



Dennington News

Issue 44: April-June 2026

Produced by Dennington Village Hall
www.denningtonvillagehall.com

The Dennington Queen

As the days become longer and the temperature rises, so the ambience at The Queen changes too. Our wonderful outside area is being readied for those longer days and sultry evenings where you can sip a cocktail on the terrace overlooking the duck pond or enjoy one of our wood fired pizzas created in our garden kitchen! If you can't make it to the pub, then take-away pizzas might be the option for you!

Food is served Monday to Saturday, 12 noon-2pm and 5.30-8.30pm, and Sundays from 12 noon-4pm. We are closed Sunday evenings, but these food and opening times are subject to change during the summer months.

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

Jon & Lorna Reeves



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Well—now British Summer Time has arrived, let's hope we can finally say goodbye to any wintry weather and look forward to spending time in our gardens (or allotments—see pages 20 and 21 for an update on activities there) enjoying some sunshine.

As we move into the summer months, there is lots to keep everyone busy over the next few months, from the next Film Night@ on 17th April (see page 13), a fund raising talk about our beautiful church (see page 11), a wine tasting with tapas on Sunday, 3rd May with this month's Village Personality Richard Berrill (see page 10) as well as the usual plethora of activities taking place in the village hall, including Qi Gong, Pilates, dance, badminton, Slimming World and now yoga alongside the WI meetings and coffee mornings. Added to that, we can also look forward to Open Day at Dennington Hall Farms on 7th June—see page 33 for further details—plus the Summer Fete on 4th July.

The Parish Council will be holding their annual meetings on 11th May (see pages 25-27 for the latest news from the PC), while there will be exciting (!) changes to our recycling options from the beginning of June.

As always, I wish you all the best—and do get in touch if you have suggestions for articles for future issues of the magazine.

Jo Denton, Editor

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DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL



At last spring is here—everyone is speaking of how lovely it is to have sunny days again—new beginnings—and we have one!

Yoga: we have a brand new weekly yoga class starting up on Tuesday 21st April at 9.00am. £5 per hour on a pay as you go basis, working through all the classic yoga poses, the meaning and purpose of their alignments, how to get in and out of them and the benefits of guided relaxation.

Cinema: The village cinema club is flourishing. All showings have been well attended and the bar is always available, along with popcorn! Many thanks to David and Liz Pardey and Katie Rust.

David Pardey is doing an amazing job of keeping the hall in good structural order, aided by Steve Gough, whilst Donna Roche is playing a superb role as hall manager. Jo Denton continues to produce a top grade newsletter, admired even by London journalists!

All our hall trustees and assistants play an amazing part in keeping our hall flourishing, working well together to bring it to life. Thank you all for your continued contribution.

Which brings me to my final point. We badly need someone who can help us with our **marketing and social media**. We need greater publicity to create more activity and income. **Can you help????**

James Maberly, Chair of the Trustees

J. FELTON



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ST MARY'S CHURCH NOTICES

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April—Mass of the Last Supper at 7pm.

Easter Day, 5th April—Lighting of the Easter Fire and first Communion of Easter at 8am. This is a short service which begins outside and is followed with breakfast.

Messy Easter, Thursday 9th April, 10am-12 noon at St Mary's Church Dennington. Lots of fun activities, crafts and sensory play all on the theme of Easter. Children to be accompanied by adults please. Text 07469 718695 or email revclairekiddy@gmail.com to book a place.

Details of all the Easter Services across the benefice can be found in the Upper Alde Link.

A change in service patterns

From April the regular monthly services will be:

First Sunday—Book of Common Prayer Communion at 8am

Second and fourth Sundays—Holy Communion at 11am

Occasionally there will be a variation, for example at Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, and other special occasions.

A reminder you can like us on Facebook, at Dennington St Mary's Church, Upper Alde Benefice; you can also follow us on Instagram.

We have glossy new leaflets to encourage visitors to come to St Mary's. These can be found in the church, and it would be good if anyone could pass them on to others or display them locally. Thanks go to David and Liz Pardey for producing them.

Reverend Claire Kiddy,
Rector, Upper Alde Benefice



VILLAGE PERSONALITY: RICHARD BERRILL



Richard was adopted at six months by Dick and Doreen, wonderful parents who farmed in Lessingham, near Stalham in Norfolk. He had primary schooling in North Walsham and went to Gresham's, in Holt, for secondary education, where he excelled in athletics

and represented the county in the shorter track distances. Academically he won prizes for art and poetry (taught by the appropriately named Mr. Coleridge!), while he loved acting and music, and played in a number of the school bands.

It seemed as though he might be destined for farming life, with a guaranteed place pending at Shuttleworth Agricultural College, but first Richard travelled south of the border for a preliminary year's practical experience at Colston Hall in Badingham in 1971, working for Ivor Bull (no joke!). A pig quickly terminated Richard's ambition to do stock work, losing part of its nose pulling away from a ring tether!

