

THE WISSETT WEB

DELIVERED FREE TO EVERY HOME IN WISSETT
ONLINE VERSION AT WWW.WISSETT.ONESUFFOLK.NET

BIMONTHLY

NO 171

APRIL 2025

SAVE YOUR HOMES FROM FLOODING!

Sand and sand bags are available at Clive Stollery's yard at the bottom of Grays Lane, Corner Farm, The Street, Wissett, to provide some flood damage protection. The bags may be filled and taken home or alternatively because the sand bags can degrade over time residents may wish to obtain a bag and fill it when it looks likely to be needed. Anyone needing assistance please phone 07946581184.

Wissett Parish Council

WISSETT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council and the Wissett Neighbourhood Plan Group are working together to gather information as to what residents would like to see in our Neighbourhood Plan.

This is a unique opportunity for you to help shape and guide the future development of where you live. In the next month or so we will be carrying out a survey to ascertain your wishes as to what you think Wissett should look like in the next 15-20 years.

This is a very important stage in the consultation process leading towards the production of a Neighbourhood Plan that will have legal force and be of benefit to the whole parish in the future.

Your views are important. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help the Neighbourhood Plan team by completing the survey when it is delivered to you.

Frank Burton , Chair Wissett Parish Council"

HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Barring accidents, the Horticultural Show will go ahead on Saturday, 19th July. Sow your seeds, prune your roses...make the best flowers and produce ready for the show of shows! Schedule of classes will be included in the June edition of your Wissett Web. Classes are Vegetables and fruit, Cut flowers, Flower arrangements, photographs, children's arrangements and kitchen produce...e.g. cakes etc. and BEST IN SHOW, which can be prize onions, a flower, or an arrangement to be decided by the judges. Something for everyone.

NEW EDITOR STILL NEEDED

This village newsletter is still desperately in need of a new editor. You could do it!

Phone Jenny Ball on 01986 469611 or 0754 919 0004

SAVE GRAYS LANE - SOLAR FACTORY

**IMPORTANT REPORT ON BACK PAGE.
PLEASE READ!**

WISSETT VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

ST. GEORGE'S DAY

SUPPER

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL

Wissett Village Hall

7 pm



Two course meal

Raffle

Bring your own drinks

Tickets £10.00

from: Kath Witherby on 01986 873339



PLANT SALE



Bank Holiday Monday 26th May.

Wide variety of plants

Heritage Tomatoes, Perennials,

Bedding Plants and many more.

Tea, Coffee and Cakes.



Wissett Village Hall.

10.30 till 12.30



Valentine's Day Dinner

Thank you to everybody who supported our Valentine's Dinner. It was another successful, convivial evening that we all enjoyed.

A special 'thank you' to Melita who made some delicious puddings that we all enjoyed, Caroline's incredible biscuits and to all those who helped with washing up etc. without your kind support we wouldn't be able to maintain the Village Hall. We raised an amazing £560.

Don't forget to book your place at the forthcoming St. George's Day Supper on Saturday 25th April.

K.W. Village Hall Committee.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH WISSETT

APRIL SERVICES

18th GOOD FRIDAY. STATIONS OF THE CROSS 10am
 For the first time in 30 years we, along with other parishes, have no service on Easter Day. What has gone wrong?
 Holy Communion is at Spexhall on Easter Day at 10am.
 27th - Holy Communion here 10 am

MAY SERVICES

11th - Holy Communion 10 am
 25th - SERVICE & ROGATION WALK. 2.30 pm
 Starting at Spexhall church. Led by Archdeacon Sally Gaze. Blessing crops as we walk the fields. Tea at Wissett Village Hall.



CHURCH NEWS

First of all a very big thank you to all who came to, donated, filled jugs with flowers, baked cakes, helped in any way with the magnificent flower festival in March. An amazing £1,300 was raised to help with repairs and upkeep of our beautiful, historic church . Well done!

What a late Easter we have this year! Good Friday is on the 18th of April and there will be The Stations of the Cross service in Church, the time to be confirmed but our usual services are at 10am.

Hopefully we will still have some daffodils and other spring flowers still in bloom for decorating the church to celebrate the resurrection and new life for the 20th April Easter Sunday when once again the church will be full of flowers. Refreshments served after in the church.

On Thursday 8th of May at 7pm in the church there will be drinks and nibbles for all, for everyone who wants to come to the Annual General Meeting of Wissett's Parochial Church Council ! We are a small group who ensure that our church is open and functioning for the village. Everyone is welcome .

