



Dennington News

Issue 42: October-December 2025

Produced by Dennington Village Hall
www.denningtonvillagehall.com

The Dennington Queen

With winter on its way & the days getting shorter, the Dennington Queen transforms into a cosy, warm & inviting country pub. With our three open log fires crackling away, you can while away the hours drinking our local beers, sipping a cocktail, sharing a bottle with friends or eating something delicious from our seasonal menu.

Due to the change in seasons we have now stopped serving pizzas, including our take away service; we will start again next spring. Our Christmas party menu is now available to view - see our website for more information. And come & see our Halloween decorations this year, & then come & join us in the pub with the kids after they've been out for trick & treating!

As you may have noticed from our car park we are busier than ever, so we would just like to thank everyone in the village & surrounding areas for your continued support. In an era when a lot of pubs are closing or struggling we are truly thankful for this.

For bookings call 01728 63824 — we hope to see you soon!

Jon & Lorna Reeves



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

There is lots going on in the village this autumn, I do hope you will find plenty of opportunities for socialising with friends and neighbours! The village hall is launching Film Nights—see pages 12 and 13 for details — with a free event to mark this new initiative, and there is a supper club taking place on 15th November, with a delicious East Asian meal on offer (see pages 16/17).

There are plenty of Christmas events to enjoy too, from the Christmas party in the village hall on 6th December (see page 14), the Christmas tree lights switch-on on 30th November (see page 15), the annual visit from Father Christmas on 19th December (see page 22), and a Christmas Makers Market in the village hall on 22nd November (see page 34).

In addition, there are all the usual events and meetings in the village hall, as well as a special offer by Donna Roche, who is training as a Qi Gong instructor and is putting on free classes from the middle of October—see page 23. The Remembrance Service will take place on 9th November, as well as another Messy Morning in the church during half term.

I do hope you enjoy all the articles we have in this quarter's magazine—let me know if you have anything to suggest for future issues.

Jo Denton, Editor

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DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL



There has been much activity over the summer. First of all, the railings on the patio have been painted black. This makes such a difference as they sit quietly, almost disappearing as you look through them and no longer with an industrial feel. To finish it off, we have just put in some large tubs with seasonal plants and climbers to add a little colour and visual appeal.

The new cinema is currently being set up by David Pardey. This is a really exciting venture (see pages 12 and 13 for full details), which could also be used for corporate training. Suffice to say it will be a welcome addition to our facilities and will offer a much needed point of easy entertainment for the community.

Many thanks to Keir Wyatt for giving the Rointe heating system a clean start. We hope now that it will operate far more efficiently and will hopefully reduce the current costs we are paying for heating.

Do check out our booking page to see if any of the many activities now on offer in the village hall appeal.

Parties and weddings. Don't forget what an amazing location the hall is for either a wedding or a party. Massive car parking facilities and a huge space which can comfortably hold many more people than most other halls in the district. See the website for further details.

James Maberly, Chair of the Trustees

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ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTICES

This autumn, we have lots going on in the parish:



Autumn Messy Morning, 10am-12noon, Wednesday, 29th October in St. Mary's, Dennington

All ages welcome, under 5s to be accompanied by an adult. On offer: Crafts – Food – Art – Sensory Play – Bug hunting.

To book, please contact Revd Claire Kiddy on 07469 718695.

Shining the Light Workshop, 2pm-3.30pm, All Hallows Eve Friday, 31st October in St John's, Badingham

In this workshop we will be discovering, through crafts and stories, ways of shining light in the dark. We will be making lanterns for you to take home or you may like to take the light with you if you are going trick or treating. On offer: Crafts – Stories – Hot Chocolate – Sparkle cakes – Marshmallows. Suitable for ages 5-11 years. Under 5s may prefer to come and go anytime between 2pm – 3.30pm.

Remembrance Sunday Service on 9th November at St Mary's Dennington will begin at the earlier time of 10.45am.

The Carol Service will be held at 5.00 pm on 14th December and

The Christmas Day Service at 10.00 am on 25th December.

Revd Claire Kiddy

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VILLAGE PERSONALITY: STEVE GOUGH

Steve was born in Hammersmith in 1948, where his father, after returning from the war, initially worked as a British Rail parcel delivery driver and his mother worked in a tea and coffee packing outlet. Eventually his father became a lock keeper at Shiplake lock and the family moved - by steam tug and barge – to live on an island in the middle of the Thames, in a house that had no electricity and no mains water. Steve attended Shiplake primary school where he was



often mistaken for a girl due to his gorgeous blond curly hair! At secondary school, he was in the bottom stream until a diligent teacher spotted his enthusiasm and clear appetite for learning and promoted him, a major turning point in his educational development.