He often returned to Norwich to see groups who later made good such as Pink Floyd, Yes and Jethro Tull. At a Uriah Heap concert, the band were late arriving and Richard was put on stage by his mates with an acoustic guitar to entertain the crowd for half an hour, in what became a life-changing moment. Richard then provided support for Al Stewart and attempted to write songs with Suzi Quatro: it sat sweetly with his desire to become a professional musician.

With parental support, Richard, still only 19, moved to London and began playing on the folk club circuit. He secured a job in the boutique department at Harrods to help pay his living costs, later moving to their record bar where he served the likes of Ronnie Wood, Donovan and Barbara Streisand. At 21 he answered an advert in 'Music Week' and got a job with Island Records, initially in sales and subsequently in their Artists and Repertoire department, discovering, developing and nurturing new talent, and liaising between artists and the company. He began to work with many famous names such as Bob Marley, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, and the band, Bad Company.

Time moved on, and so too did Richard. His 'rock and roll' lifestyle was beginning to get out of control, and at 26 he returned to his roots. It wasn't a moment too soon; Dick died within a month and Richard had to take over the farm of 200 acres. He supplemented practical experience with a spell at Easton College, became an NFU activist, and threw himself into his work for the next 15 years as a therapeutic release from darker days in the past. The one activity he really enjoyed was ploughing, but working long hours and being responsible for so much made for a lonely profession.

In 1986, diversification saw Richard launch a company linked to a Norwich wholesaler who provided wines for onward distribution, and, after the death of his mother, Richard felt easier about selling the farm to go into the wine trade full time. He met his wife Eve at a wine-tasting in London and they married in 1999, kick-starting their own company, 'Everich', in 2001, to supply globally sourced wines to a large number of pubs, hotels and restaurants. In 2003 they moved to Hacheston and in 2018 to Owls Green, Dennington, setting up a new company, 'Case-sera Wines', selling quality wines to companies such as The Dennington Queen and Leo's Deli as well as a number of private customers.

Today Richard and Eve offer wine tastings in local village halls, sometimes playing music from the 1960s, 70s and 80s with Richard

on guitar and Eve as vocalist. They visited Dennington Village Hall last year, and this year have already taken bookings for Badingham, Stradbroke and Westleton. From his rural 'haven of solitude', Richard recently contributed to a chronologically illustrated history of Island Records book. He sings and plays guitar in a band of old friends who span thirty years of music-making together, keeps a library of books on cooking, another passion, and a hugely impressive collection of tapes and CDs as well as four classic guitars. May he and Eve long continue to make music together as a really talented and versatile pair.

As told to Mark Kendall

Eve & Rich will be holding a wine tasting with tapas at 2.30pm on 3rd May in Dennington Village Hall. Booking is essential, please email Eve for more details at everich@globalnet.co.uk.

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LEARN ABOUT DENNINGTON CHURCH!

Roy Tricker, a well known expert on Suffolk churches, will be visiting to give a talk about our amazing church on 5th June. Roy has the ability to bring churches and their history to life, and he will be doing this in our lovely church here in Dennington at 6.00pm.

A crusading church-crawler since the age of four, Roy spends his time sharing his passion for these amazing buildings, praising and promoting them from the pulpit, projector and coach seat. He gives countless lectures and slide shows, has written over 200 church guidebooks and some published works, and has broadcast on radio and TV. He firmly believes that the love of churches is absorbing and infectious for people of all religions and of none—and that every old church is the most interesting in the country because each is unique and therefore worth getting to know and love.

There will be drinks and nibbles afterwards at the Corner House, courtesy of Anne and Bob Lawrence, and a suggested donation of £10 each. Please contact Veronica Maberly on 07885 756425, or email vmaberly@gmail.com to book your place as soon as possible as we need to know numbers attending. All funds raised will go towards the repair of the church roof.



Some words taken from Aldringham-cum-Thorpe website, photo of Roy Tricker from Great British Life

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FILM NIGHT@DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Our next FILM NIGHT@ Dennington Village Hall, on Friday, 17th April, is **The Choral** (Cert 12A), written by Alan Bennett and starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy, Alun Armstrong, Robert Emms and Simon Russell Beale. It is set in 1916, during World War I, in the fictional town of Ramsden, Yorkshire, and follows the members of the local choral society, many of whom have left to fight in the war. To replace them, the society recruits a disparate group of townspeople for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, a work chosen because it was not written by a German.

Do come along and join us! Tickets are only £5, and doors and bar open at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. For a preview, please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/4bW4dzR>.

