

The Badwell Broadsheet

Issue 105 - June / July 2025



A note from the Chair of the Parish Council.

Richard Morris - Chairman

The Parish AGM last month was a great success. Following the AGM, I am truly honoured to be elected chair once again. I believe it's a testament to the collaborative spirit we've fostered and the tangible improvements we're bringing to our community. I'm eager to continue working alongside all of parish council to build on this momentum and achieve even more in the coming year.

Since welcoming our new Parish Clerk, the council have been incredibly productive, and I'm thrilled to share some of the highlights:

Community Projects and Improvements - We've seen significant progress on several key initiatives. The Multi-Use Games Area has received planning approval, bringing us a big step closer to a fantastic new facility for everyone to enjoy.

Grant Successes - Our local organisations have been very active in securing crucial funding. St Mary's Church received grant applications for a drainage survey and a "giving" card payment system, while the Village Hall has received applications for a total replacement of its heating system and big hall decoration. These grants are vital for maintaining and improving our community spaces.

Local Enhancements - The War Memorial repairs are now complete, ensuring this important tribute is preserved for future generations. We've also started consulting with residents of St Mary's Crescent to determine the best location for two new benches, purchased with a grant from 'Pride of Place'.

Community Clean-Up and Safety - Our village is looking much tidier

thanks to the restart of the village street cleaning schedule. A huge thank you to the nine residents who helped out with the Great British Spring Clean in Long Thurlow on 29th March. In terms of safety, new speed monitoring cameras are being purchased for Badwell Ash, which will be a welcome addition.

For now, I wish you a very happy Summer. Best wishes,

Richard

Check out the
issue online



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.

The Badwell Ash History Society

Pete Dixon – info@badwellashheritage.co.uk

Next time you are walking up the Broadway, think on this...

While most people know that Henry VIII chopped and changed his wives regularly, there was one woman who remained constant to him throughout her life - and she lived just up the road in Westhorpe.

Mary Tudor was Henry's younger sister, and they were very close. By all accounts, she was clever, cheerful, well educated, spirited, and exceptionally good-looking.

But she was also the sister of a king, and, as a consequence, Henry ordained that Mary be married off to the King of France to cement a peace treaty.

Mary already had her eye on Charles Brandon, the dashing first Duke of Suffolk, so she wasn't pleased to be married off to an elderly, pockmarked Frenchman who suffered from gout and was ill.

It wasn't what she had in mind at all.

While she had to agree to the marriage, Mary managed to extract a promise that if she was widowed, she could choose her husband the next time.

Aged only eighteen, she was duly married in October 1514 and became the Queen of France. But the King of

France duly died in January the following year (no surprises here). There were rumours that Mary had "over-exerted" him - whatever that might mean.

Traditionally, French royal widows wore white, and etiquette demanded Mary spend forty days in seclusion to establish whether she might be carrying a child. She wasn't, but she became known as the "White Queen".

The French wanted to marry her off again, but Henry had other plans and sent Charles Brandon to bring her home. But before packing him off, Henry made him promise that he wouldn't "make an offer of marriage" to Mary on the way home. Charles didn't - but Mary did. They got married the next month, and Henry was furious.

In the end, the dust settled, Henry forgave them (after she had given most of her dowry to Henry), and Mary settled down as the Duchess of Suffolk, living at Westhorpe Hall and had a family.

By all accounts, she was much liked but, sadly, was also dogged by illness, and she died aged only thirty-seven.

...and this is where Badwell Ash comes in.

Local lore has it that her cortege, comprising a hearse with a hugely

ornate coffin, pulled by six black horses, together with 100 torch bearers, clergy carrying the cross, nobility and a hundred of the Duke's yeomen all travelled down the bridleway that runs from Westhorpe to Badwell Green that we now know as Kiln Lane. What a sight!

If so, it is almost certain that the cortege would have then travelled down the Broadway and (we're guessing here) along the Street and on towards Bury St Edmunds. The procession was slow, the coffin immensely heavy, and it stopped at every church to receive a blessing.

Would the torchbearers have been local people? Almost certainly. Would her cortege have stopped at our church? Almost certainly. Would local people have remembered it and told their children and grandchildren about it? Almost certainly.

So, although there are no written records, local legends usually have some grounding in facts. And it is not at all improbable that this one is true. So next time you walk up the Broadway, just be prepared to doff your cap.