At 15, Steve became an apprentice electrician for the Southern Electricity board where he earned £3 a week, attending technical college once a week. He loved it, mixing theory with on-the-job practical experience. Fully qualified at 21, Steve went to work for Rank Xerox in London where he was called to some prestigious locations, including Buckingham Palace, Scotland Yard and the American Embassy. Time off was spent at Henley Rugby & Rowing Club.

Life in the Home Counties was sweet, yet Steve was restless for a new challenge. As a 13 year old boy he had spent six weeks in and

around Patterdale, where his love of the Outward Bound life began. Some years later he took a trip north to look at three adventure based centres with his then girlfriend, who later became his first wife, and was offered a post at Aberdovey which came with a house so declined the offer of a well-remunerated branch manager's position with Rank Xerox. Steve had already mastered the practical basics years before and could sail, climb and canoe competently. He used these skills to good effect, taking groups into the great outdoors for bonding and character building exercises.

His next move was to Rhownia Outward Bound Centre as Warden, acting as a volunteer helmsmen for the Aberdovey lifeboat for 14 years. Steve had two children: Callum, who now works for DEFRA in the fisheries department, and Fiona, who works for the NHS. In 1989 changes to Steve's personal life saw him move from Outward Bound into health care as Director of Operations at the brand new AMI Priory hospital in Birmingham, where he lived on a narrow boat on the Grand Union Canal, driving to Wales at the weekends to see his children. Six months later he was fast-tracked to the post of Executive Director of the Chaucer hospital in Canterbury his predecessor having been sacked the day before! He moved from the Midlands to Kent, had his own secretary and a large office. At his first staff meeting he disclosed: "I have learnt a lot about people [at Outward Bound] but have never managed a hospital". The staff warmed to his honesty and his walkabouts, ability to listen and open door policy created a happy hospital devoid of hierarchy and a culture where all staff were valued for their contribution, regardless of their position.

Each year the company held an Employee of the Year awards ceremony in London. In 1993 the Director of the Windsor hospital brought along his newly appointed Director of Nursing, Jennie, who Steve rescued her from an overzealous dance partner on the dance floor. Their next encounter was work related. Steve needed to appoint a new Director of Nursing and asked Jennie to take part

in the interview panel. The rest is history, and they married in 2000!

Steve retired in 2007, taking a two month holiday to Australasia where he met up with an old Outward Bound friend from some 30 years ago. Steve and Jennie stayed happily in the Kent until 2024. The South East seemed to be getting busier and busier, and Steve was becoming disillusioned by the scale of development. Jennie had a cousin in Suffolk so they came exploring. They fell in love with Pound Cottage and Dennington, the slower, gentler pace of life here seducing them. Steve has retained his past hospital connection as Patron of the charity 'Odyssey', which he founded in 1994 with a friend and oncology colleague, Howard Smedley. The charity uses the outdoors and is designed to help people with cancer to regain their self-confidence and zest for life. It has helped numerous people over the years and is still very much in demand today.

As told to Mark Kendall

DENNINGTON QUEEN'S CRIBBAGE TEAM

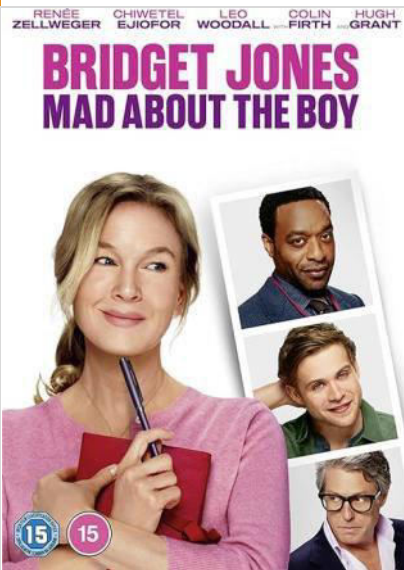


The 25/26 season kicked off on 16th September, heralding another autumn and winter of good card playing evenings. Our thanks go to John and his team at the Dennington Queen for hosting us again this season – it really is appreciated.

Hopefully, we will finish somewhat higher in the league this time! Whilst we do play in a league, the emphasis is very much on enjoying the evening and as ever, we would welcome new players, both ladies and gents. If you are interested in playing, even occasionally, do **please contact David Sutherns on 01728-638368.**

ANNOUNCING FILM NIGHTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL!

