

The Badwell Broadsheet

Issue 97 - February / March 2024



A note from the Chair of the Parish Council.

Richard Morris - Chairman

2024 promises to be an exciting year with plenty happening in the village.

The work on the Neighbourhood plan kicked off last year, but we had our first village consultation in January. It'll enable us, as a community, to have our say. Thank you to everyone who came and contributed their ideas over the two days.

We've welcomed a new member to the Parish Council, too. Roger Castro has joined us, and

we look forward to working together. Sadly, Maciej Siarkowski has left. However, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Maciej for all his work in the time he's been on the council.

There are plenty of events happening in the village hall. They're listed on the back page, so please take a look.

Thank you to Clarke's of Walsham for sponsoring this issue.

If you'd like to sponsor an issue, submit something for publication, or you have a question about The Broadsheet, you can email badwellash@hotmail.co.uk

The deadline date for the next issue is 16th March 2024.

Best wishes,

Richard

Cover image credit: Katy Haylock. The 'Toad down the drain' from Wilding Road, who was rescued by the Toad Patrol.

The Parish Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information within this newsletter was correct at time of publication. The Parish Council does not assume and hereby disclaims any liability to any party for any loss, damage caused by errors or omissions. The views within the newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Parish Council.

From the Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Carole Rose. badwellashpc@outlook.com | Visit the villages' website: badwellash.suffolk.cloud

Parish Councillors

It is with regret that we have to announce the resignation of Mr Maciej Siarkowski from his role as a Parish Councillor. Sadly this is through pressure of work which we all understand, but we wish to thank him so much for his contributions to date.

At the same time we would like to welcome Mr Roger Castro as a new Parish Councillor. Roger has lived in the village for many years and so will need no introduction to our Parish and we look forward to working with him.

Mulberry Homes

The Parish Council have been advised that work is due to commence for the 52 new homes along the Hunston Road site week commencing 5 February when the heavy machinery will start arriving. Please remember that FP11 will be out of action for at least the next 6 months.

Orchard Way Alleyway

The Parish Council have paid to have the alleyway which joins Orchard Way and The Paddocks to The Street in the centre of the village cleared as it was in a very bad state of neglect. Hopefully residents will have noticed and appreciate the improvements.



Playground - Stage 2

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that we have now received all the requisite permissions and approvals to build the second half of the promised playground on the Alfred le Grice Playing Field. This will be constructed alongside the existing children's playground and will consist of 4 pieces of adult gym equipment, an outdoor table tennis table and a basketball hoop. We are hoping to get this installed as soon as the ground conditions allow us to get the heavy machinery onto the field.

The Neighbourhood Plan

badwellashplan@gmail.com

The Parish has spoken!

Thank you to everybody who braved the weather and turned out for the drop-in sessions in January.

We had a roughly 50/50 turnout from Long Thurlow and Badwell Ash, and there was a really interesting range of opinions expressed around the hall – all captured for posterity on post-its.

We asked questions like where housing, if any, should be built. (Answer - small developments inside the boundary of the village.) And what sort of housing do we need? (Answer - we want houses built to very high eco-standards, not just big ones!).

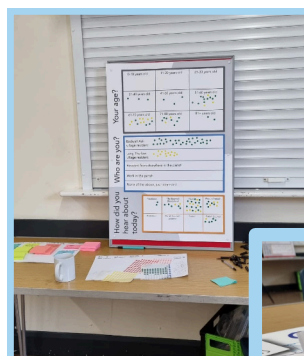
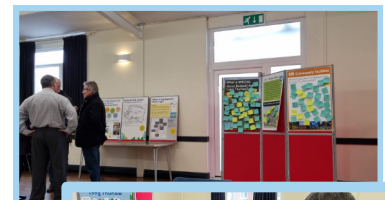
The need for more footpaths also featured a lot, as did the need to encourage and value our surrounding green environment. That was just a snapshot, and comments ranged from allotments to toads.

What we are going to do next is to take away all your thoughts and sort out not only what your big issues were - but also the smaller interesting ones - and use them to help us shape a detailed questionnaire. This will come out to every household in the early Spring (once the deliverers can feel their fingers again!).

At the same time, work is going on behind the scenes to draw pen pictures of the various distinct bits of the parish, to do a formal housing needs assessment (using a lot of government/local authority data), and to gather a whole raft of other information about the parish.

This work will all form part of the final Neighbourhood Plan.

Several people have said they'd like to help. They didn't fancy being on a committee but wouldn't mind helping by doing some donkey work from time-to-time. If that's you, please contact Steve Russel (chair) at badwellashplan@gmail.com.