Village Hall update

Clive Hawkins - Chairman of Trustees

In the last issue, you saw before-and-after pictures of the improvements to the outside of the Village Hall. This change has been met by the approval of many residents and users alike.

The second stage of improvements - installing the new canopy/veranda - should have been completed by the end of April. Unfortunately, not everything has gone according to plan, and there has been a delay in the installation of this unit. However, by the time this article is read, both the canopy/veranda and the new courtyard should have been installed, further enhancing the overall appearance of the Village Hall.

The fitting of the new perimeter fence, which will add privacy and safety for hall users, will be completed next.

Over 100 entrants enjoyed the Quiz Night held on Friday, 25th April, and it was a great success, raising over £900 for the Charity. The Fish and Chips enjoyed by many, along with various



other foods, went down a treat, adding to the fun of the evening. Our thanks to all who came, their support was very much appreciated. Feedback was that we need a few tweaks, and the Committee has taken this on board; rest assured. There are more events to come, so keep looking out for notices on the various media we now use.

The Committee are not standing still and is already planning further improvements to the Village Hall, this time turning our attention to the interior of the large hall in particular. These changes will not happen overnight, so please bear with us. These envisaged improvements are for everyone's benefit.

A date for the future is Saturday 13th September, when we propose to officially launch the new improvements to the Village Hall for all to see.

The Committee thanks you all for your continued support.

Carpet Bowls

Clive Hawkins

I'm afraid there isn't much to report, as the league season is now well and truly over. We ended up in a respectable fifth place, and naturally, we are looking forward to improving on this next season. However, a friendly game or two maybe forthcoming which will keep us up to scratch, so to speak.

Our club nights continue throughout the summer, every Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the village hall. These club nights are not only to improve our bowling skills but also to enjoy socialising with members. We are a friendly club enjoying an easy, fun sport. For anyone wishing to join us, these lighter evenings make an ideal opportunity to pop in and try Carpet Bowls. Or you can call me on 01359 259399.

From the Parish Council

Visit the villages' website: badwellash.suffolk.cloud

Flytipping & vandalism



Over the last couple of months, there have been reports of vandalism and flytipping (with a fire) in the village. Flytipping is a criminal offence in the UK and can lead to fines of up to £50,000, or even more serious penalties depending on the situation.

The case of vandalism was in the graveyard with a headstone being broken. If you have any information about this, please call xxx and use the crime number x as a reference.

Let's all work together to keep our village the lovely place it is by disposing of our waste responsibly.

Thanks for your help in keeping our community safe and beautiful!

Neighbourhood Watch update

Our Neighbourhood Watch is now out for "examination", which means someone independent checks that we have crossed all our 'T's and dotted our 'I's and that we haven't breached any existing policies lurking anywhere. We're quietly optimistic!

When that is over, it will be over to you! Every elector in the Parish will get a chance to vote in a Council-run referendum (this will probably be held after the summer holidays, so within the next six months), with a simple majority deciding it.

If approved, we will receive 10% more money from the developers than we do now, and that could be quite a worthwhile sum.

Which leads nicely to the next theme. How to spend the money?

The Parish Council (PC) has been carefully saving money for this day and

is now considering a variety of projects to be funded through these reserves, as well as some grant applications.

Rather than just splurge it, or pretend it has all the answers, the PC wants to check in with every household to see how you would like the money spent.

To do that every house will be getting a Community Survey form at the beginning of June. We need everybody's collective wisdom on this!

Chances to spend big sums of money don't come around very often, and how we spend this could shape the Parish for the next twenty years or more.

So... please read the survey and fill it in. Thank you.

Badwell Ash Parish Council are considering a variety of community projects. We need to hear your views to set priorities.

Please fill in the paper survey delivered to your door or use the QR code to do it online by 30th June.

Thank you!



Green Dilemmas - can you recycle tetra paks and soft plastic?

Richard Winch - richard@winchmail.net

There is a lot of confusion about recycling Tetra Pak and soft plastic.

Materials like glass and aluminium cans are easily recyclable and can be recycled multiple times. Recycling is much more problematic for plenty of other materials.

Tetra Paks are cartons for milk, juices, soups, and sauces. The material looks and feels like a waxy type of cardboard.

A typical Tetra Pak carton says it is 100% recyclable. However, if you put Tetra Pak in your recycling bin, it won't get recycled! You can put the plastic lid in the recycling bin, but not the carton.

The recycling advice is to squash them before placing the lid back in the carton, and then take the tetra packs to a recycling centre.