Those of you who have used the village hall recently may have noticed some odd posts appearing on the wall; more recently you may have seen a screen fastened to them and now two speakers. This is all to get a new project under way – **Film Nights**. We have been given the screen by Framlingham College and a generous grant from the Dennington Combined Charities has enabled us to buy a cinema quality projector and sound system. The Trustees would like to express their thanks to them.



On **Friday, 24th October**, we will be showing our first film, *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy* (Cert. 15), the latest and probably last in the hugely popular series, starring Renée Zellweger, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Leo Woodall (with a guest appearance from Hugh Grant). Combining the usual mix of pathos and slapstick humour, this is also being shown **FREE**, as a way of celebrating our new venture. Adults and older teens only I'm afraid, but we look forward to seeing you on our opening night!

On **Friday, November 14th**, as a complete contrast, we are planning to show *Mr Burton* (Cert. 12A). The film tells the story of the young Richard Jenkins, who was taken under the wing of his teacher, Philip Burton (the ineffable Toby Jones), who helps the young man overcome his childhood problems to become one of the greatest actors of his age, adopting his teacher's surname in the process.

The third film on our schedule is a John Le Carré-style thriller, *Black*

Bag (Cert. 15) to be shown on **Friday, 12th December**. National Cyber Security (NCSC) agent George Woodhouse (Michael Fassbender) is tasked with identifying a mole in the agency. His list of five suspects includes four of his agency friends and colleagues at the NCSC, with the fifth being his beloved wife Kathryn St. Jean (Cate Blanchett). **Put these dates in your diary now!**

Normal ticket prices will be £5 (under 14s £3) but *Bridget Jones* will be free entry. The doors - and the bar - will open at 7.00pm, with the film starting at 7.30. We look forward to seeing you.

As a reminder:

- ◆ Certificate 15 means no one younger than 15 may see it
- ◆ Certificate 12A means no one younger than 12 is allowed in unless they are accompanied by an adult, who should consider whether or not it is suitable for them

We hope to put on some family orientated films and films for younger audiences, especially over Christmas. Any ideas you may have, please get in touch and let me know: David Pardey on davidpardey@gmail.com. Dates and films for future showings will be advertised on our website (www.denningtonvillagehall.com) and FaceBook page, plus via NextDoor. Or sign up for news from the village hall on the website and hear about future events!

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Community

Christmas
PARTY



SATURDAY

6th



DEC

7 pm



DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL

All welcome!

DENNINGTON 100 CLUB

The monthly draw for the village hall 100 club is done every other Thursday coffee morning. First prize is £25, second prize is £15, third prize is £10 and fourth place is £5. For further information, please email dennington100club@gmail.com. The latest results are as follows:

	June	July	August	September
1st	Melanie Church	David Griffiths	Jenny Dyne	Melanie Church
2nd	Charles Denton	Chris Thomas	Lisa Lunn	Robert Wardley
3rd	Janet Wyatt	Pamela Turner	Barbara Sutherns	Tristan Kendall
4th	Henry Steward	Mary Mann	Danny Keating	Pamela Turner

Pamela Turner

DENNINGTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

SUNDAY 30TH
NOVEMBER

From

Lights on

17:30 18:00

ON THE VILLAGE
GREEN

THE BAKING JIN'S DENNINGTON SUPPER CLUB



The Baking Jin – now based in Owl's Green – started a baking business in Cambridge in early 2020, having won the Cambridge Bake Off in 2015. His passion is for making chiffon cakes, a light-as-air treat that is particularly popular in his native East Asia as well as Australasia. "Lock down helped my business", he says, having seen a growing demand for the delicious dessert boxes

produced in his tiny kitchen for an appreciative Cambridge audience. But needing a bigger space to cook in, he eventually moved his business to Owl's Green, where he now has a state-of-the art, solar powered, kitchen in his converted garage.

In Owl's Green he started by putting out cakes and bread for passing trade during the latter days of lockdown. Once businesses could open up again he moved onto offering a coffee counter on the last Sunday of the four summer months, opening 10am-1.30pm, and he then launched supper clubs for 12 or so guests on his premises.



Jin's special East Asian flavours have proved so popular that he is now putting on his first supper club in Dennington Village Hall, **on Saturday, 15th November from 6-9pm**. You can secure your place for what promises to be a delicious evening here: <https://www.thebakingjin.com/supperclub>. Numbers are limited, so book early.



