

PRESTON PARISH PAPER

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

Dates for your Diary

**6th - 14th June – Open Studios
at College Farm – See Page 11**

**Sunday 7th June – Preston
Praise in Church at 11.30am –
See Page 5**

**Sundays 14th June and 12th
July – Lavenham Airfield
guided tours – See Page 13**

**Saturday 27th June – Pop-up
Choir World Tour concert –
7.30pm in Village Hall – See
Page 7**

**Tuesday 30th June – Ladies
Club afternoon visit to
Lavenham Flower Farm – See
Page 12**

**Sunday 5th July –
Confirmation Service in
Church at 5.00pm – See Page 5**

**Wednesday 22nd July – Parish
Council Meeting in Village Hall
at 7.30pm**

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.**

CHRIS LEGG

1938-2026

Chris Legg, who has died aged 87, was a Dorset man through and through who after more than 30 years living here in Preston had become more or less 'Suffolkated'.

He will be remembered as a kind and good humoured man, always there to support and help with Village Hall and other village events. A loyal church member, he served on the Parochial Church Council and was known for his highly original and insightful talks given on Good Friday and other high days.

He was much travelled, many of his journeys in pursuit of his love for steam railways, on which subject he had expert knowledge and was a published author.

A longer tribute is on Page 4. Chris will be sadly missed by his many friends here. Our thoughts and prayers at this sad time are with Judy and all the family.

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.

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

CHAIRMAN Peter Korwin
CLERK Kay Shorter 07561 060041 clerk@prestonstmaryparish.gov.uk

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 susandiggins@gmail.com

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 Sarah Williams sarahwilliams74@gmail.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

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Psalm 24 verse 1

Each year in May we have an outdoor service in Preston on one of the local farms. We sing some hymns and say some prayers in the barn before the farmer and his wife take us on a tour of their fields, explaining what has been planted and what the challenges are that are facing farmers at the moment.

What struck me this year was the fragility and vulnerability of our food supply chain. Farmers are facing really difficult challenges, and we need to be aware of these issues, to pray about them, and not take anything for granted.

The first thing we saw on our tour was a huge ploughed but empty field, with nothing growing in it. The farmer had planned to sow a spring crop, but the ground was too dry for anything to grow. He had considered several options, but the lack of rain meant that nothing would grow. However, there is a huge challenge and risk in making such choices. Buying the seed and the fertilisers is hugely expensive and needs to be planned in advance. But if it doesn't rain and there is no harvest a vast sum of money could be lost. So, in the end, circumstance and business choice resulted in nothing being planted and nothing growing.

In the second field we saw some wheat growing for milling for flour. This crop was desperate for rain in order to flourish. No rain, no harvest. It was also necessary to help the crop by spreading nutrients. A hugely expensive investment that without rain would be wasted.

But if too much rain falls later in the season at the wrong time that could ruin the crop.

Unpredictable and changing weather patterns have a real and evident impact on farming and food security. It is difficult to know what to plant and when.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to conflict between the USA and Iran has driven up the cost of fuel and fertilisers, undermining the economic choices that farmers made earlier in the year, and these extra costs will inevitably drive up the cost of food on the supermarket shelves.

In the third field we saw some beautifully coloured plants. These were grown to provide ground cover for birds, not food for humans. It is important that our countryside is managed and that we respect the other creatures with whom we share this earth. Farmers receive a subsidy from the taxpayer for this environmental stewardship, but it did seem strange to see a brightly coloured field for birds earning more money than the empty field where nothing was able to grow for humans.

I came away thinking that if I was a farmer I would have many sleepless nights worrying about the risks, opportunities, challenges and choices that have to be faced each day.

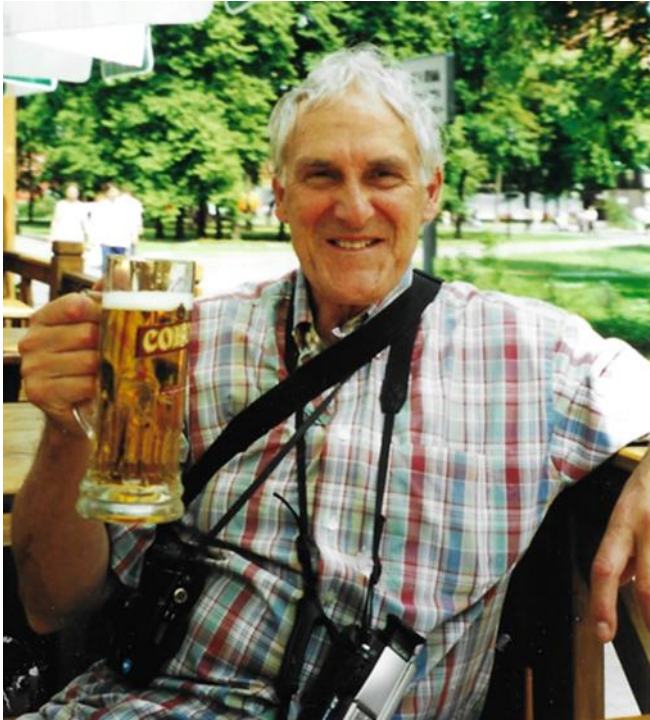
As we enjoy the beauty of the English countryside in June, give thanks to God for the beauty of his good creation and please say a prayer for those who work the land that we might be fed.

Yours in Christ

Simon

CHRIS LEGG

15 November 1938 – 18 May 2026



Chris spent a typical wartime childhood as the second son of a tenant farmer in Wareham, Dorset. In September 1950 he started at Swanage Grammar School, where he first met Judy, a boarder at the school.

Holiday jobs at a local pharmacy got him interested, so he went on to train as a pharmacist at a college in Portsmouth.

He married in 1960 and by the end of that decade he had gained work experience in Cullompton and Chard, had two children – Sharon and Richard – and had bought his first house in Affpuddle, Dorset. Later a period of working away from home took its toll, leading ultimately to divorce.

Chris re-made contact with Judy (by now a widowed doctor with two children) via her old childhood address where her mother still lived, and in 1994 moved to join Judy here in Preston. They married in 1999, and Chris gained two stepchildren, Jo and Simon.

Chris had to learn quickly to be part of the community, but he threw himself into it, enthusiastically helping with village and church matters. He inherited the 'Hatherley Parties', initially daunting, but ultimately enjoyable.

