



The
BARTON
Miller

October 2026



Barton Mills
AUTUMN FAIR
Saturday, 24th October
St Mary's Church
1—5 pm



Originating from & produced by St Mary's Church Barton Mills

October 2026

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the October edition of the Barton Miller. We have our annual Harvest Festival Service in Church on Sunday 11th October where donated non-perishable gifts are given to the Mildenhall Food Bank. (See page 6)

You will see from the front cover we also have the Autumn Fair coming up on 24th October. Please chat to and support the stall holders at this event, who are showing us their creativity in selling their crafted wares.

Towards the end of the month the clocks change (Sunday 25 Oct). The clocks go back one hour and look out for the Hunters Moon (Full) on Monday 26th Oct.

When you are out and about enjoy the autumnal colours of this time of year.

Copy for the November issue to the editors by 20th Oct, please.

Nancy Higgins and Frances Lewis, Editors.

BURY ST EDMUNDS MOBILE LIBRARY VAN DATES (Route 4)

Email: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk Telephone: 01473 584563

The Library Van visits Barton Mills (Lamb Court) on Saturday aft. **12.15pm -12.40pm**

This will be the following Saturdays - 10th Oct, 7th Nov and 5th Dec.

Vicar's Letter

To pew or not to pew, that is the question

When you think of what a church building looks like, what do you picture? A tower, like ours? Gothic windows, like ours? A leafy churchyard, like ours?

And what about inside? Stained glass window, like ours? A pulpit, like ours? Pews? Not like ours!

We are so used to seeing church buildings with pews in that we often assume that churches always had pews, and that it is unusual or some kind of historic violence to remove them. Yes, some churches had some pews (Worlington has some medieval ones), but many had none in the main body of the church (the nave) because they were built to be community spaces, used for so much more than just worship on a Sunday (and holy days).

What did people do then during services? They stood, unless they were old or infirm in which case they "went to the wall", and sat on seats up against the wall.

I don't know how controversial it was when the pews were removed at St. Mary's, it was before my time here, but I have always believed that church buildings are there to be used and should go back to the historic purpose as flexible spaces to be used by the community for the community. Not having pews means you can do that more easily.

Without pews we can have the Autumn Fayre. Without pews we could have the concert in June. Without pews we can respond to the need to close the church rooms with immediate effect (which I talk about later in this edition) by hosting groups in the church itself.

As we begin this next chapter of the story of St. Mary's, with the building being used for the other activities that serve the village that used to happen in the Church Rooms, alongside its historic use as a place of worship, I hope that we will be renewing the historic medieval purpose of the church as a community space as we serve the church now and into the future in the 21st Century.

Mark McCaghrey

St Mary's Church Barton Mills.

Church Contact: Team Vicar, Revd Mark McCaghrey,
1 The Street, Barton Mills IP28 6AP
Tel. No. 01638 495001

E mail mark.larkandlee@outlook.com

Church Representatives:

Churchwardens: Jenny Everett, 24 Oxford Close, Mildenhall
IP28 7RP, Tel 07807 912909 and Paul Bonnett, Staunch House
The Street, Barton Mills IP28 6AA Tel 07563 165569

Elders: TBA

St Mary's Parochial Church Council

Secretary: Nancy Higgins, 67 Church Meadow, Barton Mills,
IP28 6AR. Email - nancy@bartonmills.com

To whom all correspondence should be addressed.

Elected Members

Treasurer: Jo Traher

Diocesan Synod Representative: Peter Alder

Other PCC Members : Alan Butcher, Heather East,
Linda Jenkins, Rodney Knight, Frances Lewis, Sandra Woollard.

Prayer Chain - There is access to a prayer chain for anyone
needing prayers for themselves or others. Please contact Heather
East 07970 997090 or email heather.east19@yahoo.co.uk with
any requests.



COFFEE MORNINGS

EVERY THURSDAY 10.00 TO NOON
IN THE CHURCH OR THE VILLAGE HALL



ALL VERY WELCOME



CHURCH SERVICES, OCTOBER 2026

Sunday 4th October 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 11th October 9.30am **HARVEST FESTIVAL** Sunday Celebration Family Service. A service of thanksgiving, with gifts of money and non-perishable food for the Mildenhall Food Bank. All welcome.

5pm Service of Prayer for Healing.