David Pardey





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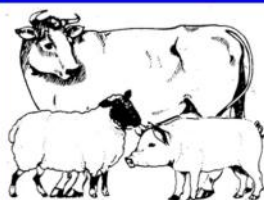
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Deliveries to Dennington on Thursday Evenings

DENNINGTON 100 CLUB

The monthly draw for the village hall 100 club is done every other Thursday at coffee morning. The first prize is £25, second prize is £15, third prize is £10 and fourth is £5, and 2026 subscriptions will be due in April. For further information about how to sign up, please email dennington100club@gmail.com. The January draw was done by Lesley Ganney while the February draw was done by Julie Steward, Jennie Gough and Colette Strachan.

	January 2026	February 2026
1st	Bill Roberts	Avril Yarham
2nd	Jennie Gough	Luke Steward
3rd	Vivia Bamford	Peter & Joyce Nobbs
4th	Matt Lunn	Jennie Gough
Pamela Turner		

DENNINGTON QUEEN'S CRIBBAGE TEAM



Since Christmas we have had a great run of results and at the time of writing currently find ourselves joint top of the league. We have 4 games left to play so here's hoping!! Whatever the results of those games, we can still say it has been a successful and fun season – made more so with Peter Nobbs and David Sutherns winning the Gent's Pairs competition.

Our open evening in February went off well and it was great to see 5 new faces come along – some knowing how to play and others just learning but hopefully everybody enjoyed the night. It is so good to have more players available and makes a captain's job much easier!

As ever, if you would like more information **please contact David Sutherns on 01728-638368.**

LETTER FROM THE LIBRARY

Hello there! As many of you will know Vivia has now retired, so your library update this quarter is coming from me. I will be managing the library whilst we recruit for a replacement permanent manager (Vivia leaves very big shoes to fill.) I will be in the library most Tuesday mornings, so please do come along to say "hello" if you are passing.

Whilst already sorely missed, Vivia was given a wonderful send-off at the end of February, with much reminiscing and tea and cake consumed. Vivia left the library in such a great position, both structurally (beautifully decorated, with no holes and leaks!) as well as in terms of the public offer, catering to the needs of the local community. Whilst the eagle-eyed amongst you will notice that there is a temporary reduction in the library's social media presence, there is still an abundance of wonderful things on offer inside the library - both existing regular activities as well as some new events too. I hope we'll be more proactive on social media again once we have a new library manager in place.

Have you visited our new versatile community study space yet? Packed with wellbeing and local information, it has already proved popular for peaceful private study, tuition and as a children's craft area too. Last week new furniture arrived for this space, completing our ground floor public space refurb.

On Tuesdays, we have our new Digital Cafe group starting at 1.30pm. These drop-in sessions, run by our IT expert Chris, aim to problem solve and upskill on popular apps and tech. Attendees already report they feel empowered, with Chris breaking down the jargon in a methodical and calm way.

We are delighted to have a new volunteer, Sam, on board for our Framlingham Foxes home education group. Sam describes herself

as a "Mischief Manager", has a great deal of experience, and has spent time sorting through our resources, preparing and planning some informative and fun sessions. These stay and share sessions run in our Court Room every Thursday at 2pm for home educated children and their parents/carers. So please spread the word. It's a great, welcoming group.

Don't forget we have some wonderful art, including sculpture, for sale in our gallery space. This is proving popular with several pieces sold already. Luckily our talented artists are able to provide alternative pieces to ensure a complete exhibition, which will be available to view in our Court Room until April, and our new curator is working away behind the scenes in preparation for the next one.

Regular Activities:

Mondays, 10:30am—Make It on Monday (crafting)

Tuesdays, 10:30am—Board games; 1.30pm—Digital drop in.

Thursdays, 10am—Warm Welcome (drinks and chat)

Thursdays, 2pm—Home Education Stay and Share

Fridays, 9am—Workplay (stories, rhymes, and songs for under fives)

Saturdays, 10:30am—Crafts with Duke of Edinburgh volunteers

Saturdays, 2pm—LEGO

Sundays, 10:30am—Self-directed children's crafting activities

So, as you can see, we have so much going on in the library. Even in Vivia's absence there remain some familiar staff face, who work tirelessly to serve the community—we appreciate them very much. Thanks also to our capable and dedicated volunteers who we couldn't manage without. Finally thanks to you, our customers who continue to support us during this period of change.

We look forward to welcoming you to the library soon.

Rachel Gibson, Suffolk Community Libraries
Executive Library Manager

DO YOU ENJOY GAMES? DOES YOUR FAMILY LIKE PLAYING SPORTS?

Imagine if we could all play sports locally here in Dennington!

In 1954 Ken Missen, who ran the post office with his wife Sheila, came up with the idea of setting up a sports club. Initially there was nowhere to play, so farmer Maurice Steward (Roy's father) offered a field but failed to say that it was a meadow he kept cows on! This meant quite a bit of work had to be done before any match was played—and I do not mean cutting the pitch; a bucket and shovel were very handy indeed!! Mr Rice offered a meadow for games of cricket. Bowls were played on the lawns of Mrs C Steward at The Lodge and at Mr Mann's Elm Hall. Tennis players had the use of tennis courts at Jill & Russell Heffer's house Jeremy's Acre, Badingham White Horse, and Tommy Coy's Whitmore Farm.

