

PRESTON PARISH PAPER

Village Activities & News | St Mary's Church | Local Clubs & Events

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 1st August –
Barbecue and Games in the
Village Hall garden 2.00-
5.00pm – See Page 28

Sunday 2nd August - Preston
Praise at 11.30am for 12 noon
in the Church

Sundays 9th August and 13th
September – Lavenham
Airfield Guided Walks – See
Page 9

Sunday 16th August – Patronal
Festival and Lunch in Church
at 12 noon – See Page 5

Sunday 6th September -
Preston Praise at 11.30am for
12 noon in the Church

Saturday 12th September –
SHCT Ride and Stride all day –
See Page 23
Art Club Exhibition in Church
– See Page

Monday 14th September –
Ladies Club at 7.30pm in
Village Hall – See Page 11

Wednesday 23rd September –
Parish Council meeting at
7.30pm in the Village Hall

EDITORIAL

Thank you for all your support,
and for your contributions to
the PPP.

Our Editorial email address is:
editorpstmppaper@gmail.com
for future contributions.

RUBY AND ALEX



Best wishes go to Ruby Diable and Alex Sparrow,
who were married on Thursday 25th June in Preston
St Mary Parish Church. See Page 8 for more details.

If you've any thoughts, points of view, experiences or
protests to share, please write to the editors. We would love
to hear from you, and so would the rest of our readers.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

CHAIRMAN Peter Korwin
CLERK Kay Shorter 07561 060041 prestonpcclerk@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

RECTOR Revd Simon Pitcher 827691 revsimon63@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDEN Keith Davis 247112 keithhdavis@btinternet.com

Friends of Preston St Mary Church

CHAIR Glynis Huggett 01449 741389 glynishuggett@gmail.com

Village Hall

CHAIRMAN Annie Mason 07740 820100 ranniemason@btinternet.com
SEC./BOOKINGS Sue Diggins 247626 sdiggins2rda-east.org.uk

Art Group

Monday mornings, 3 terms of 10 weeks
CO-ORDINATOR Sarah Williams sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

Ladies' Group

Informal gatherings arranged for most months of the year, usually on Mondays
CO-ORDINATOR Anne Springall 247156 annespringall@gmail.com

Table Tennis

Thursday Evenings at 7.30 in the Village Hall
CO-ORDINATOR Dave Williams williams.jackdaws@btinternet.com

Carpet Bowls

Friday Afternoons at 2.30 in the Village Hall
CO-ORDINATOR Maggie Bardzinski maggiemossbar@aol.com

Preston Pop-up Choir

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Lyn Davis 247112 divalynx@aol.com

The Six Bells Pub 247440 reservations@thesixbellspreston.com

Tree Warden Lyn Davis 247112 divalynx@aol.com

Preston St Mary Parish Paper

News of events & village life, distributed free to every household, bi-monthly
EDITORIAL BOARD Robyn Lloyd Hughes, Jack Tasker, Caroline Gove editorpstmppaper@gmail.com

Doctors' Surgeries

Bildeston 01449 740254 Lavenham 378226

Member of Parliament James Cartlidge MP (Conservative) james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk

Local Councillors

Suffolk County Council Robert Lindsay (Green Party) robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk

Babergh District Council Deborah Saw (Green Party) deborah.saw@babergh.gov.uk

Community Liaison Officer Cally Boardman cally.boardman@suffolk.gov.uk

Police - Non-emergency number 101

Police Community Engagement Officer – PC Jon Gerrish ceosudburyhaverhill@suffolk.police.uk

Our Ward is North West Cosford

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

“It’s coming home”

It is extraordinary that it is 30 years since Ian Broudie, David Baddiel and Frank Skinner released their football anthem “Three Lions on a Shirt.” We lived in Huddersfield at that time, and I remember driving round the Huddersfield ring road one day, the volume turned up full on the Austin Maestro radio and the kids in the back belting out the song when it came on the radio. That song has created a new phrase in the English language “It’s Coming Home.”

The phrase expresses the hopes of the nation, that one day the promise will be fulfilled, great will be the rejoicing on that day.

The Bible has a strong theme running through it, that one day we will come home. In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah is speaking to the people of Israel when they were in exile, as slaves in far away Babylon. As they toiled there under a foreign yoke, Jerusalem seemed so far away, over the deserts, mountains and valleys, that going home seemed like an impossible dream.

Isaiah has a prophecy that one day the people will be set free and they will go home. indeed happened in 535 BC when the Persian King Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple. But the prophecy of Isaiah also expresses the idea of coming home in a spiritual sense. The ultimate way home to God in Isaiah is not about a physical destination, but a Person.

The Messiah, Immanuel, Jesus, is God with us, God who made his home among us. Through his love he provides the path by which broken humanity is reconciled and brought home to God’s care.

There have been some lovely scenes from the World Cup of people from different parts of the world meeting together in good spirit, and celebrating a shared love of football, a festival in the best sense of the word. The Scots in Boston and England in Mexico were two great examples. This is what it means to come home. Mutual respect, friendship, reconciliation, common humanity, united children of God held together by Christ’s embrace. If we can apply the same spirit of universal friendship beyond the boundaries of football the world will be a much better place.

Yours in Christ
Rev Simon

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LAVENHAM



Many will be aware that there is a social club in Lavenham, but the main raison d'être of The Royal British Legion is to aid and support ex members of the armed forces or their dependents who are experiencing difficulties.

If you fall in that category, or know someone who might, and would like to speak to The Legion, please phone 01787 249571 or 07817 316024 in complete confidence.

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

Bubbles' take on a holiday favourite

Pina Colada

Half tin of cream of coconut

4 shots of Bumbu rum

3fl oz of co-op tropical juice

1 teaspoon of lime juice

Put in cocktail shaker over 3 ice cubes and shake vigorously for about 10 seconds.

Pour into cocktail glasses.

Enjoy!

MONKS ELEIGH POST OFFICE

Opening Hours

May be subject to alterations dependent on volunteer availability (Check our social pages)

Monday	9.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Friday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

The Community Shop is open 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am – 12.30pm Saturday and Sunday

PRESTON ST MARY CHURCH

Preston Praise

Our Preston Praise services have been very encouragingly received, preceded as they have been by mini-croissants, Chelsea buns and pains au chocolat, which have gone down very well, along with the fresh coffee or tea. The services are led by members of the congregation and are more relaxed and informal than the celebrations of Holy Communion and Evensong that we hold on most other Sundays. Our six magnificent bells are rung beforehand, and music always plays an important part in the proceedings.

**12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST
AND ON SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER**

**Just an hour or so – good fellowship.
Come and try it!**

Patronal Festival Service and Lunch

We are holding our annual Patronal Festival service on Sunday 16th August, celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is the Patron Saint of both our church and our village – so everyone is welcome.

12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST

The service will be at the usual time, 12 noon, and will last about an hour. It will be followed by lunch – outside if we are blessed with picnic weather, or else in the church.