Once retired, he travelled extensively with Judy, and also did solo trips to pursue his lifelong interest in steam railways. He had the privilege of witnessing the final days of steam around the world, in visits to China, Cuba and Pakistan among other outposts. After years of research into the clay mines of Dorset Chris wrote and had published two books on the network of private narrow gauge railway systems which served that industry.

Then came the Covid-19 pandemic, followed by the onset of a neurodegenerative condition that gradually took away his muscle power and co-ordination. He needed more and more care and became wheelchair dependent. The final blow was the rapid onset of throat cancer, robbing him of the ability to swallow and speak. The end was mercifully peaceful.

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. Our next Preston Praise will be on the first Sunday in June.

**11.30AM REFRESHMENTS BEFORE
12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY 7TH JUNE**

On Sunday July 5th instead of Preston Praise there will be a Confirmation Service at 5.00pm, presided over by the Rt Revd Tim Stevens CBE, former Bishop of Leicester, and before that our own Bishop of Dunwich

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 POP-UP CHOIR

Fancy a trip around the world? With no check in, luggage or documents?

Then we have the very thing. The Preston Pop-Up Choir invite you to join them for a World Tour. We'll take you through Europe and beyond. Going as far away as New Zealand and safely back to our own Village Hall. So, join us in the Village Hall on Saturday 27th June.

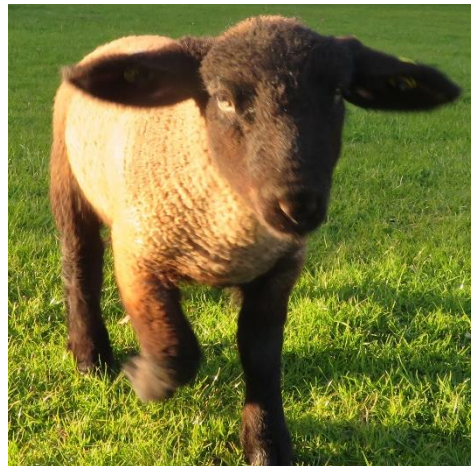
Please see the poster on the next page for all the details.

See you there!

Sally Taggart.



We were joined at a recent Village Hall choir practice by one of the newborn lambs from Hill House Farm



JUNE & JULY 2026

The Preston Pop-up Choir
WORLD TOUR



Charity Concert

In Preston St Mary Village Hall

Saturday 27th June 2026 at 7.00 pm

***A journey around the world in song presented by the Pop-ups
and close harmony group Preston Belles.***

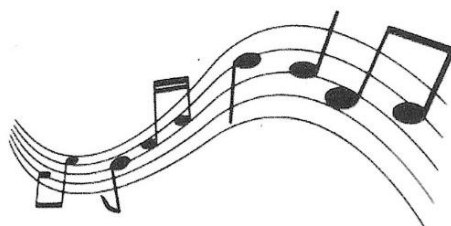
Proceeds to Marie Curie and ThymicUK

Charities that help people through particularly challenging times.

Donations Bar

Raffle

Entry £10 if reserved: £12 on the door. Phone 01787 247626



POETS' CORNER

Return to Preston

"When the sea of my memories
Resembled a regatta". *
A myriad of boats and sails,
And countless flags and vapour trails,
And things that didn't matter

One gentle vision steadfast stays,
In humble homespun cloth arrayed.
While all around grand memories fade,
Consigned by time to steel-bound store,
Subconscious brain's primeval core.
Not needed daily any more,
Marooned on time's receding shore.

A place and time immune to change,
Through storm and tempest, still retained,
No matter how life re-arranged
Familiar faces dimmed, grown strange;
A perfect. living Suffolk village,
Time marked by spring and autumn tillage,
Pellucid birdsong's morning spillage

This idyll down the years conserved
By half-remembered scenes subverted

Truth retained, a song still heard?
Or child's illusion, lies preserved?
Oasis green in life's Sahara?
Or false mirage, paste-jewelled tiara?
We made our home: The Street, Safara.

Return to such sweet memories,
Courts disillusion's cruel sting

Our corner of this Suffolk field
Confirmed the myth, the truth revealed:
My vision was the real thing.

- *The first two lines are not my own. They appear in Emeric Pressburger's wonderful novel "The Glass Pearls".*



EDITORIAL

During the nine years that your present Editorial Board has been in place we have produced 54 editions of the Paper. The size has varied from 32 to 40 pages per issue, and our priority has been to maintain a high quality informative content, and not to fill the pages with small ads. Our few advertisers are all local people, with close connections to Preston. We have received material from over 70 contributors over those nine years, for which we are very grateful.

The Paper is supported by the Preston Parish Council, who pay the printing costs, which we keep low by printing on a professional photocopier, rather than more costly electronic printing presses. By doing so we are also able to set up the page layouts ourselves, saving further expense. Our maximum print size is 40 A4 pages. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support.

A team of volunteers delivers paper copies to every house in the village, and to others who live close by and are regularly to be seen in the village. Our total print run is 120 copies.

There are additionally another 50 or so copies of the digital edition, which are sent by e-mail to people who have moved away from the village or have family or other connections here.

There is no charge for the Paper, whether you take the paper copy or the e-copy or both.

The on-line digital edition of the paper is produced with the majority of photographs, posters etc in colour. It is sent out as bcc blind copies by e-mail. If you would like to receive a digital copy in addition to (or instead of) your paper copy please let us know.

Our policy, and that of the Parish Council, is that we will continue to deliver to every house in the village, unless we are asked specifically not to. Everyone who helps to write, produce or deliver the PPP is a volunteer.

Many thanks for your ongoing support for your Parish Paper

RLH



‘If you want a toy boy, I have a large collection of action figures and model cars.’