He continues to offer his delicious chiffon bakes for pick up (customers have even been



known to come from London to collect!) or for delivery in the local area; prices and details can be found on his website here www.thebakingjin.com.

As told to Jo Denton





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SJPI17101 BI (02/22)

We are now into a new school year and the children have settled into their new classes, in particular our new reception children who have been making many friends across the school. It has been lovely to see the older children taking on a caring role and helping our new Chaffinches when needed.

Over the next month we are looking forward to attending a number of services at St Mary's Church, including a harvest service where the children donate food to the Salvation Army.



children really worked hard to transform into their characters,

At the end of last term, the children performed our fantastic summer play *Mary Poppins*. The



they sang beautifully whilst dancing a number of choreographed dances. They all looked fantastic in their costumes, and it was a great end to our school year!

Jenny Turner, Teacher

WILL YOU GET INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Community organisations such as the Dennington Sports and Social Club are under pressure. Running an organisation can be expensive, with rising costs for energy, maintenance, insurance, licensing. Relying on membership fees and bar sales alone is often not enough to stay afloat, especially with declining footfall. The reluctance of residents to get involved is often a critical factor, along with a broader set of challenges:

- ♦ **Declining Volunteerism:** This is the most direct and pressing issue. Traditionally, clubs have been run by dedicated volunteers who manage everything from bar duty and groundskeeping to finances and event planning. With people's lives becoming busier, and with a general decline in "formal" volunteering, finding people willing and able to take on these roles is increasingly difficult.
- ♦ **Changing Social Habits:** Modern life offers a vast array of leisure activities that didn't exist when these clubs were founded. The "one-stop shop" for social life that a village club once represented is no longer a necessity for many.
- ♦ **Demographic Shifts:** As new people move into villages, particularly those very focused on work-life balance or with less connection to the traditional village identity, there may not be such a sense of ownership or responsibility towards local organisations.
- ♦ **Perception:** For some, these clubs may even be seen as exclusive or unwelcoming, with a reputation for being for a certain generation or a specific social group, which can deter people from getting involved.

What Happens If Local Organisations Disappear?

I believe that the disappearance of these clubs would have a

profound and detrimental effect on the fabric of village life:

- ♦ **Loss of a Community Hub:** These clubs are often the last remaining central point for a village to gather that is not a school or a church. They are crucial in combating social isolation; without them, there's a risk of increased loneliness and a fragmentation of the community.
- ♦ **Erosion of Social Cohesion:** Village clubs are where people from diverse backgrounds and generations meet, share news, and build a collective identity. The loss of these spaces weakens the social glue that holds a community together.
- ♦ **Loss of Accessible Recreation Spaces:** Many clubs provide the only local facilities for sports, especially for children and amateur leagues. Their closure can lead to a lack of affordable and local facilities, impacting public health and community well-being.

So – are YOU ready to come and help us? We in the Sports and Social Club would love new people to get involved and suggest new ideas!

We especially need, most urgently, a new Treasurer from the beginning of 2026.

Being involved is a fulfilling opportunity for anyone. Projects such as upgrading the playground can give you a huge sense of satisfaction, knowing the fun and enjoyment it will bring to so many children in the village. Other ideas include putting in a cycle track with mounds to make an interesting but fun challenge for slightly older children – but like everything, this will not happen without a little effort and determination to get them over the line. We just need some extra help.

Contact me now on 07986 965576 for an informal chat to start!

Tim Mosse, Chair, Sports & Social Club



FATHER CHRISTMAS COMES TO DENNINGTON

FRIDAY 19TH

DECEMBER

FROM
18:00

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Try Qi Gong for free in Dennington Village Hall every Wednesday morning from 15th October, 10.30am-12.00 noon. Donations accepted, with all funds to the village hall (suggested amount £5)



Qi Gong is commonly referred to as “The Art Of Effortless Movement”. Combined with **deep breathing and meditation** it helps cultivate positive life-force energy, promoting healing from within.

I found Qi Gong during lockdown; it was so impactful that I have carried on studying and training to be a teacher of this ancient practice. Now, as part of my studies, I would like to offer everyone the opportunity to share the experience of Qi Gong for the next six months; no charge but donations accepted for village hall funds.

Enjoy more energy, relieve stress, and balance your emotions. Qi Gong focuses on holistic health, or “whole being” health, by addressing all of who you are: mind, body, and spirit. While Qi Gong has ancient origins, its ability to help reduce stress makes it perfect for modern life and is accessible to all as it can be done seated. Qi Gong helps you stay grounded, centred and peaceful.

