to see an ever increasing number of snowdrops appear in the churchyard. Keeping this area maintained, in an environmentally sensitive manner, is definitely paying benefits. We look forward to seeing more flowers, and perhaps even more orchids, appear as Spring comes round.

Our annual meeting takes place in the church on 14 March, with the election of churchwardens and members of the PCC. If you do have questions about how the church is run or what goes on behind the scenes then please do come and ask.

And then it will be time for the Flower Festival! Mark your diaries now for the weekend of 16/17 May and please do join us for this annual fundraising event. We are expecting a variety of stalls to be back this year, so do come and take a look - it is not just about flower arrangements! We rely heavily on this and the annual book sale (to take place in the autumn again in 2026) to help cover costs of keeping the church open and all support is much appreciated.

Wishing you all the very best

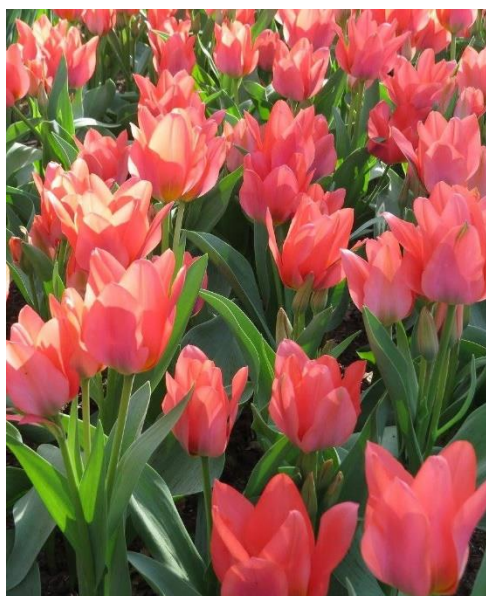
Stephen Hubner and Gillian Richardson, Churchwardens (at time of writing!)

In the Greenhouse.

Seeds were sown
In compost deep.
Buds appeared
Though small they peep.

Spring now here
At last we say!
Tulips , Daffs
Now Easter Day!

Judith Rivett... 2026.



Need help with your PC or Laptop?



Friendly advice & lessons

Repairs & upgrades

PC – Laptop – Tablet – TV Windows – Web – Email
New PC – Slow PC Broadband - Home network – WiFi
Anti-virus – Safety – Backup Cameras – Printers
Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint expert

At your Home or Business

No fix, no fee

Phone Chris on 0757 069 5279

Email: info@ubestree.co.uk

Web: www.ubestree.co.uk

Optimal Heating

Father & Son Team
with over 30 years experience

Specialist Heating Engineers
Oil, Natural Gas & LPG Servicing and Repairs



Tel: 01728 628687
Mobile: 07806 660399



OCCOLD VILLAGE HALL

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Suitable for a variety of events:

- Parties
- Dances
- Celebrations
- Sports activities
- Meetings
- Quizzes/fundraising events

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- 103 sq metres;
- capacity - up to 100 theatre style, 60-70 table seating;
- entrance foyer with toilets;
- Tables & chairs;
- Bar area;
- Fully equipped kitchen;
- Wi-Fi & sound system;
- Table tennis, darts & badminton available;
- Car parking with disabled spaces.



Basic hire charge: £10 per hour
Book online at:
[occold.onesuffolk.net-village
hall-online booking form](http://occold.onesuffolk.net-village-hall-online-booking-form)
Check hall hire calendar at
Enquiries, Booking & Payment

POPPIES ON THE PIER

My early memories of Southend include walking on to the pier with my late father, it was early 1963 and a large area of the sea was frozen as the UK was in the grip of the 'big freeze'. At that time Southend was around an hour's drive from home, the nearest coastal area to where I lived so over the years further visits occurred. Historically it is often a meeting place for motor cycle, scooter and classic car enthusiasts. I can remember in the late 1960s the seafront could resemble a scene from the iconic film 'Quadrophenia'