JUNE & JULY 2026

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

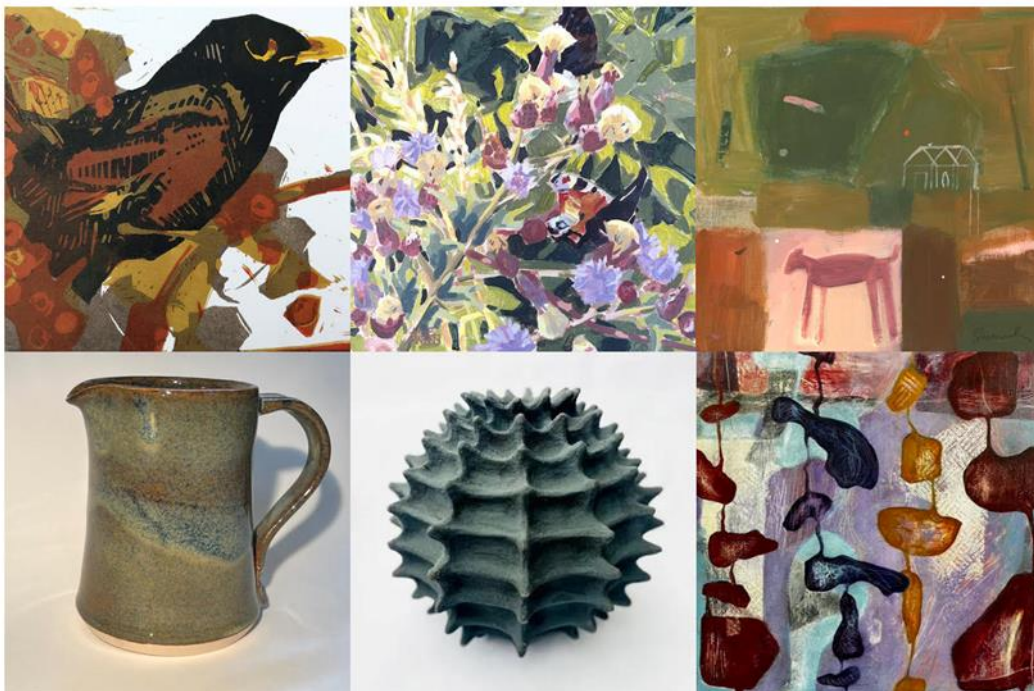
Instagram:: @Lavenhamflowerfarm
Website: www.lavenhamflowerfarm.co.uk
e mail: lucy@lavenhamflowerfarm.co.uk
Tel/Whats App: 07941 251880

JUNE & JULY 2026



At the Weighbridge Studio
Preston St Mary (SOS No.31)

**Andrew, Meggan and Amie Haslen, with
Susie Scott, Sue Caddy and Carol Saunderson**



Andrew, Meggan and Amie Haslen live and work at College Farm,
from where they produce their artwork, as well as running a framing business
with team member Susie Scott.

In collaboration with colleagues Sue Caddy and Carol Saunderson, they are
opening up the Weighbridge Studio, and look forward to welcoming you on:

**6-7th and 13-14th June, 2026
11am-5pm
(open by appointment from 8-12th)**

College Farm, Church Lane, Preston St Mary, Sudbury Suffolk, CO10 9NQ

PAINTINGS PRINTS SCULPTURE POTTERY

amiehaslen@gmail.com

JUNE & JULY 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.

2026 PROGRAMME

Tuesday **June 30th**. An afternoon visit to **Lavenham Flower Farm** at Jordans Farm, Rookwood Lane by kind invitation of Lucy Attwood. Refreshments will be available. Details nearer our visit.

July 13th nothing yet booked

August no meeting - because of holidays

September 14th - Carol Rogerson has kindly agreed to come and talk to us once again. I do not have details about her talk at the moment, but I am sure it will be very interesting and absorbing.

October 12th nothing yet booked

November 9th nothing yet booked

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

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETINGS

May 11th. Robyn Lloyd Hughes once again delighted our Members and their guests with his talk **1945 - What Next, now the War is over?** As usual, Robyn's talk was very interesting and informative and he created the atmosphere of wartime by wearing a 'demob suit', complete with Trilby hat. Although the War had ended there were still shortages and rationing in place, and a serious shortage of houses. Manufacturing had suffered too because of bomb damage. The newly elected Labour Government had to find innovative ways to combat these problems to enable the country to recover. Robyn mentioned in his talk the birth of the NHS, and the innovative idea of building pre-fab houses which could be built speedily. Our Ladies and their guests donated £65 to Robyn's chosen charity CHRISTIAN AID to show our appreciation of his support for the Ladies Club.

April 13th. After much delay, **Anne Springall** was able to give her talk about Dame Alix Meynell who truly was an extraordinary woman. She made her mark in the Board of Trade, for which she was honoured with a Damehood. Never one to sit still, she published her Autobiography in her 80's and followed that with her grandmother's biography in her 90's.

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.

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>



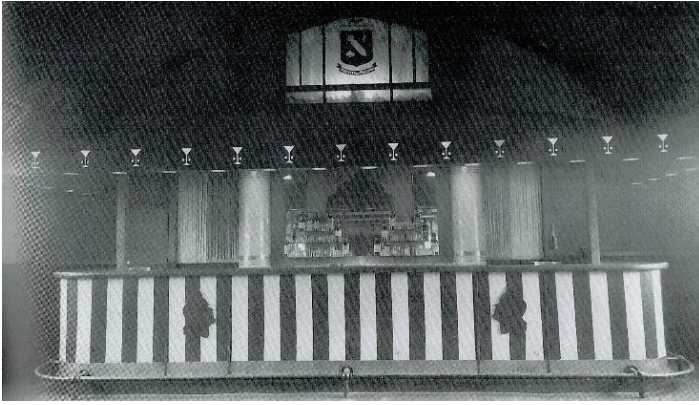
All proceeds go towards the USAAF
487th Bomb Group Memorial Fund



A CACTUS AND THREE OAK TREES

(Or a tale from Lavenham airfield)

If you had been an American officer serving with the US Army Air Force's 487th Bomb Group on Lavenham airfield in WWII you would no doubt have been familiar with the base's Officers' Club and acquainted with the rather impressive bar therein.



Officers Club.

(Courtesy 487th Bomb Group (H) Association)



Illustration of 'Strength and Precision' insignia.)

(via Stewart Evans)

Visible above the bar was the Group's unofficial insignia, which appears to have been painted on glass in colour, with the motto 'Strength and Precision' beneath it.

Towards the end of operations in England units of the US 8th Air Force were invited to submit the design of any Group insignia that they had been using to 8th Air Force Headquarters. This was done on March 9th 1945 by 487th Adjutant, Major Leo Burbridge. It included an illustration of the design and an explanation of the various elements and colours.

Though the exact origins of the design are currently unknown, all its elements carried meaning for the personnel of the 487th and can be explained. Clearly it has three parts: the crest, the shield and the banner carrying the motto.

The crest carries a five pointed star, the symbol of the US Army Air Force (which appears on its aircraft and uniform badges) whilst the stylised wings symbolise the operational flying status of the Group. Beneath those wings are outlines of the two principal aircraft flown by the group, initially the B-24 'Liberator' and then the B-17 'Flying Fortress'. These sit atop a twisted cord in the colours of the US Army Air Force, ultramarine blue and golden orange.