This was a moment of real community spirit when everyone come together, and out of that the sports club was born and the field we now have was purchased for the sum of £350 and put into the custodianship of the Parish Council. It remains so today.



The Dennington Sports Club flourished for many years. At one time there was a cricket team, two football teams, a bowls team and regular matches and training for all. Youngsters were regularly coached and village sports were flourishing.



The tennis court was a wonderful addition, as was badminton once the village hall was built—and to cap it all off, we often hosted the local inter-village games, which were always extraordinarily good fun!

The bowls club continues to flourish and the children's playground is now updated and much improved, as is the tennis court, while the field is still regularly mowed by a team of volunteers, so we have done our best to keep the sports club assets in good shape for the whole community.

Sadly we have lost some momentum and no longer have any football or cricket teams. We did quite recently have coaching for younger players and we would love to restart that, but in order to do so and to encourage more sports activities, we need help from the community. It belongs to us all. So how best can we use it?

How can we move forward? Can you help?

We welcome ideas from the community. What would you like to see happening? The Friday evening sessions we used to have were legendary, with upwards of 100 people attending and youngsters having such fun on the sports field. We need your help and advice and leadership to help us move forward.

Please contact either Tim Mosse on iecwines@gmail.com or James Maberly on jmaberly42@yahoo.com or contact the editor. We would love to hear from you. Here's to the future!

ALLOTMENT NEWS

As I write this spring looks like it has finally sprung and the sun is shining. The first signs of life are showing in the garden and allotments. It has been a wonderful year for daffodils in particular, and masses of bright yellow blooms adorn the village.

In the next few weeks we will see a flurry of activity on the allotments as we get the ground ready for planting our seeds and veg.

The soil is still quite wet and so it needs careful cultivation several times to allow the seed beds to dry out to a fine tilth. Digging too deep and too quickly will result in big clods or slabs of soil drying like concrete in the sunshine. Patience is the key to our heavy

Dennington soils.



We still have pruning to do on fruit trees and bushes and of course need to give the grass walkways their first mow.

Sadly last year we lost one of our founding members, Gordon Giles. Gordon was a stalwart of the allotments and was there most days. He helped set up the allotments and was a guiding hand to many new to growing. He and

Mo were quite a feature in their plots, toiling away and then relaxing with a drink and a snack.

So it was with a heavy heart that we started this year with a working party to tidy and clear his allotment, which we will get cut back and sorted over the next few weeks.

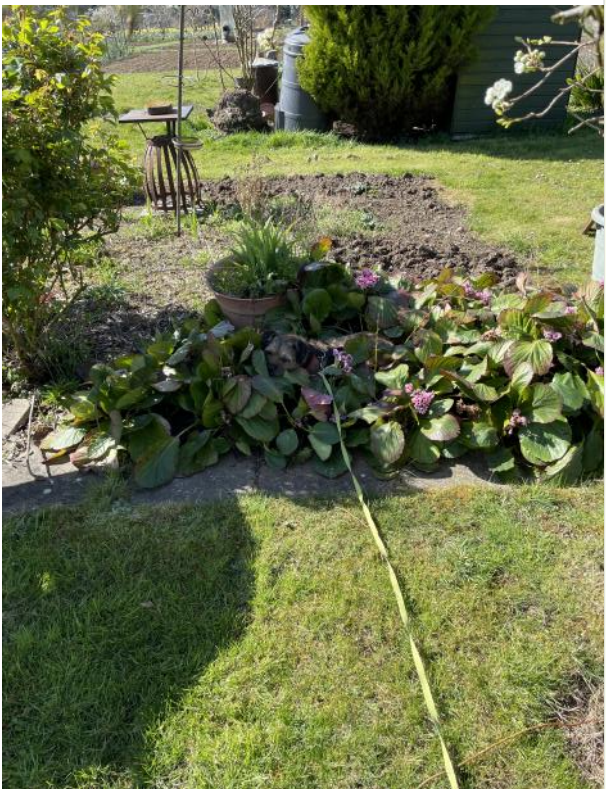
This however opens up an opportunity for new allotmentees, and the association has two plots currently available. If you would like to start growing your own vegetables, now is the time! Please contact either Pam Turner, Kevin Burgess or me if you would like to take on a full or part plot.