Citizen's Advice

citizens
advice Mid Suffolk

I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my rent has gone up and my paycheque just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. I'm doing everything I can but it's not enough - what can I do?

First of all it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

You say you've built up a bit of debt. The first step is to collect all the information you have about your debts. This might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, make a list of your debts and write down the details of each. This could include whom you owe the money to (this person/company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, eg,

sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're sorting them out.

If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments. While you're looking at the money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you're eligible for, including support with your energy costs and living costs.

There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income on the National Citizens Advice website at citizensadvice.org.uk

There's also emergency support that you may be able to access locally, such as a food bank, local welfare support or fuel vouchers. We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Green Dilemmas - home insulation

Richard Winch – richard@winchmail.net

The Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rates a property on a scale from A (very efficient) to G (inefficient). An EPC is required whenever a property is built, sold or rented, though many older properties don't have an EPC rating. The UK's housing stock is amongst the least efficient in Europe, with an average rating of EPC D. Older properties (pre-1930) tend to be the least energy efficient.

The heat from your house is lost in roughly the following proportions: walls 40%, the roof 25%, windows and doors 20%, and the floor 15%.

Every home is different, so there isn't a standard formula for insulation. For example, there is a big difference between the insulation required on detached houses versus flats or maisonettes. Also, walls can be either cavity walls (there is a gap between the inner and outer layers, and an insulator is inserted into the gap) or solid walls (internal and external insulation can be applied, but this can be disruptive).

Roofs can be insulated immediately under the roof or above the ceiling. Double glazing and draft protection can be applied to windows and doors. Floor insulation can also be possible, though floor coverings can often be a simpler option.

It makes sense for everyone to review their insulation as it can save money, keep you warmer and reduce the amount of energy you are using.

The problem, however, is that to do this for a whole property is very expensive. It is estimated that retrofitting UK housing stock could cost up to £40 billion and cost between £5k and £20k per property, and even then, all properties wouldn't meet the highest EPC rating.

Another problem is that care needs to be taken with insulation, or there is a risk of creating issues such as dampness, mould and condensation if the work is not done to the right quality. A standard called PAS 2035 outlines how retrofit projects should be managed and delivered.

Work done to this standard will be high quality but more expensive than work done to building regulation standards.

If your property has a low EPC rating, it should be possible in most cases to make

significant improvements by installing some form of insulation. If there are grants or schemes available, you should look out for them and try and find out what practical or cost-effective options you have got to improve your energy efficiency.

At the moment, Mid-Suffolk is offering a free assessment of your insulation status and free installation that would make the most difference. <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-cosy-homes>



Make your home a little cosier this winter!

Need to upgrade your draft proofing, loft or cavity wall insulation?

Apply for a FREE Mid Suffolk Cosy Homes installation.



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In the garden

Janet de Vries

Firstly, I'd like to wish you a very happy New Year.

Hopefully, with the lack of jobs in the garden, you've been planning things for your borders and maybe deciding to try growing some different vegetables this year.

There are some important jobs to be done in the garden now the cold weather is here, and that is to protect your containers and vulnerable plants.

You'll need bubble wrap, string, newspaper and plastic bags. While the tops of container plants may be quite hardy, the roots are vulnerable to frost, so here are some easy steps you can take to protect them in cold weather.

1. Tie a double layer of bubble wrap around the pot to give a layer of insulation against several degrees of frost. For more protection, you can put the pot in a plastic bag and then fill the insides with crumpled newspaper to create a thick insulating layer. Tie the top loosely with string or a plastic tie, but be careful to keep the plastic off the leaves as it can freeze to them, causing cell damage, and never cover the plant with plastic.

Last winter, when we had temperatures of -8C, I lost a Cordyline that I'd had for years, so this year, I've wrapped it in muslin in the hope that it will survive, see below and have also wrapped a ceramic pot in bubble wrap in the hope this will stop it from cracking.



2. February is quite a dormant month in the garden. However, now is the time to prune shrubs and deciduous trees that have become too big and misshapen. Cut out all dead or crossing branches back to a joint. If the weather is mild, then any hardy evergreens such as laurel that have become too large can be pruned, as well as late flowering shrubs such as buddleia and lavatera. You should prune the plant to almost ground level, leaving just a couple of buds on each stem.

3. Roses need to be pruned in March, taking them well down the stem for a good display later in the year. Borders should be tidied and dug over, putting a layer of mulch around the plants. You should be chitting your potatoes for first earlies too in March, so hopefully, you've been saving your egg boxes to place them in with the end that has the most eyes uppermost. Stand them in a cool light spot until 1-2cm long shoots have formed; this should take up to six weeks.