The shield is dominated by the illustration of a bomb, the principal weapon of a Bomb Group. However, its companions the cactus and the oak tree require some explanation. The cactus is a saguaro, which grows primarily in the southwest of the United States and represents New Mexico where the 487th completed their training before being deployed overseas. The oak

JUNE & JULY 2026

(referred to in the submission as a 'Royal Oak') is symbolic of where it undertook its operations from - England.

The motto reads 'Strength and Precision' - the latter having justification in that from September 1944 to February 1945 the 487th led the fourteen bomb groups of the USAAF Third Air Division (most of whom were based in Suffolk) in bombing accuracy.

The 487th Bomb Group occupied Lavenham airfield in the spring of 1944 and so when the Friends of Lavenham Airfield (FOLA) were looking to mark the 80th anniversary of the Group's arrival it seemed appropriate to plant an oak tree - not just any oak tree but one grown from an acorn that came from a tree to the east of the airfield that was of an age that it would have been present during the comings and goings of 487th aircraft during the war. Americans refer to such trees as 'witness trees'.

The site chosen for FOLA's commemorative oak was the grounds of Alpheton Village Hall, next to what became the access road to the airfield when it was necessary to reroute the A134 to accommodate the airfield (on land requisitioned by the Air Ministry from landowner David Alston). Post war Mr Alston donated the land to the village on which to build the hall. His wife Bathia Alston became Chair of the Village Hall Committee whose first job was to raise money to build it.



Alpheton commemorative oak and plaque. (Photo: FOLA)

In 2024 this young oak along with its plaque (the 'P' in a square - the identification symbol displayed on 487th aircraft - is framed in the shape of a B-24 tail fin) was dedicated in the presence of the sons of 1st Lieutenant Leo Wingate who served on the airfield with the 487th Bomb Group.

This (as yet) small oak tree represents rather more than might be evident at first glance.

With grateful thanks to: Stewart Evans, John Pawsey, Paul Webber and the 487th Bomb Group (H) Association.

If you wish to learn more about Lavenham Airfield and its American occupants during WWII, FOLA offer a series of guided 'Airfield Walks' over the summer. For more details and to book, please visit our web page at: <https://bit.ly/42q6BdJ> or see Page 13 in this Paper.

PRESTON ST MARY ART GROUP

Our last ten-week term has flown by. We had the pleasure of Kate Hanlon teaching two sessions with us where we looked at portrait skills and techniques.

As our Spring/Summer term gets under way we have started with two sessions in the Village Hall, thinking about landscapes. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can paint and draw outside as the warmer weather reaches us. If you would like to join us, please feel free to come along. Our sessions are Mondays 10am – 12 noon.

We are a friendly bunch, and you don't have to be a Leonardo to join. If you would like any other information, please contact Sarah at sarahwilliams74@gmail.com

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

If you are fed up with interminable news items about Bank holiday temperatures, spare a thought for the farmers. Following poor rainfall early last year they've experienced drought since early this year and many crops are in jeopardy. For example, grains like wheat which do not flourish will produce a low protein count and can only be sold for animal feed. Not a very encouraging outlook and not very profitable! And while one worker per thousand acres sounds economical it will be supported by huge quantities of machinery - which uses diesel fuel which has suddenly become more expensive. Similarly, fertilisers. Gary fears that many across the industry will not be able to carry on. Let's hope that for once you are wrong, Gary. JT

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.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURS

MONKS ELEIGH

Monks Eleigh Post Office is now under new management – meet the team



My name is **Ruth** Crocket. I came to this part of Suffolk almost by accident in 2005 after a house purchase near Glemsford fell through - I have been here ever since. At the time I was still commuting daily to HSBC in Canary Wharf where I was a credit risk default modeler, (don't ask! - and no, I wasn't a banker).. I trained as a Church of England Reader (a lay preacher) and was licensed in 2013. I was also trained as an economist. In 2018 I was asked to provide Post Office services for the Felsham and Gedding Community Shop, and later on did the same for Rattlesden Community Shop. By this time the team had expanded and included **Jason** and **Stephen**.

We are delighted now to be able to support Monks Eleigh Community Shop in the same way.



Hello to all, I am **Jason** Kermeen. At the age of 13 my parents and I moved to the Orkney Islands. After 10 years I moved back south to go to University where I gained my BEd with Hons and went into primary school teaching. I went from teaching to clock restoration and then to being part of the Post Office - a few things did happen between but that is another story.

I have a number of interests outside of the Post Office. I drive steam locomotives, traction

engines or anything that is steam powered, I collect antique clocks and oil lamps, and I am a guide at Melford Hall.



We look forward to seeing and meeting more of you at Monks Eleigh Post Office.

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 PARISH COUNCIL

2026 Meetings

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

July 22nd

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

The Village turned out again to collect litter and various other rubbish from our roads and verges.



There was one comment that several people made; that there wasn't much to collect! Not something to get upset about.

Cakes, savouries and refreshments were a just reward for so many coming along - over 20.

Thank you all

The Parish Council

Are you looking for a carer or help in the home?

My name is Kerry and I would like to offer my housekeeping services. I am currently available on weekday afternoons.

I have many years of experience and pride myself with an intuition to aid those who have welcomed me into their home. Tuning in to one's personal perspective of perfection, normalcy or just simply knowing there is someone there is key and is at the heart of what I aim to achieve daily.

Whether that's personal care, domestic help, ironing, shopping, travel to local appointments, organisation of a space, or anything in between.

If I can be of help please don't hesitate to reach out. Equally, if you think you may know of someone who might need a Kerry, do pass on my number: 07814 302221

I currently work for Janet Martin at Preston Hall during the weekday mornings

QUIZ TIME

There are no prizes – answers are on Page 35

1. Who is considered to be Britain's first prime Minister?
2. Who was the Ancient Greek God of the Sun?
3. Which is the smallest country in the world?
4. When was the London Underground opened?
5. Which spacecraft landed on the moon in 1969?
6. Which animal can be seen on the Porsche logo?
7. What is the rarest blood type?
8. What are the first 22 cards in a tarot deck called?
9. What country has the national language with the longest alphabet?
10. How many bones do sharks have?
11. What was the first country to give women the right to vote?
12. In which country do more than half of people believe in elves?

WORDS OF WISDOM

We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary.

