



# DENNINGTON NEWS

Issue 35: January-March 2024  
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We hope to see you soon - *Jon & Lorna Reeves*



## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Firstly, a very happy New Year to all readers of the Dennington News!

It's difficult to believe that we're already into 2024, but I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas break and were able, despite problems with transport and the weather, to enjoy time with family and friends. As always, this issue comes with news of what's happening over the next three months, as well as reports on recent events including the last few Friendly Fridays (page 25) and the November Horticultural Club (page 19); both these will now become occasional rather than regular events, as those who have been organising them are standing down. Volunteers willing to organise new community events are very welcome indeed - see suggestions of what might be possible from the new village hall chair James Maberly on page 13 - do please get in touch with your own suggestions or ideas too.

There is always lots going on in Framlingham library - see the latest on page 16 - while the coffee mornings continue on every other Thursday morning in the village hall. Hope to see you there soon!

Jo Denton, Editor

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## DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL



Happy New Year 2024—and may it be a sensational year for you all!

I have recently taken over as Chair of the Hall Committee again and very much want to thank Jo Cartwright for her considerable efforts during her period as chair; we wish her and her family well in the future.

We have a list of tasks to get done over the next year, the most important of which is to put a new roof on the hall, as the current one is now over 30 years old and beginning to collapse and leak. We are also investigating putting solar panels up at the same time which should then allow us the possibility of reducing our energy bills significantly, if not totally, in the years to come.

We also need new fire doors leading onto the patio which will be fitted with double glazing, so that too will help to further insulate the building.

We have a wonderful regular group of hirers who offer the village many different activities, but there is room for some more homegrown ventures – **see the article on page 13**. The hall is also a magnificent location for parties and we have a professionally run bar with excellent prices, so if you have a party coming up, here we are. Give us a call!



*James Maberly*  
Chair of the Trustees



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## VILLAGE PERSONALITY: ANDREW STANSFELD



Andrew was born in Wildhill, near Hatfield in Hertfordshire, the youngest of four children. His grandfather was a physician, his father was a histopathologist and his mum was a GP. One of his brothers now lives nearby in Peasehall, a professor of psychiatry at Queen Mary's in London. In 1941, Andrew's grandmother bought a home in Southwold, as she was the Headmistress of Centre Cliff in Southwold, and the family visited the county frequently, often

passing through Dennington on the way. The property remains within the family today.

After the village school Andrew went to Lochinver House prep and then Felsted in the early seventies, where the music and printing press societies gave scope to his creative abilities. His love of horticulture began at three – the children were all given a plot at home to maintain. In 1975, Andrew joined Cambridge Botanic Gardens staff as a volunteer as part of a pre-college practical year, and in 1976 secured a position with Blooms of Bressingham in Norfolk, who specialised in dwarf conifers and perennials. That year, Andrew spent the majority of his time watering everything! He went on to Wye College between 1976-1979, the agricultural and horticultural college for London University, looking at plant, animal and environmental sciences. The BSc cohort was a small and intimate one, and several still meet up each year!

In 1979, Andrew came up to Suffolk to work for Paul Miles, a

freelance garden designer then living in Yoxford. Under Paul, Andrew learnt garden design: meeting clients, planning, planting and nurturing plants, using his artistic, technical and scientific knowledge. He met Graham Thomas, a great Rosarian, and worked for Mea Allan in Walberswick, a biographer of plant hunters including Sir William Hooker, the first Director of Kew Gardens. Keen to further his studies, Andrew did a Diploma/MA in Landscape Design at Sheffield University between 1981 and 1983.

Andrew had a year in London, planning planting for road schemes and attending public enquiries for the Department of Transport, then one of the largest planters of native trees. In 1985 he moved to Devon to join Lee Abbey, near Lynton, a Christian community of about 70 people where he was kept busy in the gardens. In 1986, he set up his own freelance garden design business, a career which lasted 38 years until retirement this year. Plants have always fascinated him, and although he has never made a fortune, he has



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loved the outdoor world, with no two gardens or clients being the same. After one client refused to pay, Andrew quickly learnt a key lesson – to get everything costed and agreed in writing before taking on a commission!