Advance Notice

Harvest Festival and Lunch

12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

Preston St Mary Parish Paper Advertising Charges

ONE-OFF ADVERTISEMENTS

Local Events	Free of charge
Full page advertisements for locals	£9.00
Full page advertisements for non-locals	£18.00

FOR 6 ISSUES

Local Organisations

Quarter Page	£9.00
Half Page	£18.00
Full Page	£36.00

Non-Local Organisations

Half Page	£36.00
Full Page	£54.00

Issues: Feb/Mar; Apr/May; Jun/Jul; Aug/Sep; Oct/Nov; Dec/Jan

Editor: editorpstmppaper@gmail.com

Copy Dates: At least one month prior to issue date

PRESTON ST MARY ART GROUP

Summer 2026

Hard to believe that the first few sessions of the term had to be held in the Village Hall because it was too cold to draw outside. We have mostly enjoyed the term being outside drawing and painting. Thanks to members who hosted the group in their gardens.

If you would like to join our friendly group, we meet on a Monday at 10am in the Village Hall. We will be back in September.

For more information contact Sarah at sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

PRESTON ST MARY ART GROUP EXHIBITION OF WORKS IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2026

The Church will be open from 9am to 5pm on the Saturday, coinciding with the annual SHCT Ride and Stride event, which brings many visitors to the Church.

On Sunday we will be open from 10am until after Evensong, which is at 6pm.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

ATTENTION ALL SCHOOL LEAVERS!

FINANCIAL HELP OFFERED WITH UNIVERSITY OR TRAINING COSTS

Are you embarking on a course of further learning? If so, and if you are under the age of 21, we can help.

All school leavers or people under the age of 21 living in the village are invited to apply for a grant from **The Robert Ryece Charity** towards the cost of the next step in their chosen career. The Trustees are Janet Martin and Keith Davis, who are keen for the charity to help with the finances of further learning. “We would love to hear from anyone who is about to tackle the next step in their development, whether this be further study, an apprenticeship or other training. The Robert Ryece Charity has some funds to help youngsters expand their learning.”

The Ryece (or Ryce) family owned Preston Hall during the 15th and 16th centuries, when several generations were named Robert. One of these was a famous student of heraldry and local history who instigated the many coats of arms in the windows of the parish church. There were originally 160 shields, but many of them were destroyed when the tower collapsed into the nave in 1863. The remaining 52 coats of arms are still a notable feature of our lovely church.

One of the many things that he did for the village was to found this charity, the aim of which is to offer support to school leavers and apprentices of the Parish in the form of grants to assist them with the purchase of books, equipment, tools, special clothing, etc to help them in their studies and/or training. The grants are relatively modest but have nevertheless proved to be useful to previous recipients.

Please direct your enquiry to Keith Davis, who reassures prospective applicants “The application is very straightforward. No fancy forms or detailed processes. All that is needed is a letter explaining who you are, where you live, what training you are about to start and what items you need to buy. I look forward to hearing from you!”

Keith’s contact details are:

Addington House, Whelp Street, Preston St Mary, Suffolk CO10 9NL

Tel: 01787 247112

E-mail: keithhdavis@btinternet.com (don’t forget the silly 2nd “h” in the address)

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

The Wedding of Ruby Diable and Alex Sparrow

June 25th, 2026



We could not have asked for a more beautiful or emotional day for our daughter's wedding.

The service at Preston St Mary was lovely, led by Reverend Simon for his very first ceremony at the church. It started with a bit of excitement when the best men

forgot the wedding rings—a brilliant story for the future! — but everything turned out absolutely perfect.

The day was filled with so much love, made even more special by our village friends who filled the choir, rang the bells, and helped everything run smoothly.

The celebrations continued with a reception at The Black Lion in Long Melford. The venue was fantastic, and the staff truly went above and beyond for us. With delicious food, great drinks, and dancing until 1:00 AM, it was simply the perfect day.

Mark Diable



I wonder if you have observed a rather rummy thing about it - viz. that it is everywhere. You can't get away from it. Love, I mean. Wherever you go there it is, buzzing along in every class of life.

P G Wodehouse – Bertie Wooster

Learn about life on a wartime American
air base with a guided walk on ...

LAVENHAM AIRFIELD

Home to the USAAF's
487th Bomb Group during WWII



★ When? : Second Sunday of June, July, August & September

★ Time? : 10.00am - 1.30pm

★ Cost? : Adult £10 Under 12s with a (Sorry - no dogs)
(plus £1 booking fee) paying adult - FREE

★ Booking? : Essential

Choose your date and purchase tickets
from our website or use the QR code

Website: - <https://bit.ly/42q6BdJ>



All proceeds go towards the USAAF
487th Bomb Group Memorial Fund



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

PRESTON POP-UP CHOIR

The World Tour

"Your best yet" *" 'Don't cry for me Argentina' was amazing"*
"Everyone in the choir looks so happy"
"Such a good balance of choir, solos, duets and The Preston Belles"
"If you did this again tomorrow, I would want to be there"
"Very entertaining and slick" *"Loved every minute"*



Just some of the comments heard on that hot, sunny evening in June. Our World Tour began in Preston St Mary with brilliant air stewards singing their British Airways duet. We headed first to Wonderful Copenhagen then to Amsterdam's tulips, France, Rome and Austria before sending word from Russia with love. We met hippopotamus on the banks of the Shalimar, took a slow boat to China and from there to Australia and New Zealand. We visited Argentina, dreamed of California and heard the men singing in Georgia. Got to London and finally returned to Home Sweet Home. The journey was interspersed with a poem from Lyn and Keith and solos from Graham and Sylvia. All of which were beautifully performed and left lasting memories. Encores were requested so the evening concluded with Lyn, the whole choir and the audience joyfully giving a superb rendition of "Y Viva Espana".

As always, we are full of awe and admiration of Sara Whymark, our pianist. She copes with our errors and tackles the most difficult pieces of music. She changes key at the drop of a hat and often has to make up sections of music to fit our requirements. She is incredible!

Keith kept our journey on track, linking each country and providing a background to some of the stories in the songs. He also arranges chairs, parking and just about everything that makes our choir such a great group to be in.

Thanks also to Linda and Philip Buckler for manning the bar, Wendy, Sue, Keith,

Mervyn, Annie and others for organising tickets and the raffle. All those who donated prizes, bought tickets and generously donated to our two charities. We raised over £900!

We all know that none of this would happen without Lyn Davis. She is our friend, mentor, teacher and role model. She has allowed us all to appreciate the joy of singing. It gives us such pleasure to all be together and to share these special moments. Thank you, Lyn.



Choir resumes on Tuesday 1st September at 2pm. See you there.

Sally Taggart

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

PRESTON ST MARY & DISTRICT LADIES CLUB

New Members will be warmly welcomed to our meetings, so do come and join our group of lively ladies. Our annual subscription is only £10, and just £3 when you attend a meeting, which includes raffle prizes and refreshments. Village Hall meetings start at 7.30pm and are usually held on the 2nd Monday of the month.

PROGRAMME FOR 2026

August No meeting - because of holidays

September 14th – CAROL ROGERSON has kindly agreed to come talk to us once again. I do not have details about her talk at the moment, but I am sure it will be as interesting and absorbing as her previous talk last year.

October 12th - JUDY LEGG will be **Looking Back & Looking forward** at how the NHS has developed since its inception in 1948. Judy suggests that looking at early documents and equipment that she will be bringing with her would be a good starting point. Physical examination, blood tests and equipment, forceps & childbirth. The NHS has changed and developed a lot over the years, and we could talk about the gains and losses.