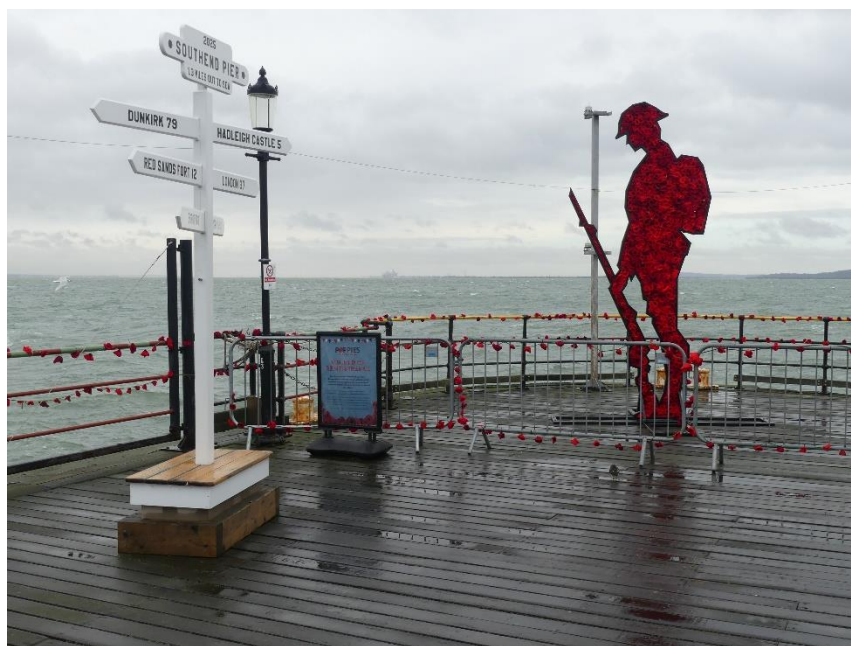
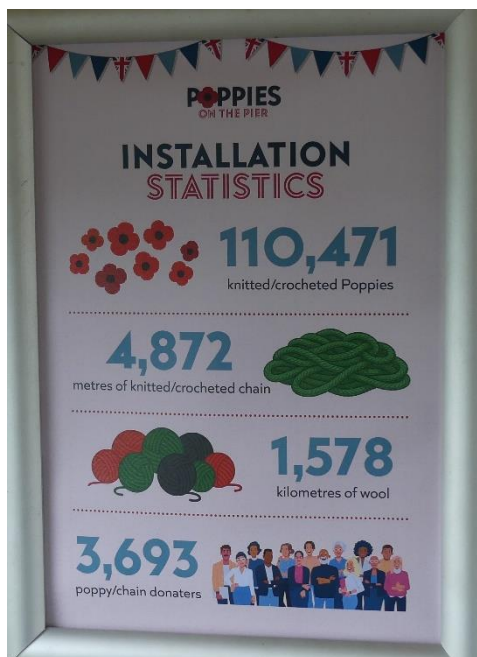
During November last year Southend Pier was the venue for the largest Remembrance art installation in the U.K. Due to its popularity the display was extended another week which gave Ruth and I the opportunity to see it. It was a bitterly cold day with a keen Arctic wind blowing straight down the North Sea towards the estuary. Having fathomed out a nearby parking meter we boarded the pier train and headed down towards the Café and Lifeboat Station.

As a result of an army of volunteers, schools, community groups and dedicated staff the pier had been transferred into a powerful symbol of remembrance, unity and hope. It was a commitment to those who had served and sacrificed. The display was along the full length of the pier which included 110,471 hand crafted poppies knitted and crocheted by individuals across the UK, Europe, United States, Canada and New Zealand.

During World War Two Southend Pier was taken over by the Royal Navy and closed to the public. It was commissioned as 'HMS Leigh'. It became a shore based naval command and headquarters of the Thames and Medway Naval Control Service. Working long shifts under black out conditions men and women worked continuously to ensure that food, fuel and equipment reached the capital. Protruding into the Thames estuary the pier was at constant risk of attack by enemy aircraft or explosions from mines. In preparation for 'D Day' crates of ammunition, fuel and medical supplies were loaded from the pier for the journey south. By the end of hostilities over 84,000 vessel movements had been logged through 'HMS Leigh'. The 'Palace Hotel' on the seafront had also been converted to the 'Queen Mary's Royal Hospital' where over 4,600 soldiers and sailors were treated including from battles such as Gallipoli and Jutland.



In 1946 the pier was formally decommissioned, the barbed wire and guarded gates removed so to allow access to the public once more.



S. John Davis.



Telephone 01379 678833
Come and enjoy a full Sunday Roast lunch – available til 3pm,
booking advisable

Dickledove, The Wizard of Occold Saves the Day!

The Dove Players is an amateur dramatic group that started in 2008, with a small cast of enthusiastic performers. We began shortly after the closure of the Eye Theatre, which was greatly missed by the community. A small group of friends decided it was time for a new company to bring theatre back to the town, and so The Dove Players was born.