Andrew comments: 'The landscape gardener has the advantage of being able to cast a different eye over an area which the owner has grown accustomed to over time, and perhaps offer fresh perspective. It requires lateral thinking, problem solving, observing the site as a whole and then working on smaller parts rather than the other way round. In this way, subsequent modification of constituent parts is reduced.' Today, people often want 'instant gardens' – for example, trees can be brought in and planted as semi-mature specimens. Andrew prefers the creativity and pleasure of watching gardens develop over time. Usually it was possible to create a bond with clients one subsequently built up a real relationship with, with general collaborative planning then leading to detailed design of paving, paths, walls, planting schemes and water features - though often smaller plots can be more difficult to arrange than larger garden or estate spaces.

Today in Dennington Andrew has a large area of his own to keep on top of around a 1590s farmhouse needing continuous DIY. There are flower beds, greenhouses and a pond, vegetable area and orchard. Andrew married Jayne, a creative spirit in her own right, in 2007 in Blythburgh Church. Andrew loves bird-watching, reading, cycling, travel, classical music and jazz, and natural photography and attends the various churches of the benefice where he has got to meet people and make new friends. He has written detailed gardening articles for the Dennington News and currently sits on the Horticultural Society committee, so is hardly short of things to keep himself busy even though he has stopped helping others with their idiosyncratic land management schemes!

As told to *Mark Kendall*

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

On October 8<sup>th</sup> we had our **Harvest Festival** with the church looking absolutely wonderful – thank you so much to everyone who helped to make it look so beautiful and to everyone who came. The service was followed by the Harvest Lunch in the village hall which was a very happy get-together! Thank you so much to Julie, Penny and Janet for all their help providing such a delicious meal; we made a total of about £700 for the church. During the lunch we thanked Pauline and Robert Wardley for their many years of cleaning all the brass in the church – thank you so much again! Mandy Sayer and the wonderful team who help to clean the church do such a fantastic job – it is so much appreciated. The school had their Harvest Festival on the Monday and all the produce went to the Salvation Army.

The PCC had a very special lunch in the Dennington Queen to thank **Peter and Celia Reeve** for everything they do for the church. Peter has spent many years locking and unlocking the church every day and winding the clock weekly; together they have contributed so much, specially with the annual plant sale and looking after the rose beds.

The **Remembrance Sunday** service was very well attended and it was lovely to see so many people. The collection of £155 went to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The church was beautifully decorated for the **Candlelit Carol Service** and we had a fantastic congregation and luckily enough mince pies and mulled wine to go round. Thank you so much to everyone who decorated the church, brought refreshments and to all those who did a reading. The school carol service was on December 18<sup>th</sup> and it was wonderful that there were so many people there.



Many thanks to **Jim Carpenter** for keeping the churchyard looking so neat and tidy and of course so many thanks to **Brook Hoadley** who plays the organ so beautifully for us.

Sadly our priest **Martin Percival** is going to retire at the end of February. We are so grateful for all that he has done for us over the last 5 years and wish him and Linda all the very best for the future. We will let everyone know nearer the time of the exact timings of his last service at Dennington.

Regular services are 8am Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday, a family-friendly service on the 2nd Sunday followed by refreshments and 11am Holy Communion on the 4th Sunday of each month.

Wishing everyone a very happy 2024 and do remember that the church is always open in daylight hours for anyone to go into to either look around or to sit for a quiet moment.

*Veronica Maberly*

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## CREATE A CLUB OR EVENT FOR THE VILLAGE!

**Are you an inspired person? Have you ever thought of creating a fun activity for the local community?**

We have here in Dennington two amazing community assets, a large newly refurbished village hall and an amazing sports field, ideally situated and very specifically for residents to make use of. The Trustees are here to ensure that both are kept in the best possible shape but it's not our job to organise clubs or activities - we need inspired people like you with great ideas to come forward to make them happen. We will help you get them off the ground, but they must be driven by others.

In Dennington we have two regular community-driven activities - the badminton club on Monday evenings and the coffee mornings every other Thursday. Brandeston and Stradbroke village halls have the following events, all community led. Do any of these provide inspiration?

- \* film club \* table tennis \* toddler group \* art group
- \* whist drive \* wine society \* tennis club
- \* cricket and football for different age groups

Other places offer amateur dramatics and Framlingham has a popular community run youth club, while our sports field provides the opportunity for many different activities and it would be delightful to see organised games taking place there.

If you have any ideas and would like to discuss them, contact us. We can help you plan and get it off the ground and will encourage you all the way!!