My roots lie in holistic health and well-being. I am passionate about helping people to live a healthier, stress free life. Qi Gong offers this support and I would love to share it with you. Please call **07464 256813** or email naturalsdonna@aol.co.uk to book a place.

Donna Roche, holistic health practitioner

LETTER FROM THE LIBRARY

Thank You Card Winners: We were delighted with the fantastic response to our thank you card design competition! Three winners have been selected, and we will be using their designs to thank everyone who helped us raise funds for our children's library.

Meet Spotfire: Our stained-glass window dragon in the children's library now has a name! Following our hugely successful "Knights go Pop" event with Suffolk Swords and Pop Chorus, we chose "Spotfire" - perfect for a fire-breathing, spotted dragon.

Art Exhibition: Our next featured Art Exhibition will be by Framlingham Art Society from 21st October. There are other opportunities from early spring onwards, so please drop in and have a chat if you would like to display your work.

Poetry Month: October is the traditional month for poetry –and we will be exploring “Pumpkin Poetry” during half term week.

The Mushroom Show: Sunday, 26th October at 10:00am. Augustine Fogwoode might be the world's MOST enthusiastic mushroom enthusiast! She is on a quest to make sure everyone knows about the brilliance of fungi, their scientific superpowers and amazing abilities. But it's just her and her puppet friend Goldie. She might just need a few more fun-guys to make it happen. Join the party and discover how fungi grow, connect and help the natural world, including us humans. Packed full of interactive games, playful music and lots of laughs for all the family, The Mushroom Show is one person's mission to build a community... and maybe it'll become your mission too? Book online via the Suffolk Community Libraries website.

100 Years' Celebration Planning: Help us mark Framlingham's public library centennial this November! Drop in with ideas, memories of

the library's various locations, or experiences of how libraries have changed over the decades.

Fall Prevention Classes: These started on Wednesday, 10th September. You can self-refer for a place on one of the strength and balance classes; more information in the library or via the Suffolk Community Libraries website.

NHS App: We're piloting NHS app workshops, running drop in and walk-through sessions on the NHS App. Drop-ins on 7th October at 3:00pm or 30th October at 3:30pm; walk-throughs on 13th October and 4th November, both at 3:00pm.

See you in the library!

Vivia Bamford



Please send all stories or items to be included in the next issue, which covers January-March 2026, to the Editor no later than 18th December. Send via email to denningtonnews@gmail.com, or via post to Spring Farm House, The Street, Dennington IP13 8JF. Please send pictures and advertisements as jpeg attachments.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

A parish council is the first tier of local government, representing the interests of its community, and parish councillors are volunteers who give their time for the good of the village. The parish council is funded through a small portion of your council tax, known as the “precept.” Parish councils manage local facilities, comment on planning applications in the village, look after open spaces such as village greens, support community projects and act as a voice for residents with other councils and agencies.

Recently, we have reinstalled the entrance sign on Badingham Road and replaced some of the oak posts around the oak tree in The Square. We’ve also added new ‘dogs on leads’ and ‘please clear up after your dog’ signs at the sports field and allotments in response to rising concerns about dog mess here. We also organise the mowing schedule for communal grass areas – but we need more volunteers. If you’d be willing to join our rota and cut the grass once a month or every six weeks, we’d love to hear from you. Training on the tractor mower is provided and you will be fully covered by our insurance. Many hands make light work!

While we are not responsible for highways issues such as potholes or flooding on public roads, we work closely with our County Councillor, Stephen Burroughes, who can arrange meetings with our Highways Liaison Engineer to try and resolve concerns. We also stay in regular contact with our District Councillor, Vince Langdon-Morris, who attends parish council meetings whenever he can.

We are exploring the idea of reviving the village’s Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and would love your views. Would you join it, or do you think there are better ways nowadays to share crime prevention advice and alerts around the village?

Residents are always welcome at our bi-monthly meetings. Following feedback, we've moved the public section of the meeting to the beginning, so you can raise issues and then choose whether or not to stay for the rest of the meeting. We would love to see more residents attend these. If transport is a problem, please let us know and we will try to help.

We currently have a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you are enthusiastic and keen to get involved, please contact the clerk or speak to our Chairman, Robert Wardley. Please contact denningtonpcclerk@gmail.com / www.dennington-pc.gov.uk for more information.