In the next article, we'll cover what you should do in April and May. I'll tell you the best way to plant potatoes directly into the ground or in bags.

Try to stay off your lawn as much as possible when it's frosty, as walking on it can cause the grass to go brown, although it should come back in the Spring.

That should keep all you hardy gardeners busy until the warmer weather arrives, along with light mornings and evenings. Until then, stay warm and keep planning what you'll be doing in your garden later in the year.

We need volunteer toad patrollers at these locations:

Badwell Ash, Stowlangtoft and Daisy Green

From late February to mid-April, toads emerge from hibernation, embarking on a perilous journey to their spawning ponds. Thousands die on roads annually, so they urgently require our help. Toads typically move at night when the temperature is above 6°C on damp evenings.

Patrols consist of a couple of hours a week in teams of 2/3. Short training, insurance and answers to all your questions are provided.

Local drivers

We need your help too!

Please take care, slow down and look out for our Highway signs and our patrollers in the Hi-Vis jackets.



Want to help? Contact us at badwellashtoads@gmail.com



The Badwell Ash History Society

Howard Newman

The three modern windows in St. Mary's Church and WWII

January this year saw the 80th anniversary of a tragic event in the village which had an impact on our medieval church.

So, if you visit our 14th century St. Mary's Church you will notice that there's something decidedly not 15th century about the three windows on the left-hand side of the Nave! They are all 20th century additions! And, the reason for that is that they are directly connected with WWII.



On the 5th January 1944, a US B17G "Flying Fortress" four engine heavy bomber from RAF Great Ashfield crashed less than 1/2 a mile away at Brook Farm on the Langham Road in Badwell Ash, soon after take-off. Of the nine crew, eight were killed and one suffered serious injuries but survived the war.

This B17G Flying Fortress "Stars and Stripes" was based at the US airfield of Great Ashfield, the home of 385th Bombardment Group. During the 2nd World War, the airfield was home to 36 heavy bombers, 400 aircrew, and some 2000 personnel in total. On that January morning of the fateful crash the weather was bitterly cold and icy which may have contributed to the crash although the "official crash report" suggested pilot error was the main reason. The target assigned to "Stars and Stripes" and the 117 other B17Gs that day was Merignac Airport, Bordeaux in South Western France.

The "Stars and Stripes" took off at 7.25 in the morning in darkness and was intending to climb to 30,000ft. to join the other B17Gs to fly in formation to Bordeaux. However, the plane only reached about 200 feet. It seems likely that the pilot, Flying Officer William H Morris, was aware that there was a problem with the aircraft and was trying to get back to Great Ashfield airdrome. As a result of the crash, the plane loaded with 5,000 lbs of bombs, exploded and together with the impact of the crash, all the crew, bar one, was killed and debris from the plane was scattered over a large area.

There should have been 10 men on the plane that day but one had called in sick. The nine men who flew on that day were:

Pilot	Flying Officer William H Morris
Co-Pilot	2nd Lt. Dennis J. Ziebarth
Navigator	2 nd Lt. Richard S Proctor
Bombardier	2 nd Lt Robert M Totaro
Top Turret	

Gunner	T/Sgt Russell A Stevens
Radio Operator	
/Gunner	Sgt. Chester A Rober, Jr
Ball Turret	
Gunner	S/Sgt Walter A Stuebgen
Waist Gunner	Sgt Stanley Lowitz
Tail Gunner	S/Sgt Burnell W Hamilton

Only S/Sgt Burnell W Hamilton, the Tail Gunner, survived. It is said that as the aircraft came down, the tailplane including the rear gun position broke off as it hit the top of a ditch. Both ended up in the ditch whilst the remainder of the plane was destroyed in the subsequent crash and explosion. If it is true, it undoubtedly was the reason S/Sgt. Burnell's life was saved.

And, this is the reason the three windows in The Nave date from the 20th century, in fact from that fateful morning in 1944. As a result of the explosion, all the windows on the northern side of St. Mary's church were severely damaged and had to be replaced.

On August 3rd 2015, a commemorative service was held in memory of the nine men who died in the "Stars and Stripes" and a plaque was unveiled beneath the village sign which also doubles as a WWI and WWII War Memorial to the fallen of Badwell Ash. On that occasion, the relatives of S/Sgt Burnell W Hamilton, who had been invited to Badwell, attended the ceremony.

There's much more information about this crash and WWII generally on the Badwell Ash History website at badwellashheritage.co.uk

Have you seen this insect

Greg Monaghan - gmonag@sky.com



Photo: Angus Deuchar

The UK is under attack from an invasive insect! **The Asian Hornet** (*Vespa velutina*), also known as the **Yellow-legged Hornet**, is a predatory species of hornet indigenous to Southeast Asia, which arrived accidentally in France in 2004. They have since spread throughout Western Europe and have now been found in the UK. They are designated a **Notifiable Invasive Species** and must be reported if seen or captured.