Tetra Pak is made up of thin layers of different materials - plastic sheets, aluminium, and cardboard. Recycling tetra packs is complex and energy-intensive. It results in much lower-grade materials, and there is only one recycling plant in the UK, near Halifax.

Soft plastic, such as plastic bags, crisp packets, salad bags, wrapping, or plastic film, cannot be put in your recycling bin or taken to a recycling centre!

Supermarkets are the main users of these plastics, and some supermarkets offer a recycling service. You need to ensure that the soft plastic is cleaned as far as practical. There has been a lot of noise about whether this plastic is recycled or just ends up in landfills overseas. In any event, the recycling of

these materials is also complex and results in much lower-grade material.

The short answer to the question is that Tetra Paks and soft plastic are both theoretically recyclable. The reality is most people don't follow the required recycling route and when they do the recycling process is useful but limited in scope. There isn't really any getting away from the fact that we need to significantly reduce our use of this type of packaging.

Note: From June 2026 Mid Suffolk Council will recycle Tetra Pak and soft plastic placed in your recycling bin as part of a plan to revamp our recycling activities so at least this will be a lot easier for residents.

Great Ashfield & Badwell Ash WI

Midge Hawkins - 01359 259399

What beautiful weather we have been experiencing; however, our poor gardens are suffering from a lack of rain. Wouldn't it be lovely if it would just rain while we were all asleep? No doubt, many of us will be venturing on holiday in the coming months. Enjoy wherever you are going.

Our April open meeting with guest speaker Lucy Lewis was a great success, with over twenty visitors joining us for the evening. Lucy spoke about the hidden world of bomb disposal training and how she became the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. She was an excellent speaker whose talk was extremely interesting and very amusing.

The May meeting was our Annual General Meeting. The committee were all re-elected for the next twelve months.

We all enjoyed a craft session, making cards with Sue Monaghan, lavender bags with Sue Morgan and various animals made with wool balls with

Bronwen. We also had a "Bring & Buy" table. Each year, we choose a charity to support, and for the coming twelve months, the members voted to support SARS – Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service.

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

12th June 2025 – Evening meeting at 7.30 pm. Our Speaker is from My WiSH - West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. Their mission is to enhance the wonderful care you, your family, friends and loved ones receive at the Trust. The charity was entered on the Central Register of Charities on the 15th September 1995. It consisted of 91 individual funds and was managed ad hoc by the Trust's Finance department. In May 2016, it was rebranded and launched under the new name My

WiSH Charity. This decision has seen the charity go from strength to strength. Learn more about the current appeals, how to get involved and what contribution their fundraising has made.

10th July 2025 – Afternoon meeting at 2 pm. We have a visit to Columbine Hall Gardens in Stowupland.

14th August 2025 – Afternoon meeting at 2.30 pm. It is our Members' Garden Meeting and a Bring & Buy Sale. The location is to be confirmed.

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 one free meeting and then pay £3 for each of the next two 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 on 01359 259399.

**SUFFOLK
LIBRARIES**

Mobile Library

Location: Lay-by, The Street, Badwell Ash
Stop: 5F
Route: Bury St Edmunds mobile library route 5

24th June
22nd July
19th August
16th September
14th October
11th November
9th December

At the Village Hall.

Tuesday

Silver Ash | 2-3.30pm | Small hall, once a fortnight.
Carpet Bowls | 7.30-9.30pm | Large hall.

Wednesday

Dog training classes | 6.30-9.00pm | Large hall.

Thursday

Dog training classes | 6.30-9.00pm | Large hall.
Rainbow's | 4.15 - 5.45pm | Small hall

Dates for your diary



Community Coffee morning - 7th June - 10.30-1pm - Village Hall

Art exhibition - 21-22nd June - St Mary's Church

Launch Party to show work done at the Village Hall - 12th July -
2pm onwards - Village Hall

Car show in aid of Cancer Research - 17th August - Badwell Ash Hall

History day - September (date and time TBC) - St Mary's Church

Jumble sale - October (date and time TBC) - St Mary's Church

Christmas Fayre - 22nd November - Village Hall

Christmas Fair and lights switch on - Sat 13th December - St Mary's Church

In the garden...

Janet de Vries

Flowers

If you have wisteria in your garden, be aware that it is a very hungry plant and needs to be fed monthly with a high potash fertiliser during the growing season to encourage more flowers to bloom. If yours is in a pot, it should be watered and fed weekly.

Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash



You should have pruned it in February and then not again until August, and if this is a new planting for the first few years, give your attention to training the plant into a support.

Support tall-growing perennials, including hollyhocks and delphiniums, with a sturdy cane to avoid them flopping over as they grow taller, and once the flower spikes have faded, cut them back to encourage the plant to produce more flower spikes.

Continue planting summer bedding in pots and borders, ensuring you water regularly to help the plants establish quickly. If you want value for money, look for bedding plants that flower from May or June into autumn, especially cosmos, begonias and geraniums with

a good flowering life. If buying from a nursery, check the label for flowering times when you purchase. Also, another thing to consider is how much maintenance your plants will need; some need more deadheading than others, so choose plants like begonias or nicotiana.

Fruit and veg

This time of year will be very busy if you are into growing lots of fruit and veg. It's very important to cover developing and ripening fruits with netting or fleece. Otherwise, all your hard work will go to feeding the birds. Tie in new shoots of blackberries, raspberries and other cane fruits to give structure to the plant.

It's a good idea to spread a layer of mulch over the soil and around plants to suppress weeds and lock in moisture, which is doubly important if long periods of dry weather are the norm. It's worth using an organic one that contains nutrients that will act as a slow-release plant, attracting beetles, worms, and other soil invertebrates and providing food for the birds.

Apply tomato feed regularly to fruiting veg crops, including tomatoes, courgettes, pumpkins and chillies, and it's a good idea to plant up an edible

hanging basket with trailing tomatoes, Tumbling Tom or Gartenperle being good varieties, making sure to keep it well watered during the summer.

Garden maintenance

I expect your compost bins are getting fairly full with lawn cuttings, so you need to empty them, mix and refill to speed up decomposition, to avoid compacting and drying into a solid mass. Check your roses for disease, black spot, powdery mildew, rusts, and aphids, and spray them.



Before trimming hedges and shrubs, check for nesting birds so you don't disturb them. Check tall flowering plants like large-flowered dahlias, put in stakes to support them, and tie stems as they grow. If you've laid new turf, water it several times a week for at least the first month, and feed the lawn with a liquid or granular lawn fertiliser.

From now until autumn, the jobs seem endless, but it is worth it when you're sitting

in your garden on a warm evening, admiring all the hard work you have done, so until the next time, happy gardening.

Photo by Vickie Poon on Unsplash

Citizen's Advice

citizens
advice

Mid Suffolk

I'm worried about my debt and rising bills, and want to know what support is available. Do you have any advice on managing rising costs and what to do if I fall into debt?

Rising bills and debt can be overwhelming, but support is available to help manage the financial strain. Start by checking if you're eligible for benefits. Many people miss out on support they're entitled to, such as help for low-income households, those who are sick or disabled, carers, or individuals of State Pension age with a low income. Understanding the benefits available to you can provide immediate relief.

You may also qualify for reductions in certain bills. For example, if you're on benefits or a low income, you could receive a reduction in your Council Tax. Specific groups, like students or people living with a carer, may also qualify for

discounts. If you have children, you might be eligible for free school meals, transport, or support with school uniform costs.

Your local council may offer additional financial support through schemes like the Household Support Fund, which can help with energy, water bills, food, and other essentials. Contact your local authority to find out what assistance is available.

To manage expenses, consider switching to a cheaper broadband deal, getting a water meter, or exploring discounted travel options. Using a budget tool like MoneyHelper can help you track your income and expenses more effectively.

If you're struggling with debt, prioritise paying 'priority debts' like rent, mortgage payments, Council Tax, and energy bills. Missing these can have

serious consequences. After that, focus on credit cards, payday loans, or other debts. Contact the companies you owe money to; they may offer repayment plans.

Remember, you're not alone. Organisations like Citizens Advice or StepChange can offer guidance and support. Seek help early to get back on track.