November 9th - SHOW & TELL. I am asking members to bring a small something to the meeting which has a story they would like to share with the Ladies. Either a memory of something funny, or which provokes a strong or evocative memory for them, be it a photo, a charm or any other small memento. I am sure you all have something you might like to share.

DECEMBER - PRESTON LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Date & Venue to be advised.

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING

JUNE 30th. The Preston Ladies had a delightful afternoon's visit to **Lavenham Flower Farm, at Jordans Farm, Rookwood Lane, Preston.** Lucy Attwood welcomed the ladies as they arrived at the gate and explained that the Flower Farm was a new venture for her. Since it was a very hot day, Lucy had thoughtfully provided readily available cold water and plenty of shade. When all were gathered together, Lucy showed her guests around the Farm. The Ladies very much admired the pretty garden. Two flowers especially caught their attention - a Snapdragon named Cherry Twist and a Scabious entitled Black Knight. After the walk, Lucy served a delightful and very welcome afternoon tea and cake for everyone while they sat in the garden in the shade. The Ladies had a very interesting and informative afternoon and send their thanks and gratitude to Lucy for hosting this unique event

Please get in touch with me if you are reading this article and think that you might like to give a talk to Preston Ladies Club. I would very much like to hear from you. Contact Anne Springall on 01787 247156 or email annespringall@gmail.com for more information. I am always glad to hear from you.

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LAVENHAM FLOWER FARM



From Spring 2026 I am delighted to be offering cut flowers and foliage for sale, grown here in Preston St Mary

- ◇ **Regular deliveries of a hand-picked selection of seasonal flower and foliage stems for you to arrange for your home**
- ◇ **Hand-tied gift bouquets personally delivered in the local area**
- ◇ **One-off bespoke orders for cut flowers and foliage for your special event**

Contact Lucy Attwood on 07941 251880 to enquire about any of the above services or to arrange a visit to the farm

Jordans Farm, Rookwood Lane, Preston St Mary CO10 9LY

Instagram:: @Lavenhamflowerfarm

Website: www.lavenhamflowerfarm.co.uk

e mail: lucy@lavenhamflowerfarm.co.uk

Tel/Whats App: 07941 251880

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QUIZ TIME

There are no prizes – answers are on Page 36

1. From which plant is the alcohol Mezcal distilled?
2. What was the name of the nuclear deterrent policy of the Cold War era?
3. Which country is known as the Land of the Midnight Sun?
4. Who is the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird"?
5. What is a leprechaun's profession?
6. How many stars are on the Chinese flag?
7. Who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016?
8. Who was the Prime Minister of Britain at the outset of World War I?
9. Who was the last British monarch of the House of Hanover?
10. In Australia, what is a kylie?
11. Which is the only body part that is fully grown from birth?
12. Where would you find a verso and a recto together?

PRESTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

2026 Meetings

The dates for the Parish Council meetings for the rest of this year are:

September 23rd

November 18th

All meetings at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Should extra meetings be required during the year they will be announced on the website.

Kay Shorter
Parish Clerk

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

Preston St Mary NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN August Update

On the 29th June 2026 we obtained the Designation of Area from Babergh District Council. This is the formal start point of our journey in producing a plan; please see the below announcement:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/preston-st-mary-neighbourhood-plan>

The Project Steering Group (PSG) have agreed the following vision statement for the plan:

Preston St Mary will be a thriving rural and diverse community surrounded by countryside that provides for the needs of existing and future residents, both young and old, families, couples and individuals. Development will respect, enhance and sustain the special character and environment of the village and its rural and peaceful setting, ensuring it is a good place to live, work and visit.

The Terms of Reference, a 'contract' between the PSG and Parish Council as to how the project will be executed, has been produced and agreed.

The PSG are assembling an evidence base that will inform the development of the plan with information on current housing, business and land and environmental matters.

We are currently identifying a consultancy to help us with the NDP and are looking to produce a questionnaire/survey for the Parish, that will help guide us as to what the community would like.

We are also working on improving the visibility and transparency of what we are doing, as having the community involved and informed is essential. NDP PSG

THANK YOU!

One month ago the PPP printed a great tribute to my husband Chris following his death.

Through your pages may I now thank your readers, many friends and neighbours for a huge outpouring of love and support to me and my family. Your cards, letters, hugs, and offers of every kind of help have been inspirational. Added to that your attendance at Chris's funeral and wake armed with more assistance and endless cake - despite it being the hottest day of the year - was amazing.

If you want to know what 'community' means, come to Preston St Mary and experience it.

Thank you
Judy Legg

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

From our Babergh District Councillor Deborah Saw

"What do you want to do that for?" my husband said, taking his eyes away from the television momentarily. Arsenal were playing Tottenham after all. I had just said that I was thinking of standing in the District Council elections. He sighed and said, "don't you have enough to do?"

You are still doing consultancy work and you are working on the village neighbourhood plan." "That's why" I replied.

I have always been interested in national political issues but like most people I only had a sketchy idea of how local government worked and the impact it had and could have on communities. Being Chair of Hitcham's Neighbourhood Plan Group really made me research national and local planning policy and ask questions about why infrastructure and services were not as good as they should be and how to ensure that a village remains a place where people want to live. To be honest I also got really frustrated by the assumptions of some people that there was nothing one could do about these issues and that no one listened to ordinary people anyway.

Around about that time Robert Lindsay, who was our District and County councillor, asked me if I would stand for the District Council as he was planning to help Adrian Ramsey get elected in Waveney Valley. So, I said yes.

He also told it would only take one or two days a week of my time. Well, yes and then again no. I was elected and it is a big responsibility to represent all the residents in the seven parishes that make up the ward of North West Cosford. The challenge was that the Greens became the largest party on the Council with 10 councillors but we didn't have sufficient numbers to form an administration on our own. In fact, there has only been one election in the 50+ years of Babergh's existence that one political party has had sufficient numbers to form an administration on its own. We joined with the Independents and Liberal Democrats to form a coalition and I became Deputy Leader, which I had not been expecting when I agreed to stand. The coalition works very well together. We are all driven by the desire to make a difference, serve our communities, and ensure they have a sustainable and vibrant future and I hope that's the same for every councillor of whatever political persuasion they are.

That was three years ago. I had the honour of being voted in as Leader of the Council in May 2024, the first Green to hold that position and in May this year I started my second term in that position. So much for one or two days a week.

Not everyone wants to be a councillor or can commit the time. I totally understand that. but I have never regretted standing. I am often asked what the role of Leader of the Council entails. It's rather like being the Chair of a company. I am the public face of the Council. I appoint the Cabinet and ensure that we work in a collaborative way. I spend a lot of time ensuring I have a good and effective working relationship with the Chief Executive. He is responsible for all the staff. I am responsible for ensuring we deliver to the plan. it's my job to liaise with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and I am responsible for ensuring we balance the books every year - that is a huge challenge.

I am also the cabinet member for People and Place, which encompasses public realm and waste and recycling. So, you can imagine I have been very focused on ensuring that the new service is efficient and effective. I also know which bin crisp packets go in.

As you can imagine I have spent and will spend a great deal of time working with other Suffolk leaders on local government reform. The biggest change to how public services will be delivered for 50+ years. The best part of my role is solving residents' problems and meeting with parish councils to hear what is concerning them. What qualities do you need to be a good councillor? Energy, good humour and a relentless focus on getting things done.