*James Maberly*



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## LIBRARY NEWS: THE WONDER OF WORDS

As we start 2024 we are looking at the wonder of words. We have three author talks lined up, a children's design project to announce, StoryFRAM and some questions to ask you...

**StoryFRAM** - Five minutes Recounting An engaging Memory. Join a group who tell tales from their lives, this is a great way of building public confidence and sharing your tales of life's experiences with others. Come along and be a storyteller and/or listener in Fram Library, every 2nd Tuesday from 2-3pm, starting 9th January 2024.

On Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30pm we welcome **LC North**, author of *Clickbait*. Lauren writes psychological suspense novels that delve into the darker side of relationships and families.

On Monday 26th February at 7:00pm join **Russell Webb** talking about *Love Beyond Love*. This very personal and moving love story takes us from the anticipation of the very first date through to the moment of the very last breath and is raising funds for cancer and fire services charities.



On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm we have **Louis de Bernières**, who is raising funds for Framlingham Library in collaboration with Framlingham Book Shop and Ottie and The Bea. Louis will be sharing his poetry and talking about *Light over Liskeard*, his latest novel.

During February half term we will be asking children to share a **Library in a Box**

*Louis de Bernières*

– their design ideas for how our new children's area could look. At the time of writing, we have raised over £4,000 towards our target – thank you!

We want to hear from you. We have been asked about running a Menopause and Me Group, let us know what you think. We are also considering offering Leisure Learning courses in photography/languages/history – what interests you?

And if you have not already done so, please give your feedback to Suffolk County Council on the future of Suffolk Libraries. There is an online survey here <https://bit.ly/suffolklibrarysurvey>, or we have paper copies in the library if you prefer.

See you in the library!

*Vivian Bamford*

## DENNINGTON WI

We begin the New Year on January 10<sup>th</sup> with an entertainment in verse by Robin and Susan Franklin.

As our February meeting falls on Valentines Day, members and guests are looking forward to a supper provided by Emma Ward.

March 13<sup>th</sup> marks the end of this year's WI programme, with Spilling the Popcorn by Wayne Burns.

The new WI year begins in April when we will have another varied programme to look forward to.

Meetings are held in the village hall at 7.30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. New members and visitors are always welcome - so do come along and join us.

*Jenny Dyne*

## JOIN US FOR COFFEE MORNINGS!



The coffee mornings take place in the village hall at 10.30 every other Thursday and are a great way to meet new people as well as catch up with friends and all

the village news. More help is always welcome - please contact Binkie on 638813 for more details.

The next three months of coffee mornings will take place on the following dates:

4th and 18th January  
1st, 15th and 29th February  
14th and 28th March

Hope to see you soon!

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The next parish council meeting will take place on Monday, 8th January at 7.30pm in the village hall, and all are welcome. The minutes from the last meeting on 13th November 2023 are here <https://bit.ly/PCminutesNov23>, and the agenda for the next meeting is here <https://bit.ly/PCagendaJan24>. Further information can be found on the website <http://dennington.suffolk.cloud/parish-council>.





## Dennington Horticultural Club

Our November meeting saw Barry Gayton give a fascinating talk about planting for drier conditions, full of useful information about what survives best in a climate that, despite this year's exceptional rainfall, we can expect to see in the future. Suggestions included geraniums/cranesbill, grasses, eryngium, epimedium, euphorbia, rudbeckia, poppies, potentilla, succulents and anything with grey foliage, hairy stems or waxy leaves! He also has a fascinating garden, Desertworld, that can be visited near Thetford - phone 01842 814886 to book a visit.



This would have been the first meeting of a new membership year, but as no-one has come forward to take over as either secretary or treasurer, the committee has decided that for now we will put the Club on a non-membership basis, with occasional meetings that people can book and pay for on a one-off basis.

We are hoping to put a couple of talks into the diary for 2024. We have also been offered the opportunity for a private tour of Parham Hall (on the road to Wickham Market) on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, at £10 per head to include tea (funds going to a local charity). If you could like to book yourself onto this please email [jo.henry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jo.henry@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.

Finally - we were given a large sack of daffodil bulbs by East Suffolk Council that are now well overdue for planting! Bags with bulbs will be left in the church porch – please do take one if you can plant them where others can see them.

Jo Denton

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## FLOOD NEWS!