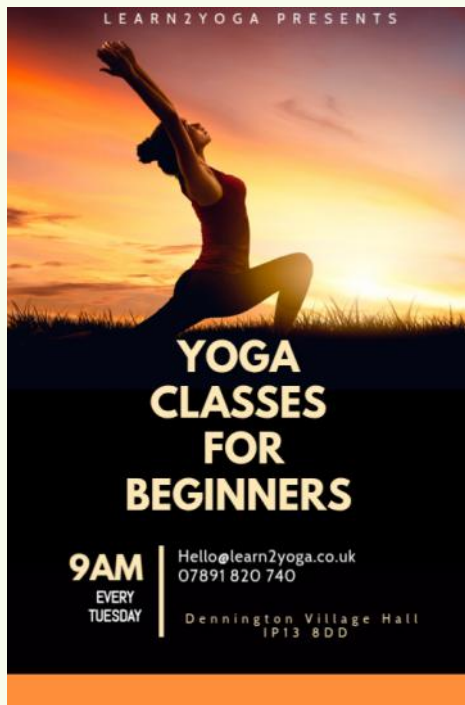
Our next objective is to replace the water troughs which have reached the end of their life, and with the help of Dennington Charities we look to get this done before the summer demand for water reaches its peak.

So if you are walking around the village, take a walk around the allotment perimeter and say hello. We all like to chat and it's a good social hub. In particular my dog likes to see people and other dogs—so long as you can spot him!

Adrian Neill

Spot the dog!





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ALDE VALLEY SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY GROUP: FORTHCOMING DATES

Monday, 20th April: Annual General Meeting

Monday, 18th May: Apprenticeship Records with Richard Holt

Monday, 15th June: Pauper Ancestors with Clare O'Grady

At the 18th May meeting Richard Holt will be discussing (via Zoom) the numerous sources available for family history research. Richard Holt is a professional genealogist running his own research business, Holt's Family History Research. The talk will take place on at 2.30pm at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the library) and, for members only, via Zoom. Members come free, visitors are £5 including tea/coffee/biscuits. No need to book – just turn up. A year's membership is £10, enabling you to attend all meetings via Zoom.

Maggie Strutt, Alde Valley Suffolk Family History Group

The children of Dennington have been busy this term! We were delighted to be presented with a beautiful beech work bench, which has been restored using the original cast iron legs from Dennington School in the Victorian era. We are so grateful to Robert Wardley, Trenna Wardley Loughton and Jeremy Lain for this gift. The children have been sitting on the bench during assembly time and it is wonderful to think of this being used again by the children of Dennington for hopefully another 150 years!



To celebrate British Science Week, Swallows enjoyed an exciting trip to Adastral Park (BT) for a special STEM day. Throughout the day, the children explored a range of hands-on activities that brought science, technology, engineering and maths to life.

On World Book Day the children all dressed up as their favourite book characters—and they all looked fantastic! We spent a very enjoyable day reading books, sharing stories with friends and having a go at writing a story too.



We are now looking forward to a well deserved Easter break, but not before we finish off the term with a whole school Easter art project, make Easter bonnets and of course an Easter egg hunt!

Jenny Turner, Teacher

LET'S
connect



Qi Gong

**Wednesdays Dennington Village Hall 10.30
am - 12.00 pm - Free with small donation to
village hall - for details call Donna
07464256813 or email
naturalsdonna@aol.co.uk**

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Annual Meetings - 11th May

Our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at 7pm on Monday 11th May. We would welcome written reports from village community groups and clubs to share your news and achievements from the past year.

This will be followed by the **Parish Council's Annual Meeting**, where we will review our accounts, audit and policies and complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. *Residents are very welcome to attend either or both meetings.*

New Community Website and gov.uk Email Addresses

To comply with updated data protection and website accessibility requirements, a new community website has been created: **www.dennington.org.uk**.

Parish Council information and documents can still be found at: **www.dennington-pc.gov.uk**.

We are looking for a volunteer to help administer the community website. Ideally, you will have some experience of editing websites and an interest in village activities as you will help post updates and events. You will work alongside the Parish Council, who will also provide content.

Councillors are currently moving to gov.uk email addresses. These provide greater security, reliability and transparency, ensuring that Parish Council communications are clearly identifiable and professionally managed. For all Parish Council enquiries, please contact the Clerk in the first instance at clerk@dennington-pc.gov.uk. She will share matters with the Chair and Councillors as appropriate.

Digital Mailing List

We have set up a new Mailchimp mailing list to improve communication with residents. This will be used to share important updates and information and you can unsubscribe at any time. While Dennington Village Hall also has a similar mailing list, we encourage residents to sign up to both, to ensure you receive all relevant news. You can sign up via the 'Digital News and Updates' page on our community website or directly here: <https://dennington.org.uk/newsletter>.

Councillor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would love to hear from you if you are interested in the position. This is a voluntary role, but it is a rewarding way to contribute to the village and become more involved in the community.

You must live or work in the village, or within 5km of it. We will provide training and guidance. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch and we will be happy to help.

County Council Elections

County Council elections will take place on Thursday, 7th May. Due to planned local government reorganisation, with Suffolk moving to a unitary authority structure, those elected are likely to only serve a two-year term.

Details of candidates will be published on the Parish Council website closer to the election date and the polling station will be the village hall.