The next PC meeting is 10th November, while meeting dates for 2026 have already been agreed. All meetings start at 7.30pm (except in May) and are held in the meeting room at the village hall. Dates are: 19th January, 16th March, 11th May (7pm start – Annual Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting), 6th July, 14th September and 16th November. Extra meetings will be called as necessary.

What's happening with devolution & local government reorganisation?

You may have heard the terms “devolution” and “local government reorganisation” mentioned recently. Suffolk is currently undergoing big changes, with proposals to give more decision-making powers and funding to councils at a local level. The aim is to bring services closer to communities, making them more responsive and effective.

The current plan is to replace the two-tier system (county council and district/borough councils) with one or more “unitary” councils delivering all the local services. We will also be having an elected mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk, responsible for strategic decisions like transport, economic growth and regional planning. Mayoral

elections are expected to be held in May 2026.

For residents, the hope is that things will become simpler – fewer councils to deal with, clearer responsibility for services and potentially more local influence. For parish councils like ours, the changes shouldn't have a major direct impact. However, we may be invited in the future to take on extra assets or responsibilities and we will keep residents updated as things progress.

Following public consultations, the proposals from Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council were submitted to the government on 26th September. While residents have been consulted on how a new unitary structure should look, the final decision will rest with central government.

Lydia Kindred, Clerk & RFO
Dennington Parish Council



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SUPER-BIKERS RACE THROUGH DENNINGTON

Tuesday, 2nd September saw this year's Tour of Britain Men return to East Suffolk. The opening stage of Britain's biggest professional cycle race departed from Woodbridge and finished in Southwold, some 100 miles later, taking in Dennington as they went. Unfortunately, the heavens opened just before they reached the village, but many braved the weather to cheer them on.

Pictures taken by Robert Wardley





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DENNINGTON HALL FARMS



As the evenings draw in and the leaves turn from green to brown it's the time to look back over the past few months on the farm. We kicked off harvest early this year, starting on 30th June with winter barley. Conditions were favourable, and both the barley and the following oilseed rape exceeded expectations, delivering strong yields.



The combine rolled straight into the wheat, with cutting beginning on 15th July, one of the earliest wheat harvests we have ever known. The first week went smoothly, with both yield and quality looking good. However, a sharp change in the weather brought 60mm of rain at the end of July, which slowed progress and marked the beginning of a tougher period of lower yields and quality.

Overall, yields were 10–15% below our five-year average, with spring crops hit particularly hard. Spring barley and spring wheat were down on yield by as much as 35%, the result of an exceptionally dry spring that limited growth just when the plants really needed moisture. There were other challenges too, including the vining peas suffering from a virus that meant they never podded properly. More positively, the weather through August held up well, meaning less time and fuel spent drying grain, a small silver lining to an otherwise gloomy harvest.

As I write, sugar beet lifting has begun. Early indications are encouraging, with yields and sugar content both looking good. Beet is always a crop that can surprise us. It goes to show how resilient the sugar beet plant is given that it suffered a prolonged

period of drought in the early stages.

Meanwhile, autumn drilling is well under way. Winter barley and oilseed rape are in the ground, along with a range of cover crops. These mixes, including clovers, vetches, mustard, buckwheat and radishes, help protect and build soil health over the winter months, whilst also supporting insects and wildlife. These fields will be grazed by sheep at the beginning of next year, before being planted with spring barley or oats. Soil remains central to everything we do at Dennington Hall Farms. We continue to follow a regenerative approach, keeping tillage to a minimum, rotating diverse crops, and encouraging biodiversity across the farm. Worm counts are increasing and birdlife is flourishing along the field margins, and it is rewarding to see the land responding to the changes we have introduced over recent years. We have recently completed a vegetation and invertebrate survey with encouraging results. This sets a baseline to enable us to monitor environmental progress in the coming years as we transition into a more regenerative farming system.



Once the combine had been cleaned and put to bed we held our end-of-harvest BBQ on for local residents of Dennington and Badingham. Guests had the chance to see the farm equipment up close, chat with the staff and neighbours and enjoy a Dennington Hall Farms Red Poll beef

burger. On cue as we started the heavens opened with heavy rain, thunder and lightning - perhaps quite fitting for a BBQ that summed up this year's tricky harvest! But if the weather dampened the ground, it certainly did not dampen spirits. Around 180 people came along and we enjoyed a fantastic evening of food and conversation. We are proud to be part of the Dennington community and always happy to talk about what is happening in

the fields and around the farm. If you are walking along the lanes or permissive paths this autumn and wonder what is growing, do stop and ask. We also continue to welcome school groups keen to learn more about farming and food production. These visits are always a highlight, as the enthusiasm and questions from children remind us how important it is to share the story of farming with the next generation.