The group has flourished over the years, with new and familiar faces joining us along the way. We have always warmly welcomed new members, and our friendly, inclusive atmosphere has helped many young actors grow in confidence and go on to achieve great things in theatre. This year we were delighted to welcome several new young members to the cast, whose energy and enthusiasm brought fresh life to the production.

We're incredibly lucky to have had Nicola Diggins directing for her third year. Her drive and support have helped grow the group's popularity, and her collaboration with the Palgrave Players shows real commitment to theatre and the wider community. This year's show was made even more special by the unique collaboration between our new costume designer, Barrie Addenbrooke and our scenic artist, Joanne Owen, who together crafted a vibrant and imaginative world for the story to unfold in. Harrison Klaas took charge of lighting and sound again but with more advanced lighting tech this time, he took things to the next level. We were thrilled to once again feature our live band, led by Mario Olmedo, whose musicianship brings an extra layer of magic to every performance. We really are so lucky to have a team that befits a much bigger theatre group.

The production we put on this time was a less well-known panto "Sing a Song of Sixpence", but the nursery rhyme story provides a great plot for panto with a flock of black birds, a King that loses his fortune and a maid that loses her nose! We also had 2 dames, a first for Dove Players, with an amazing array of costumes. One had his eyes on a slightly terrified King Ferdinand and his fortune and the other only had eyes for Simple Simon. Witch Watt and the Wizard of Occold battled it out for the future of Cornucopia whilst Valentine and Valerie fell in love and married in a grand finale!

But as ever the kids stole the show being even more super cute than ever with their songs and dances. Local boy Thomas Hutson excelled in his first major speaking part as page boy to the King with a solo song and Kathleen Green playing Flip and singing beautifully. Ones to watch for the future. We had great support with a sell out matinee and well attended evening shows. I saw lots of local faces so thank you all for your support. We're all about community and inclusiveness so it is lovely that the local community show such an interest. We hope you all enjoyed it; it certainly felt like a step up in quality from last year as the group grows and improves.

We are always looking for new members in all areas—acting, backstage, directing, advertising, props, and costume. We rehearse at 7pm every Monday evening from

September to December at the Dove River Church Hall. If you would like to join the group, please contact us via our Facebook page or by email: thedoveplayerseye@gmail.com



Norwegian apple cake 200C 20-25mins

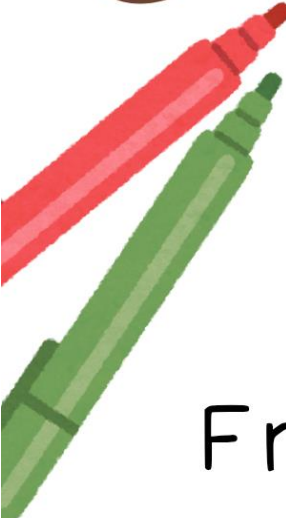
2 large eggs
9ozs Castor.Sugar
4 ozs butter
1/4 pint milk
6 1/2 ozs plain flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
4 Bramley cooking apples

Grease and flour 8 x 12 ins roasting tin.
Whisk eggs and 8ozs sugar until thick and creamy.
Put butter and milk into pan.
Bring to the boil and while still boiling, stir into eggs and sugar.
Sieve in the flour and baking powder carefully so there are no lumps..
Pour mixture into roasting tin.
Peel, core and slice the apples and arrange over the batter.
Sprinkle with remaining sugar.
Bake until well risen and golden brown.
Cool in tin then cut into slices.