On Sunday the 25th of May we have the Rogation Walk , Service and Tea. We share this with Spexhall and this year the start is in Spexhall and Wissett's turn to make tea. It will start in Spexhall Church and the walk will be down to Wissett church to finish the service and have tea. Rogation is a time to ask for God's blessing of the growing crops, the livestock , the countryside and people of these two parishes. I have yet to attempt a Victoria Sponge but have learnt to make a good boiled fruit cake so I expect that will be on offer. Do come! Look out for times and further details nearer the date.

The same late May Bank Holiday long weekend we have the Plant Sale in aid of the upkeep of Wissett Church in the Village Hall. I know that many wonderful plants are being grown ready for this . How lovely it is to think of the merry month of May! Lilac and chestnut in blossom, swifts swooping, bees buzzing and cow parsley by the hedges. Hooray!

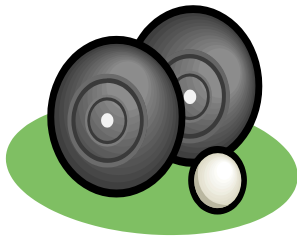
Mary Pester



FLOWER FESTIVAL

The 15th and 16th March saw our church filled with an array of spring flowers presented in jugs. JUGS galore...379 of them!
 We had many visitors from other villages attending, all of whom were so complimentary on how beautiful St Andrew's looked and full of fragrance too, with local Suffolk stocks and daffodils. I had an amazing team of helpers working alongside me. Too many to name but you know just how fortunate I feel. Despite the easterly winds the sun shone through the beautiful windows and the flowers danced in the light. A vast number of beautiful cakes and refreshments were served throughout the two days of the festival.
 I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all who made and donated cakes and savoury nibbles to the table.
 Of course this Flower Festival could not go ahead without some funding. Donations given to buy flowers came in from John and Angie Flatt, Paul and Lisa Grist and Heather Cook. On behalf of the PCC, thank you for your support.
 The total raised was in the region of £1,300. Fund raising is essential to the church, as without it we couldn't have regular services and keep the church as well maintained as we do...Donations are still needed to maintain church building.
 Susan Fitch

WISSETT CARPET BOWLS



**Wednesdays at 7 o'clock in the Village Hall.
Everyone welcome to have a bowl and a chat.
£2 including tea and biscuits**

WISSETT VILLAGE HALL A. G. M

Will be held in the hall on 10th April 2025, at 6.30 pm

Please join us for drinks and nibbles and the opportunity to air any ideas you may have for fund raising events etc. going forward.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Village Hall Committee

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL.

The Parish Council met on 20th March 2025.

REPORTS:

Grays Lane proposed solar farm – The Chairman said that following the decision by the ESC Planning Committee on 11th February to approve the application, he wished to register his thanks to all villagers who supported the objections and also in particular Councillors Dunning, Wakeling and Keys-Holloway, the Save Grays Lane group and the 70 plus residents who made the journey to Lowestoft. Since the decision the Chairman had received an email from Ben Woolnough, Head of Planning and Building Control at ESC, raising several issues of concern regarding some public behaviour at the meeting. The Chairman took extensive soundings from those who were there and sent a reply to Mr Woolnough containing this feedback. He replied on 10th March indicating his concern with the decision believing the process to be biased towards the developer. PACE now have to comply with multiple conditions and these will be monitored once construction starts. The SGL group has lodged a formal complaint against the decision and they are in the process of updating their website. County Cllr Dunning at this point voiced her own concerns about the meeting and said she has been asked to speak to PACE to discuss a benefits package to be made available to the three villages involved. As Wissett will suffer the most, soundings will be taken from residents about ideas for compensation or for village projects which could be funded. District Cllr Wakeling and County Cllr. Dunning have a Teams meeting with the developer on 27th March, and will liaise with the Parish Council. The Chairman said it was not known when the development may start but was unlikely to be before autumn at the earliest, a key factor would be what the waiting time to access the grid currently is. WPC have specifically asked to be kept informed about when the batteries are delivered. SGL group are not disbanding but will continue to monitor whether the conditions are being properly implemented. In case of future disputes between the parties involved, DC Wakeling will be asked to be a go-between between WPC, PACE and ESC.

Mirror at the bottom of Grays Lane – Soundings have been taken from a few residents who agreed last time that the mirror wasn't very useful. It was agreed to leave this matter open until more people say they want a mirror there.

Speed cameras/ANPR next visit date – The next ANPR deployment will be the week of 9th to 16th June 2025.