Harvest is a team effort, and this year was no different. Our staff worked long hours through July and August, often well into the night, to get the crop safely in. We are grateful for their dedication and also for the patience of local residents during the harvest period when tractors and trailers are so frequently on the roads.

As winter approaches, the focus shifts to establishing crops, machinery maintenance, livestock coming in for the winter and strategic grain marketing. Farming is always a long game. Every decision we make now influences the harvest next year. Aside from the arable farming, our three nanny Boer goats kidded at the beginning of September. There is always something special about young livestock being born and grazing the fields with their mothers.



If anybody is interested in our fresh sustainable meat boxes, please sign up to the mailing list. We will have our woodland and pasture pork ready very soon, alongside the Red Poll beef and wild venison. From all of us at Dennington Hall Farms, thank you for your support and interest. We wish you a restful autumn and winter.

Ryan McCormack, Farm Manager, Dennington Hall Farms



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MAKERS

Afternoon

Saturday 22nd

November

From 14:30

Crafting

wreaths

Stalls

AT DENNINGTON
VILLAGE HALL

DENNINGTON ARTS SUMMER EXHIBITION

The Dennington Arts Summer 2025 Exhibition was a fantastic display of paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics and sculpture by fourteen selected artists, from the local area and beyond. It was a very busy weekend



with many visitors. We were delighted that sales were higher than in previous years, given the current economic conditions.

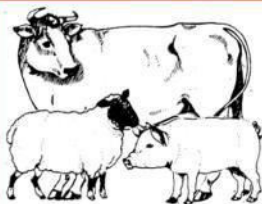
We now have artists looking to show their work; a testament to the good name this exhibition has achieved in a very short time.

We remember Rose Mckenzie, the founder of Dennington Arts, fondly and hope she would have been proud of the success of the exhibition.

Thank you to the people of Dennington and loyal visitors who support this exhibition every year. We look forward to seeing you next summer!

Dennington Arts





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Deliveries to Dennington on Thursday Evenings



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DENNINGTON WI

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall. We welcome any visitors, should one of our topics be of interest. The programme for the next 3 months is:

8th October: Prison Officer and Raptor Trainer, Megan Riches

12th November: Annual General Meeting

3rd December: Christmas meal supplied by Emma Ward

It's been quite a busy summer! In July a group travelled to Aldeburgh and enjoyed the theatre production. We have also taken part in the district quiz, while a number of members have enjoyed a variety of craft workshops.

The tubs have provided a colourful entrance to the hall during the summer and will shortly be replanted with winter pansies.

Jenny Dyne

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Dennington Village Hall

Coffee Mornings

Every other Thursday from 10.30am - 11.45am, coffee mornings are held in the village hall where coffee or tea and homemade cakes are served and people meet up for a chat.



Everyone is welcome, so do please come and join us!

The dates for the next few months are:

2nd, 16th and 30th October

13th and 27th November

11th December and 8th January

£3 per person for coffee or tea and cake

BEYOND THE WEATHER

ART AT WINGFIELD BARNs 2025

Sherie Brinkley

Solo exhibition

Beyond the Weather

Wingfield Barns

13th Oct – 15th Nov

Closed 1st Nov

Open mon-sat 10-3.00pm

Free Admission

www.sheriebrinkleyart.co.uk

Wingfield Barns CIC,
Church Road, Wingfield,
IP21 5RA

01379 384505

www.wingfieldbarns.com

It was whilst walking on the summit of Bheinn Uidhe in the north west of Scotland that the reality of human existence struck me hard; as hard as the rock beneath my feet. Curious bobbly rock stretched across the plateau. These bizarre formations looked man made. Puzzled, with little knowledge of geology, I later discovered that this was pipe rock, formed by the tunnels made by worms that lived in shallow seas on the equator some

500 million years ago. How they ended up on top of a Scottish mountain was mind blowing, but there they were, right in front of my eyes.

Back in Suffolk the earth's story is not so blatant. Its rhythms and constant shifting is apparent as the clay squelches or cracks underfoot, and as the fragile coastline is consumed by the sea. As in the mountains, we are at the mercy of this elemental force.