Pope Benedict XVI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Preston St Mary observations of an increasingly Grumpy Old Man! (My wife may question the level of grumpiness)

Could there be a new club for the village – Preston GOMs



World Cup 2026

Although a few residents of Preston are footie fans, some celebrating the Gunners ending their 22-year wait for a Premier League title and some deflated by relegation to the Championship. Other fans in the village include the Cherries but perhaps we'll not mention spy gate! For those non-football fans, me included (though I was once the match mascot for Colchester United!) I am planning to set up a YouTube channel on the days that England or Scotland play with the theme "Watching Paint Dry". Either way, it's 90 minutes of your life you'll not get back! Some say I should start with a shade of grey not sure I'll get past shade 20 let alone reach 50!

Taphophiles (21 points in Scrabble)

Often referred to as "tombstone tourists" or "grave hunters" taphophiles engage in several fascinating activities to connect with the past. Not as morbid as you may think. We have an ancient, managed church yard with many graves sadly overgrown with ivy. Here is a before and after picture revealing the grave of Robert Abbott, Died July 31st 1817, Aged 31 years.....as curated by some graveside guardians.



Highways, Byways, Potholes & Footpaths

Many of us bemoan potholes, especially those unfortunate enough to have incurred expense from punctures or worse. Did you know how easy it is to report a pothole? No longer do you need to leave it to someone else or blame the council

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/en-gb>



In fairness, the repair to the S bend on the way to Lavenham required the intervention by this Preston GOM to our MP (who knew that MPs had their uses). Further GOM interventions may be required on that corner before the year is out!

The same applies to local footpaths, as evidenced by the new foot bridge which was replaced four weeks after reporting.

Bins

On a positive note, the brown bins will continue to be emptied biweekly. With regards to the new recycling regime, just today my wife said which bin will this go in? My response, in true GOM style, was f*** knows. That bin will be ever known as thus!

New Village Signs

New village signs are on their way (no more Preston St Mar)! Being an avid fan of Death in Paradise I often think, as I drive back in to the village, what fun it would be to change the signs to "Preston Saint Marie". All we would need is a former uniformed gentleman driving around in an old Mercedes as our own Commissioner Patterson. Surely there is no one in the village to play that role!

Yours

A Preston GOM

FRIENDS OF
LAVENHAM AIRFIELD

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF
THE 487TH BG, 8TH USAAF



The USA Memorial Holiday weekend fell on the 23rd – 25th May this year. On Sunday 24th May Lavenham Airfield was open to the public, and there was a ceremony at 12 noon on that day at the memorial to the 233 men who died while flying with the 487th Bomb Group during WW2.

During the summer months there are guided tours of the airfield – see the notice on Page 13. For more information on this and other events organised by the Friends of Lavenham Airfield please contact Robyn Lloyd Hughes on 01787 247571 or email robynlloydhughes@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Upcoming Events

The Pop-Up Choir are holding their annual charity concert on **27th June**, proceeds to go to Marie Curie and Thymic UK, and their theme is World Tour with songs from all around the world.

Saturday 1st August. - Summer Barbecue, 2-6pm, tickets pre-booked £12, on the door £15. Donation bar, games and usual barbecue with salads.

14th November – Quiz Night with light supper

100 Club – just a reminder that we are collecting subscriptions for the 100 Club. The first results will appear in the next issue of the Preston Parish Paper.

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
SUE DIGGINS Secretary, 01787 247626
KEITH DAVIS Treasurer, 01787 247112

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Please meet your Steering Group for this important initiative:

Jill Korwin
Glynis Huggett
Stuart Barbrook
Steve Thorne
Mark Ward
David Humphreys

We have had our inaugural meeting and will keep you updated via the Parish website, Preston Parish Paper etc.

JUNE & JULY 2026



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

Upcoming Events:

Friday 19th June - Steak Night from 6pm
Sunday 21st June- Fathers Day from
12pm
Saturday 21st June- Breakfast (8:30am-11am)

Friday 3rd July- American Night from 6pm

Pub Closed from 6/07 till 15/07

Friday 17th July - LIVE MUSIC from JAMJAR
we recommend booking to avoid disappointment

Food Served:

Wednesday-Saturday: 12pm-2pm • 6pm-8pm
Sunday 12pm-3:30pm



@thesixbells_



thesixbellspreston.com



The Six Bells, Preston St Mary

Call us on 01787247440 or email reservations@thesixbellspreston.com

ROGATION SUNDAY – SUNDAY 10TH MAY

Preston's annual celebration of Rogation took place as usual at Priory Farm, at the kind invitation of Alan and Denise Luck. We began with a short service in the magnificent barn, with festive hymns and a sermon from the Rector. We then were taken on a tour of some of the fields by Alan and Denise, and the Rector blessed the growing crops in the traditional way.



Mervyn Cochrane and Keith Springall drove the Barbecue.

The salads and cakes were prepared and served by the magnificent village catering team.

Revd Simon's letter on Page 3 considers some of the issues facing farmers in this area in these difficult times.

We then returned to the Farm for the celebrated Preston BBQ, which was much enjoyed in spite of the weather not being up to the standards of previous years.



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JUNE & JULY 2026

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*

CONFESSIONS OF A PRESTON PETROL HEAD

Richard Graylen

When Robyn asked me to scribe an article along this theme I knew I had to think long and hard about the expansive list of cars which I have owned over my driving career spanning over five decades.

I was born into a family of Petrol Heads and my father was also something of a cars aficionado. We attended a number of race meetings *en famille* at the likes of Oulton Park and Snetterton. I was taught by Father to drive the family car on private roads from the age of 11! My passion for cars was so embedded that I passed my driving test just weeks after my 17th Birthday. His advice to me in those days up in Yorkshire was “cars are like women lad – any old thing is good enough to learn on, but once you’ve learned, “gerra goodun”!!

I'll start by listing in order of dates of ownership cars which I have owned (or used in the case of the five company owned cars) which I include here:



1959 Black Ford Anglia 105E – hardly worthy of classing as a “goodun” but all I could afford from my limited resources - I was still at school studying for my A levels. 5768 UB was an ex police car which had sisters the likes of which featured in the

“Heartbeat” TV series. She suffered severe corrosion from the front suspension, and this memorable machine had, in the end, to be scrapped when the front suspension’s “McPherson Struts” parted company with the bodywork due to the corrosion, causing the front wheels to run at an angle of some 45 degrees from the vertical! As the front wheels came over, the car attracted the attention of the local Constabulary, but my brother and I were able to talk our way out of more serious motoring offences of the current day! Somehow the Police were more accommodating than they perhaps seem to have to be today.