The best way to do this is via the "Asian Hornet Watch App", available free for iPhone and Android. The report will be relayed to a local Asian Hornet Team member (most likely me!) for confirmation. The nest will then be found and destroyed by government officers from APHA.

Why should we be concerned?

The Asian Hornet is voracious and will eat nectar, wasps, bees, flies, butterflies, spiders, caterpillars, fallen fruit and carrion. They are such efficient hunters that they will completely suppress all insects within 1km of their nest! Honeybees are a favourite prey and they will devastate an apiary if they find one. Not surprisingly beekeepers are keen to repel these invaders but we should all do our bit to help, because all **our native insects are at risk.**

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



What can we do?

Download the app. Be alert. You may hear one before you see it - its wing buzz is loud and low. Report any sightings.

Asian Hornets are black, with yellow legs (socks).

Do not confuse them with native insects, particularly the European Hornet (which is predominately brown and not a problem, despite being bigger and scary-looking!) - See the graphic below.

If we can find them now, we can eliminate them but if we fail they will gain a foothold and then we will never be able to stop them.

Scan QR code for more info



(Photos and graphics are used with permission of APHA unless shown)

Great Ashfield & Badwell Ash WI

Midge Hawkins - 01359 259399

2024 – This is a very special year for our WI as we will be celebrating our Centenary in June with a special party. There have been so many changes since we started and lots of wonderful memories down the years by our members. During WW1 the WI Organisation was formed to encourage country women to get involved in growing and preserving food to help increase the supply of food to the war-torn nation. The aims of the WI still stay the same and are based on the ideals of fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice.

Our December 2023 meeting speaker was Mike Wabe with 'A Christmas Carol' presented by 'Charles Dickens' himself (aka Mike Wabe). To the sound of a clock chiming the story of Scrooge began. We were taken through the various stages of the book with visual and sound effects ending with Scrooge a changed person who believed in Christmas. Mike really brought the book to life and his narration was excellent.

Our January 2024 meeting speaker was local author Martyn Taylor who offered us a

fascinating insight into the Bury St Edmunds heritage lying hidden beneath its surface. He spoke about and showed photographs of beautiful cellars in the medieval homes and businesses in and around Bury St Edmunds and also the chalk mines that run beneath our town. He was an excellent speaker and quite a character.

Our next three meeting – all listed below, are to be held in the Lord Thurlow Hall at Great Ashfield at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Afternoon meetings – January 2025, February 2025 and December 2024, are 2.30 to 4.30pm.

8th February 2024 – Afternoon Meeting at 2.30pm. We are having an informal Members Tea Party when the committee see to all the catering.

14th March 2024 – Evening Meeting at 7.30pm. Our speaker Celia Graham of the National Trust is to talk about the Working lives at Ickworth in the 1930's. Find out more about life in this Italianate Palace in

the heart of Suffolk by joining us as a guest.

11th April 2024 – Evening Meeting at 7.30pm – Our speaker is from the Blood Runners. Since 2011 the volunteers of SERV Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, also known as the Blood Runners, have been providing a free essential service to our local NHS hospitals, Air Ambulance Services, Hospices, Human Donor Milk Banks and vulnerable patients by transporting blood, blood products, patient blood samples, medicines etc.

We would welcome any new members to join us. We are not a huge group but a very friendly one and we invite you to come and see what we are all about. All new visitors have 1 free meeting and then pay £3 for each of the next 2 meetings before deciding whether or not to join. This includes a raffle ticket and refreshments. Please feel free to ring me for any further information.

St Mary's Church

Stephen Rose

I would like to thank everyone who supported and helped our church in 2023.

The last few months have been very testing with no priest. The post has now been advertised and we should find out mid February if anyone has put themselves forward.

We have another full year of events coming up. Please keep an eye on the Broadsheet for dates.

The church gets cleaned before services as well as possible, but it is a huge job and we have a lot of bats in the roof, which makes it impossible to keep the church clean in the summertime.

I will make more of an effort this year with the church itself, the church yard and

cemetery. So we are looking for volunteers who can help with cleaning on a regular basis, or could clean the church brasses, or help in any way. If you feel that it's something you could do, please contact Stephen Rose on 07714273669.

We only have 2 of us on the PCC running everything and would like to increase numbers. We meet about 4 times a year. Or if that's not for you, but you would still like to help with events or decorating the church for festivals, please contact Stephen Rose.