As a small child I was often found lying on the ground in the garden "like a tiny pearl attached to Mother Earth", my mother wrote. Was I marveling at the beauty of the passing clouds? Or could I feel

the movement of earth spinning through space?

The naivety of observation one has as a child is soon lost. Society dictates every element of our lives. As I grew older I found myself wanting to escape from this manufactured world, finding solace in the wild places of Britain where the drama of my surroundings left me feeling insignificant, yet whole and instilled in me a sense of **belonging**. In these hills I rediscovered the act of **being**, which had been instinctive as a child. It is ok to simply exist, just like the sea creatures did all those millions of years ago. We are all part of something amazing and that is life on this planet.

The casual phrase “as old as the hills” is incomprehensible. In the case of Lewisian gneiss, that’s 3 billion years. To observe and touch something formed when the earth was barely born itself is a miracle. With it comes the notion of our insignificance. In our safe little manufactured worlds it is easy to forget we are a part of nature. We have lost the ability to live naturally.

Where there are no mountains, the weather connects us with this elemental force. There’s no such thing as bad weather, just different kinds of weather. The fury of the storm excites and exhilarates. The energy is transferred. To embrace the storm and be at its mercy conjures awe and respect as does being on a mountain summit. Whilst raw experiences of nature are sharp reminders of our place here, the quiet unsung moments are just as poignant. Moments when nature speaks and we are stopped in our tracks by natural beauty. Moments when we forget ourselves and simply exist.

Sherie Brinkley

Disclaimer: Dennington Village Hall produces this newsletter in good faith from articles submitted by local organisations and individuals. Dennington Village Hall can accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies contained therein, which must be taken up with the relevant organisation or individual.

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PATRICK SPENCER, MP FOR SUFFOLK, WRITES:

“It’s now very noticeable how the days are shortening, though for me, Suffolk is particularly beautiful basking in the warm autumnal colours. However, with shorter days also come seasonal weather changes, and living in a predominantly rural county it is important that we all take time to look out for one another, particularly the elderly and more vulnerable who may need additional support.

Power cuts can happen at any time, especially during severe weather, so please make sure you’re prepared by keeping a torch, spare batteries, a power bank, and essential supplies handy. In the event of a power cut, you can call **105** — a free, national phone number that connects you to your local electricity network operator for updates and assistance.

Equally, flooding can happen with little warning, so do please stay alert by signing up for free flood warnings from the Environment Agency and checking local forecasts. Take time to know and understand the flood risk in your local area and ensure that you have a plan in place. If you do need to report flooding in Suffolk, contact **Suffolk County Council’s flooding team on 0345 606 6171**, but for emergencies or immediate danger, always call **999**.

I hold regular surgeries in our communities across the constituency, as well as open “Meet Your MP” meetings, so if you would like to meet to discuss a local issue, please get in touch with our office by phone on **01728 726612** or by email on patrick.spencer.mp@parliament.uk.

The best way to stay in touch and receive regular updates on campaigns and our work across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich is to sign up to receive my newsletter: www.patrickspencer.co.uk. If I can ever help with anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch with my office.”

DAIRY OF EVENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
07/10/2025	NHS App drop in	Library
08/10/2025	WI meeting	Village hall
13/10/2025	NHS App walk through	Library
15/10/2025	Qi Gong (and every Wednesday)	Village hall
16/10/2025	Coffee morning	Village hall
21/10/2025	Art Exhibition from now	Library
24/10/2025	Film night	Village hall
26/10/2025	The Mushroom Show	Library
27/10/2025	Start of half term	School
29/10/2025	Autumn Messy Morning	St. Mary's Church
30/10/2025	NHS App drop in	Library
30/10/2025	Coffee morning	Village hall
31/10/2025	Shining the Light workshop	St. John's Badingham
04/11/2025	NHS App walk through	Library
09/11/2025	Remembrance Sunday	St. Mary's Church
10/11/2025	PC meeting	Village hall
12/11/2025	WI meeting	Village hall
13/11/2025	Coffee morning	Village hall
14/11/2025	Film night	Village hall
15/11/2025	The Baking Jin Supper Club	Village hall
22/11/2025	Christmas Makers Market	Village hall
27/11/2025	Coffee morning	Village hall
03/12/2025	WI meeting	Village hall
11/12/2025	Coffee morning	Village hall
12/12/2025	Film night	Village hall
13/12/2025	Village Christmas party	Village hall
14/12/2025	Carol Service at 5.00pm	St. Mary's church
25/12/2025	Christmas Day Service at 10.00am	St. Mary's church