Storm Babet affected most of the country and particularly Suffolk. In Dennington, there was flooding in Owls Green and Capons Green as well as the centre of the village, with motorists having to be rescued in the middle of the night from water-logged cars while others were offered late night hospitality at the Dennington Queen and the village hall, as reported in the East Anglian Daily Times:

*"Staff at the Dennington Queen pub were praised after Desda Jordan and her 88-year-old mother were offered refuge during the storm. The pair had been staying at Westleton and were on their way home to Cambridge when flooded roads forced them to turn back. Desda said: "I decided to go to the pub as the light was on and they offered coffee and respite for us.*

*"The landlord offered meals for everyone as a good will gesture, and by then the pub was filling up with people from all over the country that were trying to travel home from the area.*

*"There was a communal spirit of support between all of us seeking refuge, and as it became dark in the evening the parish councillor opened up the village hall and the community offered blankets and bedding.*

*"My mother and I were two of five people offered a bed for the night by Robert Wardley and his wife Pauline who we will be forever grateful to.*

*"It was a traumatic situation to be in and trying to drive through flooded areas was nerve-racking but the staff at the Dennington Queen Pub were heroes on Friday and should be remembered for the kindness and humanity they showed to a large group of us needing refuge desperately."*

Extract from EADT: Suffolk heroes praised for lifesaving Storm Babet response, 23<sup>rd</sup>



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## DENNINGTON HALL FARMS



As farmers, all we can really talk about this autumn is the wet!



*Lifting the sugar beet*

By mid-October, despite difficult conditions, we thought that we were doing well with three quarters of the sugar beet lifted and drilled with wheat and all the winter wheat, barley and oil seed rape drilled. This should have just left the ploughing and the winter beans. But the intensity of the rain on October 20<sup>th</sup> was extraordinary and while we

didn't have buildings flooded the land has become totally saturated. The seed has rotted on a number of headlands and all the crops look stressed. We have managed to catch up most of the ploughing in the frost when we also spread and harrowed in the beans and just hope that they grow!



*Flooded roads*

But farming is all about coping and we were glad to help to rescue people from floods and get people home on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Now we look to 2024 with Rob Harvey's sheep grazing the wild farmed fields along the Severalls Road which will be planted in the spring with a mix of beans and wheat for a special premium market. When the fields eventually dry, we will also have spring barley and spring oats to drill along with the sugar beet.





*Sheep grazing a cover crop*

It has been a joy to see the flocks of finches feeding on the wild bird mix patches on the farm and we are hoping to join an Upper Alde and Ore Cluster Group. The hope is that this will encourage support from industry and government for

farmers to work together to create wider environmental benefits. It will be interesting to see how this develops.

In February the Suffolk Agricultural Association, which recently was awarded a King's Award for Voluntary Service, will be holding its "Tractors into Schools" when we hope many farmers will visit their local school to explain some aspect of farming life.

Robert Rous



# J. FELTON

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## FRIENDLY FRIDAYS

The last two Friendly Fridays were terrific fun. Kate Viscardi put on a really splendid spread for the November curry evening with around 40 people filling the hall to enjoy her selection of spicy and mild dishes taken from her Anglo-Indian husband's cookbook: his recipe for Hyderabad Masala Ghost is given on page 28. The food was paired with delicious wines appropriate for curry supplied by local wine merchants Case-Sera wines, who are based in Owls Green and can be contacted by telephone on 01728 638 395 or by email on [everich@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:everich@globalnet.co.uk).



In December over 50 people gathered to compete in the Quiz with a Difference, with rounds as diverse as guessing the alcohol in the Christmas cake to identifying mystery objects in a box. The raffle, held in aid of the village hall roof fund, offered a fabulous range of prizes including a hamper sponsored by Fairweather Law, a voucher kindly donated by the Dennington Queen and a manicure voucher donated by Katie Rust. Overall we raised £180.

Kate and I and the other Trustees have very much enjoyed putting on these Friendly Friday events and would like to thank everyone who came along to enjoy them – and particular thanks to all those who helped us along the way, setting up, clearing up and even manning the bar on occasion! We do not currently have plans for more suppers in 2024 – but the hall is available if anyone does want to continue this tradition.