POETS' CORNER

Suffolk Morning Convocation

In Mark's field this sunny morn,
I saw a standing hare.
I saw him through binoculars
From my bedroom window chair;
Stock-still he stood, then turned his head
And fixed me with his glare.
I read his lips, "Oi buh", he said,
"Perhaps you're not aware,
But this is Suffolk, Suffolk folk
They know that's rude to stare!"

Just then a dainty Muntjac deer
Did timidly appear.
All wary caution, vigilant,
A' trem-ber-ling with fear;
She looked at me through long-lashed eyes
From which there fell a tear.
"For shame", said she, "Good Sir", she cried,
"I'm not a native deer.
But I'm from Suffolk, cut and dried
How dare you lech and leer!"

"You hadn't better do that, had yer?"
I heard a voice declare.
That was a bristling, bolshy badger
Appearing from nowhere.
His bustling body, compact, musc'lar,
In that morning light crepusc'lar,
He gave me quite a scare
"Do you be careful my old cock,
Don't tangle with old Master Brock,
I'm a badger, badgers rock!"

"You have a point dear friends", I said,
"That doesn't seem quite fair.
Intruding on your dawn routines,
Dear Badger, Muntjac, Hare.
I wouldn't like it, that's for sure,
To have some lewd voyeur
Staring at my morning moves,
I'd sock 'em on the jaw
But this is Suffolk, Suffolk folk
Don't do that any more....."

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

“.....We seek an explanation, seek to understand,
A peaceful consultation before we raise a hand.”
“Cooda-blarst-it”, cried the Badger,
“We don’t do that in Suffolk!
We’d turn you round, round here, owd buh,
And kick you up the buttock!
So do you do one, sling yer hook,
That’s all we hev ter say!”
And with those word, those early birds
They turned and walked way.

©Tim Bridges July 2026

I have recently self-published a collection of my poems with Lavenham Press printing them and Amie Haslen having done the beautiful cover illustration entitled “Looking Back Towards Lavenham “..... so a real local enterprise altogether. The book is called “Storylines“ and is on sale at the Lion Gallery in Lavenham, as are prints of Amie’s original painting for the cover.



A random collection of diverse impressions, thoughts and stories by a man unsure of his ‘poet’ credentials because very little is hidden or obscure; but most of it rhymes and most of the poems can be understood by most of the people, most of the time.

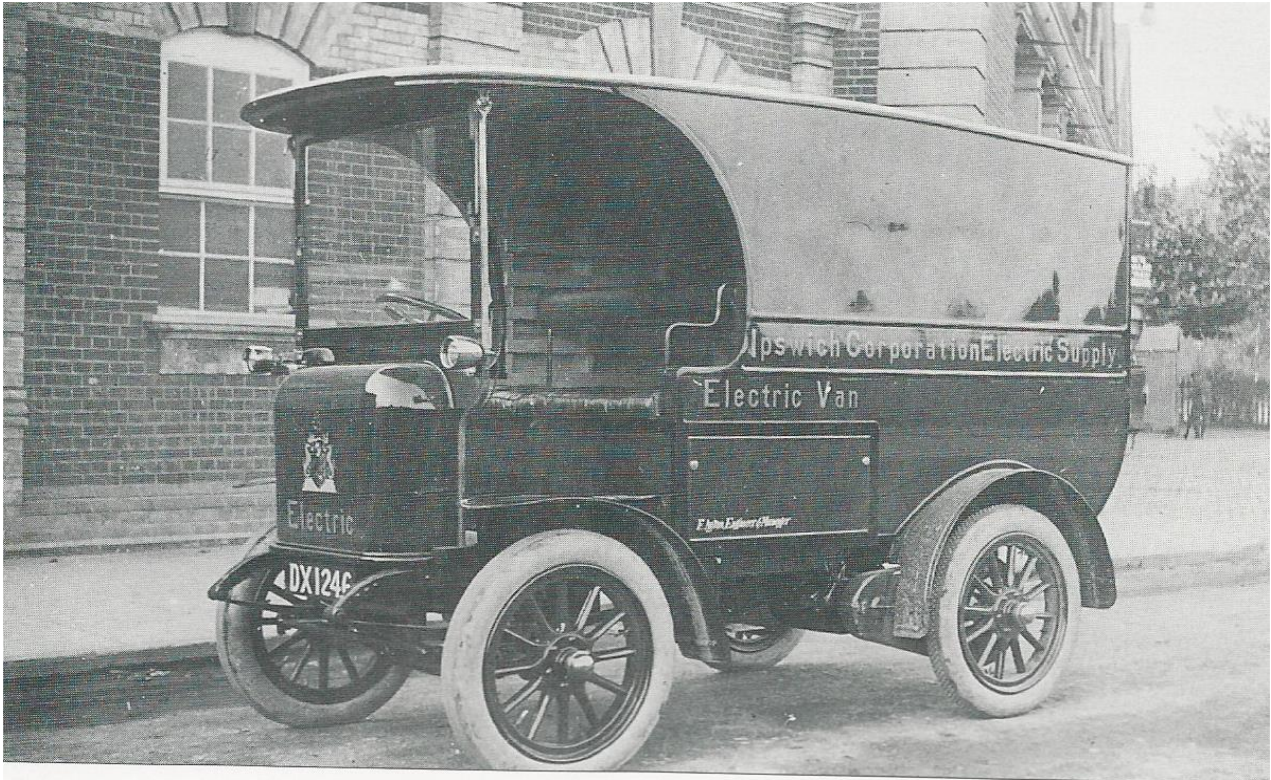


Tim started school, aged four, in Lavenham and then moved away from the area aged five. He spent much of his working life overseas but retained a memory of Lavenham and Bury St Edmunds as a perfect rural idyll and so, fifty years after he’d left, he returned and resettled in the area.

He now spends his days reading, writing, setting and delivering quizzes, loafing and idling. All of life’s heavy lifting is now performed by his lovely wife, Zoë, who works for the National Trust.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

100 YEARS AGO - just to prove there is nothing new under the sun!
(Photographs from the Ipswich Transport Museum)



In the 1920s Ipswich had a public vehicle battery charging station. Above is a van operated by Ipswich Corporation standing in Constantine Road outside the town's power station, and below is a Ransomes electric lorry belonging to Burton, Son & Sanders Ltd. (Ipswich Transport Museum)



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Upcoming Events

14th November – Quiz Night with light supper

100 Club –

The first 3 draws have taken place and the winners are:

1st prize £25: Andrew Haslen, Nicholas Robertson, Pippa Jennings

2nd prize £15: Carolynne Prager, Margie Bartholomew, Rachel Hamilton

3rd prize £10: Stephen Sharp, John Gove, Patsy Catchpole

The recent Pop-Ups Charity Concert was very successful, with the new lighting in the hall making for a very pleasant atmosphere - especially good if you were thinking of hiring the hall for a party.

Now the better weather is here we have had some enquiries about using the Village Hall garden. The committee is very happy to accommodate any requests, but we will need prior notice for insurance purposes; please ring 01787 247626

ANNIE MASON

Chairman

07740 820100

KEITH DAVIS

Treasurer

07187 247112

SUE DIGGINS

Secretary

01787 247626

WORDS OF WISDOM

Slow down! – you're already in Suffolk.

ANON

CONFESSIONS OF A PRESTON PETROL HEAD 2

Richard Graylen

Continued from our previous issue.....