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

The 4Cs - Something to celebrate

Sue Morgan

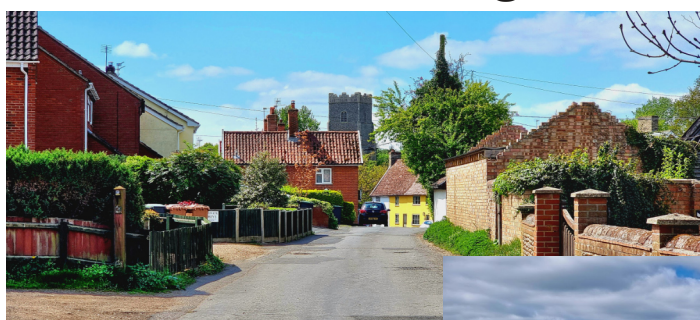
Due to holiday commitments, the 4cs last met earlier in the month than usual on the day after VE Day. Thanks to Helen and Hannah, we were treated to two fabulous musical contributions: bagpipes played by the talented Doug Grant, who was dressed in the military uniform of a World War 1 piper, and Andy Ottley as Elvis, who got some of us on our feet dancing!

The money raised will be added to surplus funds from earlier this year and donated to the Royal British Legion.

The 4Cs will be ready with coffee, cakes, chat and company on Friday 18th July, from 10.00am to noon at Badwell Ash Village Hall. June and Sue look forward to seeing you there.



Photos from our village



All photos copyright David C. Girling

All photos taken on Samsung Galaxy phone

Art Exhibition

St. Mary's Church, Badwell Ash



21-22 June 10.00am - 4.00pm

Mixed media exhibition | Refreshments & Tombola
A fundraising event for St. Mary's Church Badwell Ash

For more information please contact
Stephen Rose 07714 273669

Feature painting by Gillain Crossley-Holland



BADWELL ASH SUPPORTS

CAR SHOW



**TIPPLE, TEA,
GAMES, MUSIC &
CAKES**

Sunday 17th August, 2025 12pm – 4pm

WHERE: Badwell Ash Hall, IP31 3JG

WHY: ALL PROCEEDS TO CANCER
RESEARCH UK

Enquiries: 07931 852288



COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING



SATURDAY 7TH JUNE
10:30AM - 1:00PM

BADWELL ASH VILLAGE HALL, IP31 3DG

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 279997

A VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY EVENT

Badwell Ash
VILLAGE HALL
at the heart of your community

SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTMAS

Fayre

22ND NOVEMBER 2025

Badwell Ash Village Hall, IP31 3DG

Stalls available to pre-book

To enquire please contact Midge.
Email: clive@agenthawkins.plus.com

Registered Charity No. 279997 | A Village Hall Community Event

Reorganisation of Suffolk's Councils

Andy Mellen, County Councillor for Thedwastre North, Andy.Mellen@suffolk.gov.uk

As you may have heard, the new government is shaking up councils across the country.

Districts and county councils are being replaced by unitary councils – the most dramatic change to local government in 50 years. So far, two visions have emerged for the future shape of local government here in Suffolk: The administration at the county council are proposing a single unitary for the whole county – and are busy promoting this idea.

Suffolk's district and borough councils have taken a different view – they think that a single new unitary council for

Suffolk would not be the best approach,

and that two or three smaller unitaries would provide better services and be closer and more relatable for residents.

Whilst change can be difficult, I think this is a fantastic opportunity to transform public services, so they work for all our citizens and communities. But most importantly, we need residents to share what you think is important in this process, so that you can help to shape the future of our county.

A survey has just been launched, 'Shaping Suffolk Together' - so that you can make your views known. You can find it on the Mid Suffolk District Council website, or on social media. **If you want a paper copy, call the council on 0300 1234000 and they will send you one.**

The councils have not formally decided their proposal as to the 'right' number, size and any boundaries of unitary councils but believe they need to be big enough to deliver and local enough to care.

Once all the survey results have been collated, a final decision will be made and submitted to government in September.

Please do take a few minutes to help shape the future of local government in Suffolk by completing the survey – your views matter.

In the meantime, if I can help you with any county council related matter, please get in touch.

Let's shape the future of Suffolk together

How could public services work better for you?

Local government in Suffolk is changing. All county, district and borough councils are being replaced with 'unitary' councils responsible for delivering all services.

Suffolk's district and borough councils are working together on an ambitious proposal for two or three unitary councils delivering services to different parts of the county. We believe these will meet the differing needs of our diverse communities - councils that are big enough to deliver, local enough to care.

But what do YOU think?

We want to hear the views of residents, businesses, organisations and communities. These major changes will be shaped by your needs.

Please provide your feedback by scanning the QR code, visit: www.midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk, or call your local district or borough council (see reverse) if you need a paper copy of the survey. We will carefully consider all your responses before putting forward a final proposal to the Government in September.



Shaping
Suffolk
Together