Sandbags and sand distribution in the village – Bags and sand are being stored at Clive Stollery's yard, Grays Lane.

Neighbourhood Plan – The Chairman said it was most important following the Solar Farm decision to kickstart this. It is mandatory to complete a village survey, so he had recently circulated a draft questionnaire for residents to give their opinions, to councillors for their comments. Following that feedback there is now a 2nd draft which the Chairman will run past ESC for any comments. .

County Cllr. Dunning referred to her latest report, highlighting updates on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. The local SCC elections due in May have been cancelled and SCC will be proposing one single unitary council for Suffolk, although district and borough councils would prefer two or three. The plan is for a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk to be elected in May 2026, along with councillors for new authorities, so the timeline for these changes is very tight.

Village hall - possible wi-fi installation – It was felt that having such a facility would increase the useability of the Village Hall, possibly leading to increased bookings. The clerk had obtained a quote from Fram Broadband, a company who specialise in installing wi-fi in Village Halls in Suffolk, which was £140 installation cost and £23.80 monthly charge. Both figures include VAT. The Chairman said he will discuss with the Village Hall Trustees chairman and see if they are willing to share both costs. It is hoped the capital costs involved could be paid for with an ESC grant.

The one member of the public present at the meeting then spoke of her three concerns:

1. Potholes in the village carpark. Edward Flaxman's repairs had been destroyed due to heavy vehicles using it.
2. The lack of power points in the Village Hall – The Chairman of the Village Hall would be approached.
3. Footpath No 5 in Mill Road. This IS open as a public right of way.

Date of next Parish Council meeting – Thursday 22nd May 2025 in Wissett Village Hall. This is also the date for the Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman said that unless new candidates for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman came forward, he and the current VC, Cllr Wetmore would be happy to serve for one more year.

GRAYS LANE SOLAR FACTORY CAMPAIGN

As most people in the village will already know we have lost our campaign to save Grays Lane from the huge solar factory to be built over the next few years by the developer PACE.

Over the last three years, the Save Grays Lane Campaign (SGLC) and all three affected Parish Councils, presented reasoned objections, supported with expert advice and robust evidence, only to find that the East Suffolk Council planning department recommended granting planning permission; their recommendation was agreed by 5 votes to 4 by councillors at the public planning meeting on 11 February.

We wish to thank the two Green District Councillors from Wissett (Beth and Geoff) for speaking and voting in our favour at this fractious and poorly managed meeting.

The SGLC have explored options for challenging this decision but none, including Judicial Review, are viable. However, SGLC have written to the Chief Executive (Chris Bally) of East Suffolk Council making a formal complaint about the dubious decision-making process that resulted in the recommendation by the planning department to grant planning permission.

This letter can be viewed on the SGLC website and any response we receive will also be posted on the site. (See the News Page) Depending on the response received, we may take our case to the Local Government Ombudsman.

In the meantime, East Suffolk Council have published a set of 31 planning conditions that the developer is expected to fulfil as the site is constructed. We will be monitoring these closely, particularly over traffic management and the fire safety of the battery storage unit. The conditions can also be found on the SGLC website as above.

The developer has already agreed with the landowner (Mark Haddingham) to an option to lease more land to expand this site further. The site could be doubled in size using another 100 acres of agricultural land northwards from Bulhams up to Rumburgh Street.

The Wissett Parish Council are working towards creating a Local Development Plan in order to have more influence over development in the parish. Please contribute to the process of creating this plan by responding to any future surveys and meetings.
SC

WISSETT VILLAGE HALL

The hall costs £8 per hour for the duration of the event and includes all tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery etc. These are included in the hire charge. Heating is by a £1 or £2 slot meter. There is a returnable deposit of £50. Please book on line at

wissettvillagehall@gmail.com



HAPPY FEET! By Susan Fitch.

General foot health care...ingrown toenails, Corns, calluses, verrucas, painful hard skin, Deep tissue massage, thick nails trimmed. Home visits.

Phone 01986 872067 or 07497371073

VILLAGE TENT. 10 METRES X 4 METRES.

Rates for the hire of the village tent:

Wissett residents.....£50 Non-residents.....£70

*Phone Alan Witherby if you want to hire it: 873339
Help sometimes needed on the day.*

WISSETT FARM HOLIDAYS

Award winning Self-catering accommodation
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Any news, views or comments for inclusion in the Wissett Web to Jenny Ball, Editor, Birches, Wash Lane, Wissett. 01986 469611 OR 07549190004 BEFORE 20th MAY

Please note: The editor's decision is always final