As new Government fiscal policies on company cars emerged early into the new century, I was encouraged thereafter towards private ownership. The next cars were:

A blue 1999 BMW 523i Touring – a truly wonderful car (with the magically smooth straight six petrol engine which powered many BMW models for decades) in which I covered some 60,000 miles over the next 5 years.

My first Mercedes – a CLS 3.0 diesel Coupé in 2008. An unlucky car - I was T-boned on a hospital roundabout by a nurse in a hurry whilst visiting my stepson who had developed a worrying heart condition, from which he has thankfully made a full recovery. The car was plagued by mechanical problems which were eventually sorted out under warranty. So my first Mercedes, after only one year, was quickly consigned to the status of my last Mercedes. I would never have another.



The Merc's replacement was a second-hand 12 months old silver Jaguar XKR 5.0 Coupé which had only 2000 miles and was a very quick car. With over 500 BHP driving the rear wheels, and being aluminium bodied, she could be quite a handful on anything other than dry roads!

In 2012 I bought my first of five Range Rovers over the next ten years, interspersed by a blue BMW 540i Touring which could not handle the winter floods on the roads around Preston St Mary and was traded "in chop" for my last Range Rover. I became a real Range Rover fan; they are truly incredible machines. My last one was purchased in 2022 and was the range topping SVO in metallic blue with Magnolia hide and was powered by the same 5.0 Supercharged Jaguar V8, this time giving over 565 BHP and was beautifully built and well-appointed inside. Despite something of a reputation for unreliability, my Range Rovers never missed a beat. The Range Rovers generally shared their stables with a Classic or a sports car such as a BMW M powered car, including the rocket ship X5M V8 and two M4 Convertibles, all of which were blue in colour, and which all served to underline my affinity with the truly exceptional and stellar BMW brand.



Having spent ten years at a Classic Cars dealership, I ventured into the Classics/Sports market myself and was the proud owner of 5 such cars:

A 1959 Triumph TR3A in Primrose

A fully restored Daimler Double Six with the 5.3 litre V12 engine

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026



2 BMW Z4M convertibles (in gold and blue) and a magnificent BMW Z4 M Coupé which I really should have held on to.

A beautifully restored Triumph GT6 Mk 3 in French Blue which shared the straight power unit with the somewhat lairy Triumph Vitesse Six. The GT6 was the

only car of the lot of them on which I was able to turn a modest profit upon sale!

During these years I was also fortunate enough to own two Porsche Boxsters one of which was a blue 3.4S with that fabulous free revving flat six “Boxer” engine. I then ventured into 911 ownership, starting with a red 997 3.8S, followed by a blue “Generation 2” 997 3.8 Carrera 4S which offered just on 400 BHP through its brilliant 4-wheel drive system.



These cars taught me firmly that, though I have owned more powerful motors, Porsche really seem to have nailed the art of getting just the right amount of grunt down onto the tarmac just when and where it is needed.

My current car is (of course) a “Beamer” - a 2025 silver Petrol X7 which seats 7 and which comfortably carried my large Kangal dog Bruno. For fun I bought a 2011 petrol V8 650i Cabriolet in metallic red which had only covered a genuine 16000 miles from new. A great car

which I was very lucky to find, and always put a smile on my face when I got behind the wheel, especially given the recent equatorial weather. I nevertheless decided to sell the 650i a few weeks ago, with a long distance housing move planned shortly.

In total I have owned 11 BMW cars and can only speak most favourably about these brilliantly constructed beasts which have unfailingly propelled me over a combined 300,000 miles.

The favourite cars which I have owned – a close battle between my manual Porsche 911 3.8S 997 Gen 2 for sheer driving pleasure and my current BMW X7 for its all-round load lugging capabilities which do not compromise its light touch and very sporty driving experience. So, in conclusion, it remains petrol all the way for me! Petrol may not be as economical as diesel (in mpg terms) but far more responsive to the right foot and now far cheaper to buy at the pump, without many of the particulates which pollute our inner cities and emitted by diesel engines.



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NATURE NOTES

Hello all, thought you might like to hear a little wildlife event that happened a few weeks ago. Back on the 10th June I was driving home out of Preston towards Lavenham.



It was one of those days when the weather couldn't seem to make its mind up between torrential downpours and beautiful sunshine. Something odd in the middle of the road caught my eye as it looked fairly solid so would require avoiding. Coming towards me was a high sided van so I slowed to see what the strange object was and hoped they would follow suit. As I got nearer the van rushed past and the creature began to roll around and flapping to right itself after the near miss from the rush of air. It was a drenched little tawny owl. I knew it probably had very little chance of surviving the main road so with no idea of my next move I decided to 3-point turn and go on a rescue

mission. I pulled over and gingerly covered him with an old M&S carrier bag, gently correcting him upright - he didn't seem to mind, probably in shock. So, with him now safely in the car my next thought was now what?! Vets?

Then I had a lightbulb moment... fortunately I used to work for a couple in Lavenham whose eldest son Simon is a conservation specialist with many years' experience travelling the world ringing birds of prey and endangered raptors. Luckily, he was in the country and not too far away in Rushbrooke where he was working on building swift boxes. So, with the soggy owl in the footwell I headed there knowing that this was probably his best chance. I'm pleased to say that he is indeed doing brilliantly; he spent the last few weeks with a lady who specialises in bird rehabilitation and is very nearly mature enough to be released.

He will be released back where I first came across him in a week or so, to hopefully go on to live a long and healthy life. So, if you happen to see Preston the tawny owl give him a wave!

Simon Fisher took this photo of a baby sparrow hawk/falcon? in Preston Churchyard
There were 3 fledglings but this one was the least confident and would not follow the others to the Church roof for some days
Did anyone else see them?



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Please don't forget that Saturday 12th September is the day of the Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride – now renamed Ride and Stride. Walkers as well as cyclists are encouraged to take part, (though horses and motorbikes are not allowed). As always, the aim is to cycle (or walk) to some of the fine old churches and other places of worship we have in Suffolk, and to raise sponsorship money while doing so. On the same day, a vintage and classic car rally is held with cars travelling around a selection of churches. Money raised is split equally between our church and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Preston has always strongly supported this event, and we have been rewarded with several grants from the Trust for works in the church. Our cyclists and church recorders will be asking for sponsorship over the coming weeks, and we hope as many of you as possible will give your support.

The Ride and Stride church fundraising day is held in 22 counties in England. In September 2025 Suffolk raised a total of over £200,000. The total raised nationally to help preserve and repair churches buildings was over £1.2 million, with Suffolk contributing 16.5%. The national Ride and Stride event started in Suffolk as a sponsored bike ride and then spread across the country. Thank you to all our volunteers, riders, striders, drivers and supporters... every pound raised helps to keep our wonderful church buildings going.

If you would like to ride or walk, drive your classic car, or to help man the church on the day - let me know and I'll give you a sponsorship form. Car owners should email pedalanddrive@gmail.com. This is a charity which supports our own church, village and county and it's in our own interests to support it.

Thank you all very much.