1962 Austin Mini in yellow with the underpowered 850cc engine. I bought this car from an Aunt who had totally treasured it. Unfortunately, on day 4 the Mini skidded off the road on a negative camber hairpin bend which was covered in mud. The car uprooted the biggest farm gate post in North Yorkshire! That ended my very short association with this front wheel driven car whose scrap value just about stretched to a scampi and chips meal in the local hostelry and my broken nose soon repaired.

More part time weekends working on a local farm generated sufficient liquid resources to buy the next machine – another 105E in Grey but which had not suffered the abuse given to the first one by the local “plod”! A reliable little car which I traded in the end to buy a “never raced or rallied” BRG Mini van which proved to be something of a dog of a car. I guess trying to turn it into something of a Competition car did it no favours. A series of “go fast” extras, including a ported cylinder head from a Mini Cooper, twin carburettors, 5.5 inch rims and a sports exhaust did nothing to strengthen its longevity!

JUNE & JULY 2026



So, now was the time to buy a seemingly more “sensible” chariot in the form of a 3 years old, two owners from new Mustard coloured Vauxhall Firenza. This was basically a souped-up Vauxhall Viva with a Coupé like body. Lovely looking car but its 1159cc engine was over tuned and over worked and the entire engine just about cleaned me out of cash when it required a full mechanical overhaul!

More hard saving enabled me to part exchange the Firenza for a 1972 Mark I Ford Capri 1600 GT XLR. This was my first decent car - a real “looker” with light

green metallic paint under a Black vinyl roof covering. A really great car which could certainly gather some pace.

In 1977 as my marriage to Sheila was approaching, the Capri had to be liquidated to turn into the deposit for our first house! Sheila had a near new Mini 1000, so this became the family car for a few years. She later owned some “hot” Fiestas including a 2.0 ST model. Other cars soon followed for me:

Another Mini 1000 in Biscuit.

A White Vauxhall Chevette which was my first brand new car. Hopelessly underpowered but it was used as something of a trans- European Tourer during family holidays. It failed its first proper test by failing to get into top gear pulling our then cherished 1200S Monza caravan (which had to be the lightest Caravan on the market in 1981!).

The Chevette was therefore morphed into one of the runoff model Ford Cortina Mark Vs. We got a steal of a deal in 1983 when we bought a new 2000cc Ford Cortina Crusader (essentially a 2.0 Ghia Trim in all but name as the less than popular Sierra was born). The Crusader was Caribbean Blue and served us without a single fault over 70,000 miles the following 5 years and



comfortably accommodated our enlarged family of three young children. In Father's footsteps, I gave my elder daughter Jane some driving lessons on a private road in this car in her early teens!

Five company cars followed - a red Ford Orion, then a White Peugeot 405 1.9 GTI which was actually a really great car and quite rapid to drive on Continental Roads. Next up was a superb white BMW 520i which really did seem to be beautifully built. The penultimate company wagon was a capacious Vauxhall Omega Estate in Green with the 2.5 Litre BMW diesel engine which afforded shed loads of low down pulling power (torque). Then followed my final company car – another Omega Estate known as the MV6, coloured Metallic Grey. This was powered by the ex-Vauxhall Ventura 3.0 petrol V6 injected power lump which went rather well (and drank rather well too)!

To be continued in our next issue.....

JUNE & JULY 2026



Lavenham Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic

Unit 12 Lavenham Studios, Brent Eleigh Road, Lavenham CO10 9PE

Conditions treated include:

- Back pain and sciatica
- Neck pain and whiplash
- Shoulder, elbow and wrist pain
- Hip and knee pain
- Ankle and foot pain
- Headache
- Rehabilitation after injury or operation



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

PRESTON POOCHES

BEAU

This new occasional feature will introduce us to the canine residents of our village. To start us off Val and Peter Gutteridge have sent us this piece. If you would like to tell us about your best friend please send us a few words and a photo.

Beau was born on 24th June 2019 by a privately run, family breeder. He was one of a litter of eight - 4 bitches and 4 dogs. We really wanted a girl, but they had already been bought, leaving Beau (Tiny Tim according to the family!) and one brother. We always feel that he chose us, as he came running towards us! We had little choice but to choose him.



From an early age Beau showed an interest in motorbikes, and the Greeves trials bike is one of his favourites

He is an excellent house dog but potential unwanted visitors/intruders would be more likely to be licked to death than bitten. He didn't respond well to puppy classes and training despite our best efforts with a local trainer!! Still not as obedient as we hoped but he enjoys the occasional cuddle and really loves two daily walks, food, and meeting and greeting "new" people (the "brickies" recently), carrying his currently favourite toy to them, but not giving it up. He always stands amazingly still for his daily brush, if only he did the same when being dried! Can hardly believe that he'll be nine next month; although he isn't as well behaved as others (excellent near horse and rider) he has given much love; being our companion has given us much pleasure.

HISTORY NOTES

SUFFOLK'S HIGHWAYS

The Romans first made travelling easier for our ancestors of 2000 years ago by creating a network of metalled roads, of which there were several hundred miles in Suffolk. After the Romans left, the system gradually deteriorated over the next thousand years or more, until eventually drastic action was needed to deal with deep ruts and potholes. Sound familiar?

The surface of much of Suffolk is clay, which when wet turns into a quagmire, and when hot and dry becomes rock hard, neither of which is very amenable for wheeled vehicles, horses' hooves or people on foot.

The north and west of the county is covered in sand, which shifts and drifts according to prevailing winds. In 1668 there was a famous sandstorm, which raged through the Lakenheath area towards the northeast. A number of buildings in Santon Downham were destroyed and buried beneath a new blanket of sand.

One of the earliest attempts to address the dire state of the roads was the Highways Act 1555. This required parishes to appoint Surveyors of the Highways, who were required to keep the roads free from obstructions and ensure that parishioners carried out regular maintenance work. The Surveyors were usually local farmers, who were unpaid, but could be fined if they neglected their duties.

By the 18th Century Turnpike Trusts were in place to ensure the upkeep of the main roads, usually by charging tolls, but bridleways and by-ways were invariably muddy, rutted and difficult to traverse.

In the 19th Century the railway revolution transformed people's ability to move freely, but local roads were still a Parish responsibility. At the time of the Preston Tithe Survey in 1838 our Surveyor of the Highways was William Makin, of Mortimer's Farm.