If you can't help, please just come to the events. It makes a huge difference when events are well supported.

My goal is, as always, to keep our church open for all and in good condition.



Carpet Bowls

Clive Hawkins

The New Year sees the Bowls Club return to its fixture list but first our end of year news.

The club teams had mixed results, losing in the Knockout Cup away to Cockfield and in the league away to Woolpit. However the tables turned with an away win at Thurston.

More success came when one of our members, Rob Parnell, was one of a team who won in a Suffolk Triples match, to go on to play in a national competition. To date

this year we have played away to Stanton, losing in the two fours and one of the pairs matches. Embarrassment was saved by a win in the other pairs match.

Our second game this year, at home to Tostock, proved a little more successful, with a draw. Both teams winning a fours and a pairs match. Our next match is a home one to Thurston, fingers crossed.

We are still seeking new members to our long established club. We meet on

Tuesdays at 7.30 in the village hall if you think it's a sport for you why not give it a try. Maybe you have played before, are new to the village and want to join a friendly sociable club, please give us a look.

Are you passionate about your local area?

Are you

- Over 18 years old?
- A qualifying Commonwealth citizen or an EU citizen?

And/or

- Are you a registered local government elector for the Parish
- Have been a resident of the Parish for over 12 months (or within 3 miles)
- Have you worked in the Parish for over 12 months?

Join Badwell Ash Parish Council

For more information or an application, contact
Carole Rose, the Parish Clerk -
badwellashpc@outlook.com



Village Quiz Night

In aid of local charities

Friday 15th
March
7pm

£7.50 per ticket
Ploughman's supper included
Maximum teams of 4

Tickets available from
Badwell Ash
Post Office or
call
01359 259428

Badwell
Ash Village
Hall

Village Hall update

Clive Hawkins - Chairman of Trustees

Another New Year and the Village Hall Trustees Committee already have dates pencilled in for some of this year's events, as you will see in this issues, *Dates For Your Diary*.

As a registered charity, the Village Hall runs these events, which are an essential way, of raising funds to run and maintain the hall. In doing so we ask that you support us at these events or by volunteering your help, if you are able to do so at the events. In doing so you will be surprised as to the enjoyment to be had and the acquaintance's you make of likeminded people.

Our last event The Christmas Bonanza proved to be a success and we look forward to this year's event, when we hope to see even more attend.

Last year was an excellent one with regard to improvements at the hall and the Committee is looking to build on that success.

The major improvements we will seek to do are the external cladding and associated insulation, the courtyard and fittings. Internally we hope to redecorate the smaller hall and replace the curtains in the main hall, all with a view to improving the ambience of the building for hirers and general users. All of this will take time and

of course money, as well as ensuring the regular maintenance of the hall, of this we are ever mindful.

That said we are close to seeing the installation of broadband to the hall, which will open up other opportunities for all hall users. Another step forward.

As you can see the Committee are still committed to improving the hall, your hall, for the benefit all but your continued support is essential.

In closing the Committee wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Hire the Village Hall

The hire charges for the large hall is £15 per hour and £12 per hour for the small hall.

To book the hall please contact:

Janet de Vries - 07738 706900 | janetdevries35@gmail.com

Caroline Morris - 07843 248411 | cdv_11@hotmail.com



In the Village...

Sunday

Yin Yoga | 4-6pm. Village Hall (small hall)

Monday

Pilates | 12-1pm. Village Hall (large hall)
Zumba | 7-8pm. Village Hall.

Tuesday

Silver Ash | 2-3.30pm. Village Hall.
(small hall, once a fortnight.)
Carpet Bowls | 7.30-9.30pm. Village Hall.

Wednesday

Dog training classes | 6.30-8.30. Village Hall.

Thursday

Yin Yoga | 6-7am. Village Hall (small hall)
Dog training classes | 6.30-8.30. Village Hall.

Friday

The 4C's once a month - middle Friday.
Village Hall

Dates for
your diary



Coffee morning - 3rd Feb. 10am to 12pm.
Village Hall

WI meeting - 8th Feb. 2.30pm. Lord Thurlow Hall

Irish night - 9th March. 7.30pm 'til late.
Walsham le Willows sports club

WI meeting - 14th Mar. 7.30pm Lord Thurlow Hall

WI meeting - 11th Apr. 7.30pm. Lord Thurlow Hall

Jumble Sale - 13th April. Time TBC. Village Hall

Quiz night - 21st June. Doors open at 7pm. Quiz
starts at 7.30. Village Hall

Quiz night - 11th Oct. Doors open at 7pm. Quiz
starts at 7.30. Village Hall

Christmas Fayre - Date and time TBC. Village Hall

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