Dennington Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

We are pleased to confirm that the village Neighbourhood Watch scheme has recently been re-established. Neighbourhood Watch is about working together with your neighbours to help reduce crime and improve community safety. These schemes are community-led

and supported by the police. You can sign up by visiting: <https://suffolknwa.co.uk/> and entering your postcode in the "Find your nearest scheme" box.

Volunteer Co-ordinator Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to act as the village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme co-ordinator.

The role involves:

- Acting as a point of contact for members and sharing information
- Keeping scheme details up to date
- Signposting residents to appropriate support
- Encouraging reporting of suspicious activity
- Promoting home and personal security
- Supporting neighbourliness within the community

There is no set way to run a scheme—there is no requirement for meetings or newsletters. The key aim is to stay connected, look out for one another and share useful information. If you are interested in the role or would like more information, please contact: clerk@dennington-pc.gov.uk.

Changes to Household Recycling and Waste Management

East Suffolk Council is introducing significant changes to waste and recycling services. New bins will be delivered between February and May and the new system will start in June. Each household will receive a calendar and detailed information pack in May.

Further information can be found at:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/better-recycling

Robert Wardley, Chair, and Lydia Kindred, Clerk & RFO
Dennington Parish Council

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**Your recycling
and waste services
are changing**

What to expect and when



Why we're changing your recycling and waste services

We've been collecting recycling from homes across Suffolk for almost 25 years. A lot has changed in this time! New technology means we can now recycle more than ever before. Here's what to expect:

Recycle even more!

As well as the items you can already recycle from home, you'll also be able to recycle:



Glass bottles and jars



Drinks cartons such as Tetra Pak



Plastic bags, wrappings and films



We'll also be collecting your food waste separately

New bins!

You'll be getting a new wheelie bin to use alongside your existing ones. For homes where space is limited, you may get a smaller box or sack instead. You'll also be getting a small food caddy to use inside your home and a larger one to store food waste outside.



NEW SERVICE STARTS IN JUNE 2026

DENNINGTON WI

Dennington WI has been busy since the start of 2026. In January we held an evening of What's Your Passion, with 10 members showing us an amazing insight into their hobbies/interests. We saw examples of beautiful quilts, embroidery, knitting and cooking, as well as having talks on a favourite antique childhood doll, microscopic creatures, a wormery, memories of a hunter horse from childhood and on taking a choir to the House of Commons for a concert. It was an enlightening look at members' diversity.

This was followed in February by an enthusiastic charity shopper Judy Raymond telling us the secrets of transforming their clothes to classy outfits. She kindly gifted us all a necklace made from mixed sets of beads she had purchased from charity shops. March saw a talk on Thailand and we saw slides of temples, markets and smiling Thai people.

Forthcoming fixtures:

8th April: Talk on the Shelter charity by Maya Brodie Dowden

13th May: Discussions on WI resolutions

10th June: Talk on silver and gemstones by Marianne Brame

Julie Steward

VILLAGE SUMMER FETE—4TH JULY

The Dennington village BBQ and fete will be on Saturday 4th July, with all our usual attractions: bar, raffle, refreshments and children's events. If you can help, or are on a village organisation that would like a stall, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Kate Viscardi on [**kate.viscardi@gmail.com**](mailto:kate.viscardi@gmail.com).

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

The mobile library is here on 10th April, 8th May and 5th June, and can be found between 2-2.30pm outside the Dennington Queen.



SPRING AT DENNINGTON HALL FARMS



Spring has arrived at Dennington—and it feels all the more welcome after a long winter. The days are stretching out, the light has changed, and the land is beginning to wake up again. It's a hopeful time of year, but also a quietly uncertain one in farming.

You may have noticed the blackthorn blossom in the hedgerows. There's an old saying about a "blackthorn winter"—a reminder that even as it feels like spring, a cold snap can still catch us out. It's a good example of how quickly conditions can change—and why how we manage the land really matters.



After last year's dry spring, we're focusing on looking after our soils, disturbing them as little as possible to retain moisture and build resilience for whatever the season brings. In contrast, a wet spring brings different challenges, particularly disease. We're excited to be working with Optigene, using new DNA technology on the farm to detect disease earlier in the crops and manage it more precisely.



At the same time, global events are having an impact too. Rising diesel and fertiliser prices—linked to ongoing conflict in the Middle East—are a reminder of how connected farming is to the wider world.



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Funeral Plans



Elsewhere, new life is arriving. Calving has begun, with this year's calves all named with a "Q"—no easy task! So please feel free to share any suggestions for names beginning with Q.

We've also planted over a mile of new hedging and 400 trees to support

wildlife and the landscape.

Finally, a date for your diaries: **Open Farm Sunday is on 7th June**—we'd love to welcome you.



And thank you, as always, for your support of our meat boxes—it means a great deal.