Robyn Lloyd Hughes
01787 247571
robynllloydhughes@gmail.com

COOKS' CORNER

Scallops wrapped in Bacon

1. Prepare the scallops

- **Dry the scallops:** Pat them very dry with a paper towel. This is the most important step to get a good crust instead of steam.
- **Season:** Sprinkle both sides lightly with salt and pepper.
- **Heat the pan:** Put your skillet (cast iron or heavy-bottomed) over medium-high heat with about 1 tablespoon of oil.
- **Sear first side:** Place scallops in the hot pan leaving space between them. Do not move them for 1.5 to 2 minutes.
- **Flip and add butter:** Flip the scallops when they have a golden crust. Drop 1 tablespoon of butter into the pan and spoon the melted butter over the tops of the scallops.
- **Finish:** Cook for another 1.5 to 2 minutes until opaque and slightly firm, then remove immediately.  YouTube · Eat Simpl... +8

2. Wrap and cook

1. **Dry the scallops:** Use paper towels to remove all excess moisture. Peel off the tough, side muscle (the adductor) if it's still attached. 
2. **Pre-cook the bacon:** Place bacon slices on a baking sheet and bake at 350°F (or microwave on a paper-towel-lined plate) for 3 to 5 minutes. It should be cooked but still bendable—do not let it get crispy.  Pinch and Swirl +4
3. **Wrap:** Cut your bacon strips in half and wrap one piece tightly around the side of each scallop. Secure with a soaked toothpick.  Pinch and... +3

Step 2: Choose Your Cooking Method

- **Air Fryer (Recommended):** Preheat your air fryer to 375°F. Place the wrapped scallops in a single layer without overcrowding. Cook for 5 minutes, give the basket a gentle shake, and cook for another 3 to 4 minutes until the bacon is crispy and the scallops are opaque. 

Finally brush with garlic butter for a delicious treat submitted to us by Bubbles.

It is necessary for technical reasons that these warheads should be stored with the top at the bottom and the bottom at the top. In order that there may be no doubt as to which is the top and which is the bottom, for storage purposes the bottom of each head has been labelled with the word 'TOP'.

Admiralty Instructions

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PRESTON PEOPLE



MIKE TAGGART

Born near Glasgow to a Scottish father and English mother, I acquired a Scottish accent which I, regretfully, had to lose when we moved to Manchester when I was eleven.

I developed an interest in aeroplanes and initially worked for Hawker-Siddeley (now British Aerospace) in their Research and

Development sector. My spare time revolved around the ATC and included gaining my glider pilot certificate when I was about 19. The work was becoming a bit boring and a new challenge beckoned - I would become a teacher.

In 1974, I left Manchester in my MG Midget with all my worldly goods in a somewhat battered suitcase that had been with me to Germany and various RAF stations. The teacher training annex of Nottingham University was at Eaton Hall and I had digs with three other male students in nearby Retford. We were delighted to find that the ladies had a hall of residence actually at the college, and many were happy to offer us a cup of coffee. Indeed lots of relationships were formed here, including mine, as Sally was also beginning her training there and we met at the Maths department's 'Cheese and Wine' party in the first week. We both began teaching in West Yorkshire living very high up in wind-swept, cold Queensbury then moving to different places as we moved up the teaching scales.

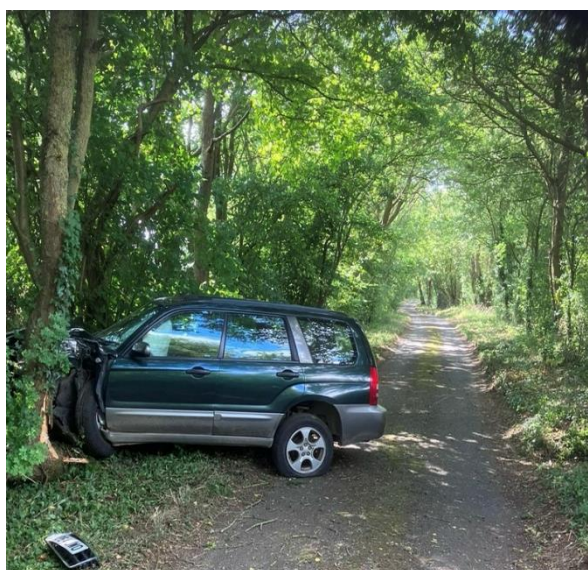
After a rewarding career and the pleasure of becoming a husband, father and grandfather, I am now retired and find myself with time to resume my interest in gliding. Consequently I have joined both Rattlesden Gliding Club and the Army Gliding Club (Anglia) at Wattisham. I have had to start again from scratch and it is great! As many of you will know, I am still having treatment and infusions (for Vasculitis) at Addenbrookes, but I am back in the cockpit and relishing every flight.

I enjoy gliding for a variety of reasons, especially the companionship of like-minded people. They are from many different career backgrounds and include engineers, actors, electricians, bankers, mechanics, service personnel, doctors, IT specialists. Many have skills and hobbies that have proved useful to the clubs. Each flight is different because of wind strength, wind direction, cloud base and many other factors. Each launch is exciting but not dangerous with the right training and preparation. When you see a bird thermalling in the sky, that is what we are trying to emulate. Whilst you have to be mindful of sinking air, flights can last from a couple of minutes to several hours. The longest I have been airborne is 55 minutes, the shortest was one minute! It is challenging and all-consuming, but gliding gives a sense of freedom and fulfilment

SUFFOLK STUDENT TURNS CAR CRASH MISFORTUNE INTO AWARD-WINNING ART

A talented young metalwork student has transformed a painful personal experience into an award-winning work of art after winning a prestigious national medal design competition.

Twenty-year-old Henry Plumb, who lives in Preston St Mary and is now studying at West Dean College near Chichester, has been awarded the British Art Medals Society (BAMS) Fattorini Medallist Award for his cast medal entitled *Just Had To Carry On*. Henry is currently in his first year studying for a Foundation Degree in Arts Metalwork.



His award-winning design was inspired by a serious car accident in Rookwood Lane, Preston St Mary, when he lost control of his vehicle and collided with a tree. While Henry escaped without injury and no one else was involved in the incident, his beloved Subaru Forester – a vehicle he had worked hard and saved for a long time to buy – was written off.

Rather than dwelling on the setback, Henry channelled the experience into his artwork.

“As upsetting as the accident was at the time, it became something I could reflect on through my work,” said Henry. “The medal is about resilience and moving forward when things

don’t go to plan. Sometimes you really do just have to carry on.”

West Dean’s Arts Metalwork course covers a wide range of traditional and contemporary techniques, from jewellery making and silver box construction to forging and casting. As part of their studies, students are encouraged to enter the highly respected British Art Medals Society awards, which attract entries from talented artists and designers from across the United Kingdom and Europe.

Henry was stunned when he learned that his design had been selected for the Fattorini Medallist Award. “I couldn’t quite believe it when I found out I’d won,” he said. “The standard of work in the competition was incredibly high, so it was a real honour.

Judges praised the originality of Henry’s design, the quality of its casting and the deeply personal story behind the piece.



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British Art Medal Society [BAMS] Student Medals 2026



2026 – Henry Plumb
Just had to carry on



The award has brought an unexpected bonus. The prize money has enabled Henry to purchase another Subaru Forester, replacing the vehicle that inspired the medal in the first place.

“It feels quite fitting,” he laughed. “The artwork came from losing one Forester, and winning the award helped me buy another. This time, though, I’ll definitely be checking the tyres before every journey.”