Jo Denton

## OBITUARY: PENELOPE (PENNY) ANNE MANSELL EVERS

1943-2023



Born in Farnborough in 1943 to parents in the Royal Air Force, Penny grew up in Yorkshire before moving back down south to West Sussex. At school (and as per some hilarious reports discovered by her children), she was a bit of a terror, excelling more on the

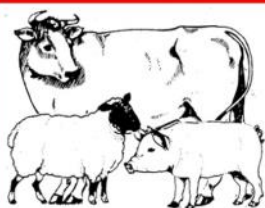
tennis court and cricket pitch, where she opened the batting, than in the classroom. After secretarial college she moved to London and by all accounts had as much fun as one would expect of someone in their 20s living in London in the 1960s! She became Executive Assistant to various highflying businessmen before emigrating to Canada in the late 60s. This was, however, short-lived, and on her return to the UK she ended up working for former Conservative Cabinet Minister Aubrey Jones, who took her with him to Nigeria as part of a team preparing a report on trade and investment opportunities. She was there for a few years before a return to the UK, where she worked as Secretary at Cranleigh School (the start of a long association with schools).

In 1981, on a skiing holiday with her parents, she met (and within 2 weeks was engaged to) Chris, who at the time was Headmaster of West Hill Park School near Southampton. Their children Toby and Sophie arrived in quick succession, with the family moving to Cheam School in Berkshire, before retirement lead them to Oxfordshire. With children out of their hair, Chris and Penny spent

a very enjoyable 9 years in Brittany before moving to Dennington in 2016 to be closer to family.

Many will remember her for the delicious cakes at coffee mornings, her launch of the Horticultural Club, which she was thrilled to see continue, and her general loveliness. After her beloved Chris passed away in March things became a bit tougher, but family and village life kept her going until her cancer (something which many would not have been aware that she had suffered from for many years) quickly took hold.

Whilst Chris and Penny only lived in Dennington for a short while, they loved getting involved in village life. The family were touched to see so many at their funerals this year, and will look forward to dropping into the Neathouse and pub whenever passing through in the years to come.



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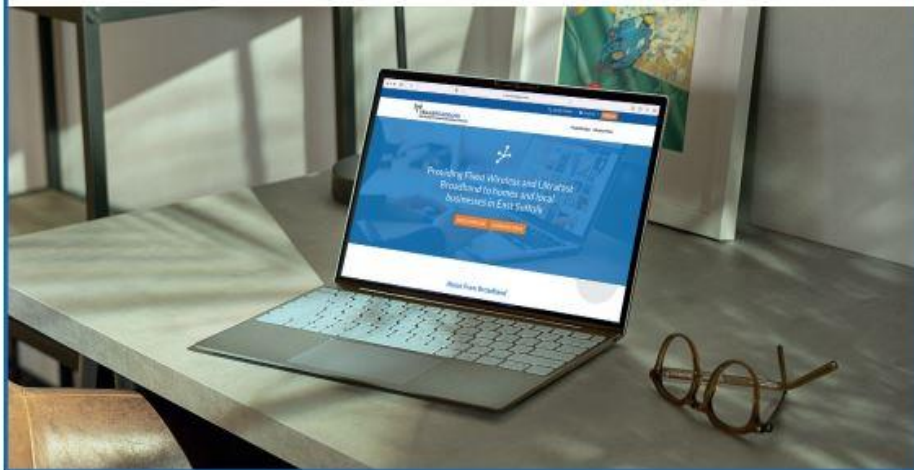
## East Suffolk's local independent ISP

**Looking for locally supported broadband with a personal touch? We've got you covered**

Based in Framlingham, with cover over most of North-East Suffolk, and South-East Norfolk we offer Fibre and Fixed Wireless broadband, with packages up to 900Mbps, and digital voice/VOIP telephony.

We have a commitment to long-term sustainable pricing, shorter contracts and friendly local support.

**For more info: 01728 726507 or  
[info@frambroadband.com](mailto:info@frambroadband.com)**





## HYDERABAD MASALA GHOST

### Ingredients:

450g / 1lb meat  
1 large onion  
40 mm / 1.5 inch piece of ginger  
10 cloves garlic  
3 dry or fresh red chillies  
1 tsp tumeric  
290 ml / 0.5 pint yoghurt  
6 peppercorns  
3 pieces cinnamon  
2 cardamoms  
4 cloves  
2 tbsp ghee and another 1-2 tbsp for frying at end

### Method:

Wash the meat, slice the onion and chop the ginger and garlic finely. Beat the yoghurt well and mix in the tumeric. Break or cut the chillies into 3 pieces each.