If you're out walking the footpaths, we hope you enjoy seeing the farm change through the season.

With warm wishes from us all

Laura Rous

Dennington Hall Farms

Please send all stories or items to be included in the next issue, which covers July-August 2026, to the Editor no later than 20th June. Send via email to denningtonnews@gmail.com or post to Spring Farm House, The Street, Dennington IP13 8JF. Please send pictures and advertisements as jpeg attachments.

A TRUE FRIEND TO THE WHOLE VILLAGE —OUR OLD POSTIE, DAVID PEARCE

David Pearce was born in 1943 and brought up with his five siblings in Badingham. After his schooling, he met and married Veronica in 1969 and they moved to Dennington. He and Veronica had two daughters, Sharon in 1971 and Alison in 1974.



David took on the role of Dennington's postman and did a wonderful job over many years, taking the role very seriously. He became everyone's friend, and would often stop for a brief chat. David became involved with the new village sports club, becoming a founding committee member and involved himself very much in the running of it and, in particular, fundraising. He became a very skilled bowls player

and played not only at local level but also at county level.

When the new village hall was built, David again became a founding committee member and took on the role of hall manager. He held this position for over 20 years and was amazingly good at it. No mobile phones or internet in those days and David was always the one dealing with hirers, showing them around and solving the issues at hand. Veronica also cleaned the hall, so both of them were very heavily involved.

He held two auctions in the village hall to raise funds for the sports club and also organised a very successful jazz night in the hall which was attended by many. He and Ray Dearing could often be seen trimming the hedges around the hall and the sports field.

Always quietly spoken, David was able to get on with everyone in the village, and often encouraged others to become involved in different aspects of village life. He loved it here and was the epitome of a good neighbour.

He retired in 2008 from the Post Office and he and Veronica settled into their retirement. Sadly David had a stroke in 2015 and they moved to Framlingham in 2017. Veronica died in 2022, and so David moved to Felixstowe so that he could be closer to his daughter Alison.

He spent his last 3 years in Margery Girling sheltered housing. He died peacefully on 17th January 2026 aged 82. He was buried in Dennington cemetery, perfectly positioned between the village hall and the bowling green, a spot he would have greatly appreciated. Veronica's ashes were interred with him so they are together once more. They have left behind six grandchildren and four great grandchildren, through whom they will live on. He will always be remembered as the man who knew everyone, and was involved in so much here in Dennington. We shall miss him.

James Maberly

*David with (left to right)
Sharon, Alison and Veronica*





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Dennington Village Hall Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every other Thursday in the meeting room at Dennington Village Hall, from 10.30-11.45am.

Come and join us for homemade cakes with tea or coffee.



The dates for the next few months are:

*2nd, 16th and 30th April
14th and 28th May
11th and 25th June*

£3 per person for tea/coffee and cake

OBITUARY: PATRICIA MACDONALD

30th March 1931—12th February 2026



Pat was born in Worthing in 1931, the eldest of seven children. After attending school and college in Surrey, she gained a diploma in Sociology from Westminster College of Commerce in London, and then worked at Middlesex Hospital and the Soho Women's Hospital as an Almoner (a medical social worker).

In August 1960 she went to northern Nigeria to work as a Welfare Education Officer attached to a teacher training college, a job she relished, responsible for the health and welfare of 250 students and running and stocking the dispensary—no mean feat when the nearest supply store was a 50-mile round trip.

In 1962 she took a memorable US road trip with three girlfriends, driving a mini across the desert from San Francisco to Mexico. On returning to San Francisco, Pat and her friend Jacqueline continued onto Vancouver; both had a deep love of travelling and adventure and in later life, when both were widowed, they took a number of SAGA cruises together.

While in Nigeria Pat met Kynoch MacDonald (known to all as Ken) and they got married in 1964. Pat would talk about their honeymoon sitting on a Land Rover in the African bush, sipping a brandy watching the sunset and all the amazing animals. Sadly, the

Biafran war meant evacuation from Nigeria, but she was invited back in 1971 as part of an Oxford University Expedition, the only woman on the trip.

In 1973 Ken was transferred to Indonesia with his company and they lived there until 1976, when they returned to the UK. They initially lived in Southwold, but feet soon started to itch and they went to Liberia where Ken got a forestry commission role as an advisor for two and a half years. On their return to Suffolk they settled in Dennington, though Ken took one final overseas role in Brazil where Pat joined him for the last seven months of his term.

In latter years Pat worked as a volunteer for Cruse, a role she loved. She and Ken were both experienced beekeepers; they also both adored fly fishing and would holiday in Ireland.

Ken sadly died in December 2019, with Pat caring for him at home right up until his death.

Pat continued as an active member of the Framlingham yoga club until last year. She also enjoyed her weekly swimming club, was a much-loved regular at The Dennington Queen, and was an avid bird watcher, often going to RSBP Minsmere.