Henry first discovered blacksmithing during an introductory experience day with a local blacksmith near Stowmarket. The experience sparked a passion for metalworking that ultimately led him to pursue formal training at West Dean College. Now, less than a year into his studies, he has already achieved national recognition for his work and hopes to continue developing his skills as an artist and craftsman.

Preston St Mary Footpath Map

There have been a few issues with walkers straying from the footpaths, which can be dangerous especially during harvest when walkers have used farm vehicle tracks and roads instead of the designated footpath. This map, taken from the County Council site, shows the official routes around the village and so should be useful.



Barbecue and Traditional Games



Saturday 1st August

2.00 pm till 5.00 pm

Village Hall garden

Entrance including your choice from the BBQ

£12 per head if pre-booked

(£15 on the day)

Children under 12: £3 for BBQ

Bar

Music

Raffle

*For more information, to book your tickets
and advise any dietary needs, please phone
01787 247626*

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

- Farmers are facing an early and difficult harvest as worsening dry conditions push eight areas of England closer to drought.
- The National Drought Group met on Tuesday 21 July as exceptionally low rainfall placed growing pressure on crops, rivers and public water supplies.
- England has received just 3% of its long-term average July rainfall, while southern and eastern parts of the country have recorded no rain at all so far this month, marking the longest dry spell since the mid-1990s.
- Eight areas are now classed as being in prolonged dry weather, the stage immediately before drought. No region has yet been formally declared in drought, but the Environment Agency is monitoring conditions amid the risk of a rapid or “flash” drought.
- Some farmers in East Anglia have already been forced to stop abstracting water from local rivers because flows have fallen too low.
- Harvests have also started early, with cereal and spring barley yields expected to suffer following the prolonged lack of rain. High temperatures are causing grain moisture problems and increasing the risk of fires breaking out in combine harvesters.

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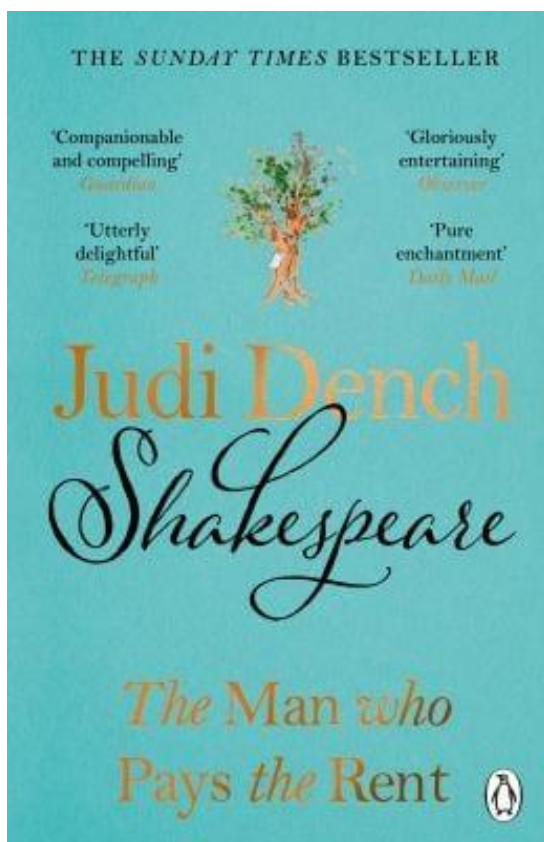
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BOOK REVIEW

SHAKESPEARE – THE MAN WHO PAYS THE RENT

By JUDI DENCH



The legendary Dame Judi Dench talks about all her Shakespearean roles over the last seventy years. It is essentially a book-length interview of Dame Judi by Brendan O’Hea, an actor and theatre director.

I was given this book for my birthday and really enjoyed ‘hearing’ her voice and fascinating anecdotes. I always found Shakespeare rather hard work and never really ‘got’ his work – especially as I spent years writing long boring school essays critically appraising every line! I used to find the language overly complicated and archaic. Not a fashionable opinion, I’m aware!

Dame Judi is an infectious fan of the Bard and her love for the prose and poetry shines through, making it accessible. This book, essentially an autobiography of her working world, has received rave reviews. It has helped me to re-examine the works and I have a new-found appreciation for them. In wish I’d had this book when studying Macbeth at school!
KLH

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Lavenham Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic

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Your physiotherapist Mrs. Hua Sands:

- 20 years' experience as a physiotherapist registered with the Health and Care Professions Council
- Chartered Physiotherapist and member of the Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists
- Masters degrees in Health Psychology and Physiotherapy from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
- Trained in acupuncture in China and UK for safe, relaxing and effective acupuncture

Unique Clinic Approach

The Clinic was set up 14 years ago to deliver a better outcome for patients through a unique combination of physiotherapy and Chinese acupuncture approaches to musculoskeletal pain relief, plus longer and more thorough assessment and treatment sessions. Acupuncture treatment is optional, but around 95% of patients feel some pain relief following initial acupuncture treatment.

The longer sessions enable a thorough assessment - essential for a proper diagnosis so that you can get the most effective treatment straight away to relieve your pain as quickly as possible. The detailed assessment also helps deal with the root of your problem, not just the symptoms, to help relieve your pain for the long term and prevent it recurring.

Where other health professionals have failed, Hua has often been able to diagnose and help resolve patients' pain by taking the time to fully understand her patients.

"When I first visited Hua I was experiencing considerable pain in my left knee despite visits to other professionals. Hua immediately identified a possible source of the discomfort. After a series of exercises my situation is much improved." Sue Arnold, Stowmarket. See website and Google Reviews for more examples of what patients say.

Ring **01787 247 726** or e-mail Hua@lavenhamphysio.co.uk to book an initial appointment. For more information, see www.LavenhamPhysio.co.uk

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The Six Bells

Preston St. Mary



Situated in the heart of the beautiful Suffolk countryside, The Six Bells is a charming grade 2 listed pub that prides itself on a warm welcome, local cask ales and fantastic homemade food. We are locally owned & locally run and we believe in providing a great taste of Suffolk life- from local artists on the walls to the local produce on our plates

Food Served:

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Retirement – Not on Your Nelly!

By Jeremy Reed age 71

I retired from business in 2007 at the age of 52. Most people think of retirement as slowing down. For me, it became the start of the greatest adventure of my life.

One morning I was reading a newspaper article about the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, founded by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first person to sail single-handed, non-stop around the world. I'd done a little sailing before—mostly in shorts and T-shirts in the Mediterranean—but this sounded like something altogether different.

Curiosity took me to the London Boat Show, where Clipper had a stand. Before long I had signed up for the 2009–10 race.

In September 2009 I joined one of the ten "Round the Worlders" aboard the 68-foot yacht *Hull & Humber*, setting sail from Hull to circumnavigate the globe. Over the following eleven months we experienced everything from terrifying storms and towering seas to unforgettable sunrises in the middle of the world's oceans. It was exhilarating, exhausting and life-changing.

At the finish, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston addressed us all. He said he hoped this had been the greatest experience of our lives—but asked us to add two simple words: **"so far."**

Those two words have stayed with me ever since.

In 2011 I set off on my first solo cycling adventure, riding from my home in Essex to John O'Groats, down to Land's End, and then back home again. I enjoyed every mile.

So much so that I decided my next ride should be just a little longer.

I would cycle to visit my daughter in Melbourne, Australia.