Today's roads are the responsibility of the Suffolk County Council Highways Department, and as ever the resources to keep pace with the ever increasing volume of traffic of all kinds are scarce. Agricultural vehicles are bigger and heavier than ever before, more and more people are driving SUVs and pickup trucks, and the increased weight of electric vehicles with their heavy batteries puts a greater strain on our road surfaces.

For the future all that local authorities can do is set a range of priorities for maintenance work, and it seems unlikely that we will see any major improvement in the state of our country roads. Waiting lists for attention will grow, and we must continue to look out for cracks and potholes and take greater care – especially if we're on our bikes!

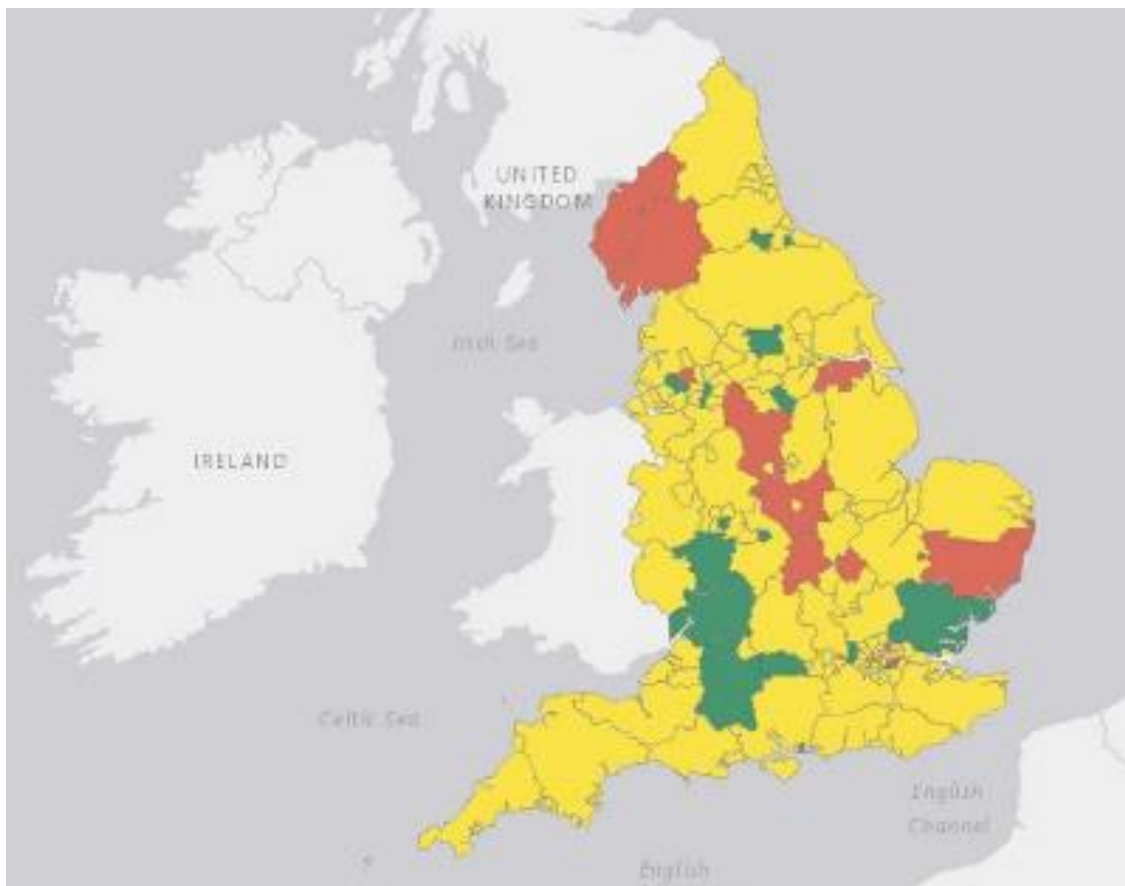
RLH

Drivers in England can find out how their local councils are tackling potholes following the introduction of a new traffic rating system from the Department for Transport (DfT).

The system shows 154 local highway authorities rated as red, amber or green based on road conditions and how effectively they are spending the government's road maintenance funding.

It has bad news for drivers in Cumbria, Bolton in Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, Suffolk, and Kensington and Chelsea in west London - with all areas classed as red under the system.

In a statement, the DfT said authorities listed in red will receive "dedicated support to bring them into line with best practices" through a £300,000 programme.



The new map rates how record government pothole funding is being used



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Mites/Silverfish/Flies etc

Mole control by all Ministry approved methods

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Property Care:

Woodworm/Deathwatch beetle/Damp proofing

30 Year Bonded Guarantee available

Insect Control:

Fly control units, electric and adhesive

Stockists of all leading brands

Replacement tubes and servicing carried out to all units

Secondhand units available

Flyscreens/chain curtains/plastic strip curtains

Bird Control:

Bird control to public, commercial and domestic buildings

Bird proofing to any situation

Cleaning contracts – Public buildings etc

Grain Handling:

Fumigation to grain and other commodities

Grain store cleaning and pre-harvest

Insecticidal treatment

Monitoring of stored grain and supply of all relevant equipment

Our Services Offer:

Trained technicians/Professional back up:

Quality control manager and field biologist/Approved by local

authorities and food retail industry/Reporting documentation

tailored to any requirement

We also supply:

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LAVENHAM MODEL RAILWAY SHOW MAY 16TH 2026

Lavenham Parish Church was the scene for the village's first Model Railway Show in May. Fulfilling an ambition held by the Rector, an ex-professional railwayman and keen railway modeller, the event was a success. Nearly 400 people attended, and around £2000 was raised for Church funds and for a donation of 10% of the total to Christian Aid



A range of layouts of all scales was on display and many of those attending complimented the organisers and exhibitors for putting on such a fine show. It remains to be decided whether the event will be repeated.





Better Recycling for Suffolk is just around the corner.



Better Recycling
IS COMING TO
SUFFOLK

In June 2026, your Recycling and Waste Services will be changing to make it easier for you to recycle more.

In addition to what you recycle now, you'll be able to recycle glass bottles and jars, drinks cartons, a wider range of plastics and food waste from home.