Heat the ghee until it smokes, then fry the onions gently until they become translucent. Add the garlic and fry for about a minute, then add the meat and all the other ingredients. Seal the saucepan with a tight lid and leave to cook on a low heat. No water is needed. Let it cook for 45 minutes.

Unseal the saucepan, add more ghee and fry uncovered until the meat is reddish brown. Serve hot.

Kate Viscardi



## MY FIRST YEAR ON THE DENNINGTON ALLOTMENTS

After a couple of years of hearing chat about my cousin's allotment and how enjoyable the experience had been, I really fancied following up on an old dream and finding out if I could get a little plot for myself. I've always had a visual fascination in allotments with all the quirky sheds, interestingly sourced garden supports and mishmash of bits and pieces, creating in my eye a beautiful vegetable haven. But I did feel a sense of trepidation in joining an allotment, believing that everybody else would be veggie experts with a critical view of my amateur methods and lack of knowledge - but I very quickly found out that was definitely not the case here.

It was much to my delight that, when I asked about a plot, I discovered that yes, a half plot was available and would I be interested in taking it on? It was after the drought of 2022 and the soil was solid as a rock. It was very difficult to manage and very weedy. When I did find time to get down to the allotment to tackle it, the rains started and my plot turned into a big, muddy mess. It wasn't until the spring of last year that I finally managed to get it a little bit under control and planted



those greatly anticipated seeds. I certainly got completely carried away in ordering too many, one of the delights of a new seed catalogue! My husband tried to reign in my desire to have all the multicoloured heritage carrots, beetroot, and a thousand different types of runner beans and French beans, advising me to get reliable and good cropping vegetables to start with. Great advice!

Roll on summer when, as a family of six, we enjoyed a season of new potatoes, multiple types of bean, salads, too many courgettes of course, pumpkins and those wonderful beetroot. Not forgetting the bountiful strawberries from an inherited patch. The only slight

sticking point was being away for the month of August. Thank goodness for good friends who came to our aid with watering and picking the bounty.

It must have been a great experience because now I'm doubling the size of my plot. I can't wait to start again!

Putting my initial worries at rest, I've really enjoyed meeting the other allotmenters, having chats with them and whiling away the days seeing and hearing about what everybody is getting up to. It's not intimidating at all, but deeply encouraging, inspiring and very rewarding!

*Sam Mosse*

Interested in an allotment? Email: [pstevensturner@gmail.com](mailto:pstevensturner@gmail.com).

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 100 CLUB WINNERS!

The 100 club numbers are drawn once a month at the Thursday morning coffee meeting, with a first prize of £25, a second prize of £15, a third prize of £10 and a fourth prize of £5. To find out if there are any spare tickets (£12 each), please contact organiser Pamela Turner on [pstevensturner@gmail.com](mailto:pstevensturner@gmail.com).

	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
<b>1st</b>	Keir Wyatt	Frank Balaam	Clive Tanner
<b>2nd</b>	William Rous	William Rous	Richard Ablett
<b>3rd</b>	Pene Welham	Henry Steward	Jane Neill
<b>4th</b>	Debbie Holland	Chris Thomas	Charles Denton

**Please send all stories or items to be included in the next issue, which covers April-June 2024, to the Editor no later than 20th March. Send via email to [denningtonnews@gmail.com](mailto:denningtonnews@gmail.com) or via post to Spring Farm House, The Street, Dennington IP13 8JF. Please send pictures and advertisements as jpeg attachments.**

## DIARY OF EVENTS JANUARY-MARCH 2024

Date	Event	Location
4th January	Coffee morning	Village hall
9th January	Start of StoryFRAM	Framlingham library
9th January	Cribbage season restarts	Dennington Queen
10th January	WI meeting	Village hall
18th January	Coffee morning	Village hall
1st February	Coffee morning	Village hall
3rd February	LC North author talk	Framlingham library
14th February	WI meeting	Village hall
15th February	Coffee morning	Village hall
26th February	Russell Webb author talk	Framlingham library
29th February	Coffee morning	Village hall
13th March	WI meeting	Village hall
14th March	Louis de Bernieres author talk	Framlingham library
14th March	Coffee morning	Village hall
28th March	Coffee morning	Village hall