Enjoy, Elly



Chocolate Bingo



Friday 27th March

Adults £5 Kids £3

Doors 6pm

Eyes down 6:30pm

Occold Village Hall

Refreshments and bar available

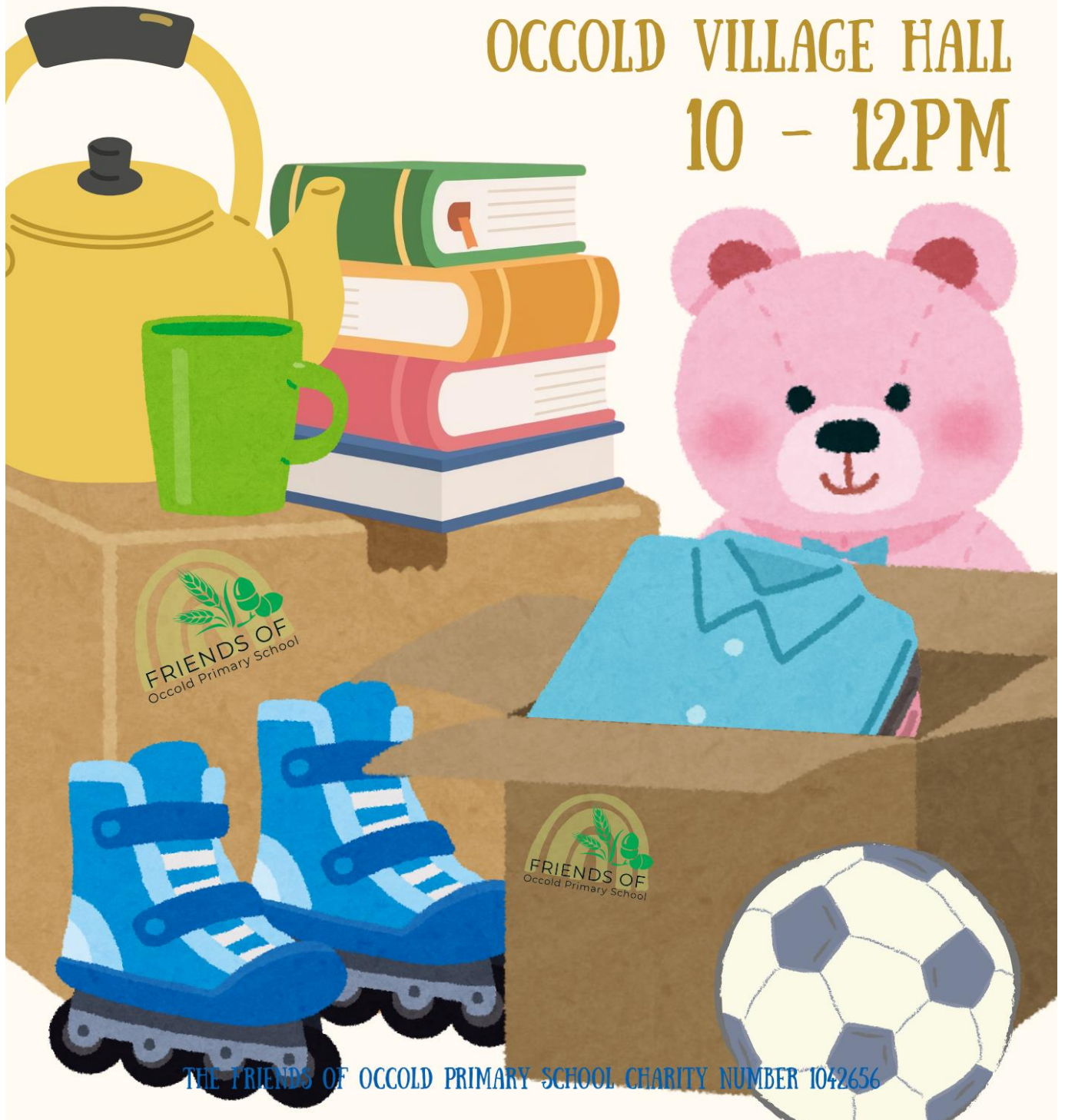
The Friends of Occold Primary School charity number 1042656

TUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

OCCOLD VILLAGE HALL

10 - 12PM



THE FRIENDS OF OCCOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARITY NUMBER 1042656

Future changes to bin collections

From June 2026, households will have more opportunities to recycle as part of nationwide changes to waste collections.

These changes include:

- a new weekly food waste collection service - allowing residents to dispose of unusable and expired food items
- extra items will be accepted in the recycling collection - including glass, cartons, and plastic bags, wrappings and films
- a separate collection for paper and card
- a new three-weekly collection schedule

Households will be provided with **four** collection services as standard:

- a weekly **food waste** collection
- a three-weekly **refuse** (general rubbish) collection
- a three-weekly **paper and card** collection
- a three-weekly **recycling** collection for glass, plastics, metal, and cartons

Below is an example of the new three-weekly collection schedule:

Collection	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Food Waste			
Refuse general rubbish			
Paper and Card			
Recycling glass, plastics, metal and cartons			

During May, households will be sent a detailed information pack and new collection calendar. Please continue to use your bins as you currently do until then.

Garden waste (brown bin) collections will remain an optional, separate charged for service, with collections continuing fortnightly.

Households will receive **two food waste containers**:

- one lockable 23 litre food waste bin to leave outside for collection
- one smaller 5 litre caddy for use in the kitchen - small enough to sit on your worktop or under the sink

Most households will also receive **one extra 240 litre wheelie bin**:

- a blue-lidded recycling bin for glass, plastics, metal, and cartons
- the current green-lidded bin will become the paper and card bin

The food waste containers and extra bin will be delivered to households between February and May 2026.