For more information visit:

www.babergh.gov.uk/future-changes-to-bin-collections



QUIZ TIME ANSWERS from Page 19

1. Sir Robert Walpole
2. Apollo
3. The Vatican
4. 1863
5. Apollo 11
6. Horse
7. AB Negative
8. The Major Arcana
9. Cambodia - 74 characters
10. Zero
11. New Zealand in 1893
12. Iceland

HISTORY NOTES - CHILDHOOD IN LAVENHAM 100 YEARS AGO

Joe Risby was born in 1911, the son of a Lavenham farm labourer who won the DCM during the Boer War. In the 1990s Joe was interviewed as part of a Channel 4 series called 'Green and Pleasant Land'. The series was an examination of rural life in the first half of the 20th Century, expressed in "the authentic voices of a broad spectrum of our oldest countrymen and women....the aristocrats and their servants, the agricultural labourer and the farmer, the poacher and the gamekeeper".

I got my first job at the age of fourteen. I'd been wandering the streets of Lavenham for about a fortnight. It was crowded with unemployed men. Jobs were gold dust. I met a farmer I knew and he says to me in his booming voice, 'Hello bor', what you doing on?'

'I finished school.'

'Ain't you got no work?'

'No Mr Dewar.'

'Go up to the farm, they will give you a job.'

My first pay packet was ten bob. I had a four-mile walk from work. I couldn't get home quick enough. It took me an hour. I couldn't wait to give some money to my mum to help pay the rent. I was proud to help the household; not just me, my brothers and sisters, too. What do you call it – dedication?

The Dewars farmed at Preston Manor Farm. This is the final extract from this interview.

With acknowledgements to Channel 4 Books

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

MOJITO – a classic refreshing summer drink – this serves six

Ingredients

6 limes plus 1 lime sliced, to serve
4 tbsp granulated sugar
4-5 sprigs of mint
ice
350ml white rum
600ml sparkling water

Method

Chop each lime into six pieces and drop them into a two-litre jug.
Add the sugar and squish the lime wedges with a muddler, or the end of a rolling pin.
Keep crushing to get out all the juices.
Pick the leaves off a mint sprig and lay them on one of your hands. Clap the other hand on top to bruise the leaves ever so gently, then drop them into the jug. Repeat with the rest of the mint sprigs.
Fill the jug about three-quarters full with ice, then add the rum.
Stir with a long-handled spoon to mix all the ingredients together gently and top up with the sparkling water.
Stir once more, then serve poured into tall glasses with a few extra ice cubes and lime slices.



Preston Table Tennis Club enjoying their 2026 Annual Dinner

LAVENHAM GARDENING CLUB

I try to encourage wildlife in the garden but sometimes it can be frustrating - this spring I have had delphinium seedlings and tomato plants eaten by mice, nigella stripped by snails and the tops of cabbage plants, all ready for the plant sale, pecked out by pigeons! I am sure I am not alone and Alan writes of similar problems in his garden:

'He's back! That huge, evil rabbit who lives deep in the laurel that forms our front boundary hedge. Each year he and his Friends and Relations make determined efforts to turn the lawn into Watership Down, mining under tree roots and generally creating hazards for the unwary.

When I slip out in search of a suitable missile to hurl in his direction I am met with a contemptuous eye, before he ambles half-heartedly closer to the security of the hedge. My overarm bowling has never been accurate and he seems to sense that my motives aren't wholeheartedly homicidal. The object, rather, has only ever been to persuade him that life might be more congenial elsewhere, in the rolling acres of field and woodland beyond this tiny, blessed plot.

Of course, Rapacious Rabbit and company haven't confined their predations to the lawn. A narrow bed, bordering the driveway, that I dug out when I took over the garden some three years ago, also suffers their attentions. This, combined with occasional raids by Monty Muntjac and his foraging foot soldiers, has prevented the roses planted there from thriving. Companion planting, of lavender and alliums, has proven no deterrent: the alliums are regularly nibbled and several of the struggling lavender plants were uprooted early on; and exploratory excavations continue sporadically.

Nature, raw in tooth and claw, again frustrating all attempts at control and domination. But still we try.'

Alan Green

Club News: Hawk Honey, Suffolk naturalist and bee expert, gave a talk on the fascinating lives of our lesser known bees. Leaving leaf litter and some of the plants we often think of as weeds can help them survive. The annual Plant Sale was as busy as ever - thank you to everyone who donated plants, volunteered help or came along to buy on the day. An outing to The Hall at Tendring in May provided us with a lovely setting for tea in the garden!

Weds 27th May Talk by Simon McWilliams of Hedgehog Plants 'Unusual Plants'
Weds 17th June Outing to Barnsdale £35 non-members welcome 01787 247489
Weds 24th June Talk by Lucy Skellorn Sir Michael Foster Irises

New members always welcome. Annual subscription £20, meetings held on last Weds of month at Lavenham Village Hall 7.30pm

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

Carolyn Jenkins

JUNE & JULY 2026



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

Tracy Borman talk – Saturday 13th June – SOLD OUT!



The Friends of Lavenham Library look forward to welcoming you to Tracy Borman's talk on her latest historical novel "The House of Boleyn".

Doors open at 2pm. Talk starts at 2.30 followed by a Q&A session. Refreshments will be served between 3.30pm-4.30pm.

All proceeds from booking sales will go to The Friends of Lavenham Library to support their work for the community of Lavenham.

SUMMER READING QUEST 2026 – Curious Creatures



Reading Quest is an exciting opportunity to get the whole family involved in reading and making memories this summer!

Children of all ages can sign up at any library and receive their case file from 18 July onwards. You can sign up at any time during the school holidays to start your journey.

You don't need to read a set number of books – our summer reading programme is designed to encourage children to enjoy reading at their own pace in a fun, interactive way. Reading for pleasure helps children build self-esteem and improve wellbeing throughout life.

Each time you visit the library, bring your case file back to receive a sticker or two to celebrate your reading journey! Collect a case file from the library to get started.

Contact Details

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

JUNE & JULY 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 JUNE 2026

SUNDAY 7th JUNE TRINITY 1	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 14th JUNE TRINITY 2	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 21st JUNE TRINITY 3	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	11.30AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) Followed by Refreshments
SUNDAY 28th JUNE ST PETER & ST PAUL	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)

JUNE & JULY 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 JULY 2026

SUNDAY 5th JULY TRINITY 5	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	5.00PM	CONFIRMATION SERVICE
SUNDAY 12th JULY TRINITY 6	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (CW)
	PRESTON	6.00PM	EVENSONG
SUNDAY 19th JULY TRINITY 7	LAVENHAM	8.00AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
	LAVENHAM	10.00AM	MORNING WORSHIP
	PRESTON	11.30AM	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) Followed by Refreshments
SUNDAY 26th JULY TRINITY 8	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)