Pat was an extraordinary, intelligent and fearless lady who personified the intrepid British traveller, heading abroad to experience and seize life while managing to maintain her integrity, calm and genuine love for the people she met along the way. In between living and travelling abroad, she created a home and haven in Suffolk for family and friends alike. It is fitting that Pat's final resting place should be in woodland where she will be surrounded by her beloved birds and bees.

Robert Wardley

OBITUARY: PETER DAVEY

22nd December 1948—15th October 2025

Peter was born in Dennington; his parents were Pat and Harold. He grew up alongside his siblings Kenny, David, Joyce, Sally and Brian at Fentons Farm. He went to primary school in Dennington and then on to Framlingham Modern (now Thomas Mills) before starting a lifelong career in farming.

After school, he moved to work at Dennington Hall Farms and never left. The land, the seasons, the rhythm of farm work became who he was, and he loved it. He worked with the cows, drove tractors, sprayed crops, kept the grain store running and took on any task that needed doing. He took great pride in teaching the younger generation, and one of his proudest moments came in 2014 when he received his 50-year long service award from Prince Harry at the Suffolk show, dressed, as always and characteristically, with his shirt



unbuttoned. Prince Harry apparently remarked that he was clearly a wonderful character and wished he had more time to speak with him.

He married Thelma, though they later divorced and he never remarried. Family was at the heart of everything. He had 5 children (sadly baby Michelle died) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren to keep him on his toes. He was a man of hobbies, habits and much humour! He filled his life with his family and a long line of loyal dogs.

He was a man of habits and hobbies: Campsea Ashe market on Mondays, gardening—growing broad beans, strawberries, tomatoes and potatoes—and he loved shooting on Saturday afternoons, no matter the weather, passing on these skills to his daughters and grandchildren. He loved Felixstowe market and chips on the seafront, always as ever with his shirt undone, chest hair showing, and a cigarette dangling from his mouth.

As he became older and less able, a fall caused him to spend time in Ipswich hospital, and thereafter he moved to Prince George House, a care home in Ipswich. He was loved deeply by residents and staff alike. He was a proud and independent man, but as age and dementia took hold, it softened him and he was able to say ‘I love you’ and ‘I miss you’, words he had never been able to say in the past and that brought his family to tears. The legacy he leaves behind is ‘work hard’, ‘be strong’ and ‘family is everything’. He will be sadly missed by many.

James Maberly

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: HELPING RESIDENTS WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

One of the questions people ask is what an MP actually does day to day. Many people see debates in Parliament on television, but a large part of the job happens much closer to home, helping residents when something has gone wrong.

Across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, people contact my office about all sorts of issues. Sometimes it is a delayed passport application or a problem with benefits. At other times it might involve housing concerns, difficulties accessing healthcare, or trying to get a response from a government agency. Often the most frustrating part is not knowing where to turn.

That is where an MP's office can help. We cannot always change the final decision, but we can often make sure the problem receives proper attention and that people are treated fairly.

Of course, MPs are not the only place people can go for support. We are fortunate in our area to have many organisations doing excellent work for residents. Citizens Advice in Suffolk offers free, confidential guidance on issues such as debt, benefits, housing, and employment. Suffolk County Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils provide support on local services ranging from social care to housing. Community groups, churches and charities across our villages and towns also play a vital role in supporting those who need a helping hand. They often work quietly in the background, but they make a real difference to people's lives.

If you ever find yourself struggling with a government department or public body, please do feel free to contact my office. My team and I will always do our best to help. You can contact me at Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk, by telephone on 01728 726612 or sign up for my e-newsletter at www.patrickspencer.co.uk.

DIARY OF EVENTS APRIL-JUNE 2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
02/04/2016	Maundy Thursday Mass	Church
02/04/2026	Coffee morning	Village hall
05/04/2026	Lighting of Easter Fire	Church
08/04/2026	WI meeting	Village hall
09/04/2026	Messy Easter	Church
10/04/2026	Mobile library	The Square
16/04/2026	Coffee morning	Village hall
17/04/2026	Film Night: The Choral	Village hall
21/04/2026	Yoga classes start	Village hall
30/04/2026	Coffee morning	Village hall
03/05/2026	Wine tasting with tapas	Village hall
08/05/2026	Mobile library	The Square
11/05/2026	Annual Parish Meeting	Village hall
11/05/2026	Parish Council Annual Meeting	Village hall
13/05/2026	WI meeting	Village hall
14/05/2026	Coffee morning	Village hall
28/05/2026	Coffee morning	Village hall
05/06/2026	Roy Tricker church talk	Church
05/06/2026	Mobile library	The Square
07/06/2026	Open Farm Sunday	Dennington Hall Farm
10/06/2026	WI meeting	Village hall
11/06/2026	Coffee morning	Village hall
25/06/2026	Coffee morning	Village hall
04/07/2026	Summer fete & BBQ	Sports field