From March 2014 to March 2015 I cycled almost 15,000 miles. My route took me across Europe to Istanbul, through Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. From Bali I boxed my bike and flew to Cairns before completing the final stretch down Australia's east coast to Melbourne.

Needless to say, my daughter was delighted to see me!

In 2016 I swapped two wheels for a paddle, canoeing nearly 2,000 kilometres down the Danube over three months, from Germany through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Then came the inevitable question: **what next?**

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There followed another three-month cycling tour through France, then a two-month ride across England from Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, Britain's most westerly point on the mainland, to Ness Point in Lowestoft, its most easterly.

After Brexit I decided to explore Italy by bicycle, starting in Nice, cycling down Italy's west coast, crossing into Sicily at the "toe" of Italy, riding anti-clockwise around the island before returning to the mainland and continuing north up the east coast and back across Italy to Nice.

Between these cycling adventures I also spent two unforgettable three-month expeditions exploring the Australian Outback—this time without the bicycle.

My latest adventure was in 2025, when I cycled around 6,000 miles from Cairo to Cape Town. The journey took me through Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and finally South Africa.

And I'm still not finished.

In August 2026 I'll be setting off again, cycling from England through the Netherlands, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia before crossing to Sweden, continuing south through Denmark, back into the Netherlands and finally home to England.

Looking back, I realise that reading about the Clipper Race all those years ago changed my life. More importantly, it gave me the confidence to say "yes" to challenges that once seemed impossible. It opened the door to extraordinary adventures and allowed me to experience countries, cultures and people I would otherwise never have known.

People often ask me whether it's been safe.

On the whole, yes.

Would I recommend these sort of adventures to others?

Absolutely.

Retirement doesn't have to be about slowing down. For me, it has been about saying "yes" more often than "no." Age has never been the obstacle—only self-belief.

As Sir Robin Knox-Johnston reminded us at the end of the Clipper Race, every great adventure should end with two words:

"...so far."

Jeremy Reed

Tips for a better life

A balanced diet is a burger in each hand **ANON**

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QUIZ TIME ANSWERS from Page 13

1. The Agave Plant
2. Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)
3. Norway
4. Harper Lee
5. Cobbler and Tailor
6. Five
7. Bob Dylan
8. Herbert Asquith
9. Queen Victoria
10. A Boomerang
11. The eyes
12. In a book – the left and right pages



**It's called
global
warming,
dear. Best
just to keep
calm and
carry on!**

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LAVENHAM GARDENING CLUB

With summers predicted to be hotter and dryer we can expect more hosepipe bans. Gardeners everywhere have been trying to save water to preserve precious plants, which seem to be happy with washing up or shower water! Many plants, especially grass, will recover but newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials are a priority for watering. Drought does mean there is little weeding to do. I've been ordering more drought resistant plants for a better show and hopefully less watering next summer. My excuse is that dense planting holds in moisture better than areas of bare soil. Once the soil is moist again I'll be mulching well. We're looking to squeeze in more water butts and, for the lawn, raising the blades on the mower and leaving the clippings. Plants often flower when they are stressed and want to produce seeds, so deadhead regularly for more blooms.

Harvest what crops you have and look for drought resistant varieties for next year. Sow seeds of biennials, take cuttings - hardy salvias are usually very easy to take from cuttings and are one of the best performers in a dry garden - and divide perennials for free plants. Boost the spring flowering season with more bulbs - for sale everywhere from Sept.

The birds have finished nesting by Aug (although there always seem to be pigeons nesting in unexpected places!), so time to cut hedges and shrubs. Our bird baths have been well used and insects come to small dishes of water around the garden. Having shallow bowls at ground level in shady areas helps small mammals too. I think a wet autumn would help us all a great deal but no guarantees of that happening!

Plants for Aug/ Sept: Many plants have flowered earlier but asters are coming into their own, as well as dahlias, rudbeckias, echinacea and heleniums. Hardy salvias keep on going and ornamental grasses provide a lasting display.

Club News: Simon McWilliams of Hedgehog Plants showed us some unusual, interesting and hard-to-find plants in May - many accompanied us home! The outing to Barnsdale was a resounding success, as it was beautiful in June. Lucy Skellorn came on one of the hottest days to talk about her collection of Sir Michael Foster irises. It was small gathering but fascinating talk. A visit to the lovely garden at The Lodge at Bradfield St Clare demonstrated how resilient perennials can be in a 'prairie' style of planting. The summer garden party is always popular, held this year in the well-kept garden of Blaize House, by kind invitation of Carol & Jim Keohane.

Our next celebrity speaker is **Adam Frost**, presenter on BBC's Gardener's World. All welcome - book your place early!

9th Sept Garden Club Celebration - members' produce show with wine & cheese

16th Sept Visit by car to Clare Bulb Co - picnic by the river and select recommended spring bulbs

7th Oct 7.30pm Talk by **Adam Frost** 'For the Love of Plants' £20 pp inc refreshments
Non members welcome. To book call Carolyn 01787 247489 or Sandra 01787 311707

New members always welcome. Subscription for 2026 now £10

details on website: <https://lavenhamgardeningclub.co.uk>

Carolyn Jenkins

LAVENHAM LIBRARY

Opening Hours

Monday	10.00 – 1.00
Tuesday	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Thursday	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Friday	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Saturday	10.00 – 2.00
Sunday & Wednesday	CLOSED

If you've ever fancied being a clever scientist for a morning, we have just the activity for you!

Lab in a Library and the Friends of Lavenham Library present:

A **FREE** summer holiday children's event on **SATURDAY 29th AUGUST 10.30-12.00** suitable for children 5+ accompanied by an adult.



To celebrate the Summer Reading Quest, Lavenham Library has teamed up with the Suffolk based company Lab in a Library to bring you a fun packed morning full of detective crime busting activities with Harry the Hedgehog.

So put on your best thinking caps and come down to the library to help us find the clues that will tell us where Harry the hedgehog has been on his travels!

SPACE IS LIMITED so to book your place phone the library **01787 737338** or email: lavenham.library@suffolk.gov.uk for more info: www.labinalibrary.co.uk



Contact Details

Lavenham Library, Lavenham Village Hall, Church St, Lavenham CO10 9QT
Tel No: 01787 737338 Email: lavenham.library@suffolk.gov.uk

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

UNITED BENEFICE OF LAVENHAM WITH PRESTON ST MARY

Rector: The Revd. Simon Pitcher

The Rectory, Church Street, Lavenham, Sudbury, CO10 9SA Tel: 01787 827691

Associate Priest: The Revd. Elke Cattermole

Tel: 07957 419055

CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST TRINITY 9	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
	LAVENHAM	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 9th AUGUST TRINITY 10	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 16th AUGUST TRINITY 11	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	12 NOON	PATRONAL FESTIVAL Followed by Lunch in Church
SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST TRINITY 12	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 30th AUGUST TRINITY 13	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION
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AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

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CALENDAR OF BENEFICE SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER TRINITY 14	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	12 NOON	11.30am Refreshments before PRESTON PRAISE
	LAVENHAM	6.00PM	SONGS OF PRAISE
SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER TRINITY 15	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER TRINITY 16 ST MATTHEW	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	11.30AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG

THE FOLLOWING MID-WEEK SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY WEEK

WEDNESDAY	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION
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Note: BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)