Sunday 18th October 9.30am. Holy Communion

Sunday 25th October 9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 1st November 9.30am Holy Communion

Every Monday, at 9am, there is a short service of Morning Prayer.

All are welcome to join us at all or any of these Services

HARVEST FESTIVAL, SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

GIFTS for the MILDENHALL FOOD BANK

Although we no longer bring sheaves of corn to church, and, for many of us, most of our food comes from supermarkets, we still want to give thanks for what we have, and, for most of us, that we do have sufficient to make life comfortable. But there are those who are finding it difficult to manage, so please bring gifts of non-perishable food, e.g. tinned food or food in packets, and basic toiletry items, for the Mildenhall Food Bank, to Barton Mills church for the service at 9.30am on Sunday 11th October. Or, if you cannot come to the service on Sunday, please put them in the church on the Saturday or Sunday. Thank you.

The service on Sunday will be a Family Service, so all ages will be very welcome. Money donations on that Sunday will also go to the Food Bank.

Closure of the Church Rooms

With a heavy heart, St. Mary's PCC (the church charity's trustees) agreed on Wednesday 26th September to close the Church Rooms immediately, except for toilet use.

The Church Rooms began as a mobile classroom, as much as 60 years ago, and it moved here in the 1980s to serve as our Church Hall. It has served us well but is showing its age. It does not meet current building, health and safety, or fire regulations.

Plans to replace the Rooms with a building that meets current regulations have been discussed for years, but nothing has come to fruition.

Although the building predates current regulations, the PCC is still legally required to ensure it meets today's health, safety and fire standards, minimises risks to users and allows safe evacuation.

A summer fire safety review found the Church Rooms falls well short of current regulations. Changing how we use it would not sufficiently reduce the risk, much of which comes from the flammable construction materials, meaning that we cannot ensure safe evacuation in a fire.

Obviously, we cannot compromise on people's safety. We wouldn't anyone to be injured or lose their lives while using the Church Rooms. Therefore, the PCC had no alternative but to close the Church Rooms with immediate effect.

We can still use them as toilets (because the regulations are different for those), but will no longer be able to host events of any sort.

Although some groups have temporarily moved to the village hall, we are planning to host all existing groups as soon as possible in the church building itself. We will start making use of the flexibility we already have and will be building on that foundation to make the main body of the church as welcoming as the Church Rooms have been.

We are sincerely sorry for the inconvenience this has caused to all the users of the Church Rooms. We wish we could have a better way of managing the decline of the Church Rooms but we cannot compromise on people's safety.

Please don't hesitate to come back to me, Mark, with any questions about this decision.

mark.larkandlee@outlook.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL

In Barton Mills Church we collect food to be given to the Mildenhall Food Bank.

If you would like to donate non-perishable food (e.g. tins or packets) to the Mildenhall Food Bank, please bring your gifts to Barton Mills Church at any time on Saturday, 10th, or Sunday, 11th October.



The Harvest Festival Family Service
is at 9.30am on Sunday 11th October.
All welcome.

Barton Mills AUTUMN FAIR

Saturday, 24th October

St Mary's Church 1—5 pm

*free entry, come and browse,
buy your Christmas cards and gifts,
see the selection of crafts,
meet your friends.*

The stalls will offer a variety of gifts, cards, crafts
and food and will include return visits from some of
the people who have been to our previous Autumn
and Christmas Fairs

Contact Frances Lewis for more information

Tel 01638 713155 or

email frances_lewis11@hotmail.com

BARTON MILLS PARISH COUNCIL

CPR AND DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

If you are interested in attending CPR and defibrillator training delivered by the East Anglian Air Ambulance, please send your details to clerk@bartonmills-pc.gov.uk There is no charge for this.

A date will be arranged when we have an idea of numbers.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

SCC have a number of reporting tools on their website. The public can report problems with street lights, highways or public rights of way. Please visit their website www.suffolk.gov.uk

BENCH REFURBISHMENTS

The bench refurbishments are now almost complete. Thank you to our Gardener Nigel Parkinson for his hard work on restoring these to an acceptable standard.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on **Tuesday 6th October 2026 and Tuesday 3rd November 2026, starting at 7:30pm** in the Village Hall. In the event of an extraordinary meeting being held before the next scheduled meeting, it will be published on the website and notice boards. The public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings and will be offered the opportunity to speak during public participation. To raise an item at any meeting please contact the Clerk at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

For any issues please contact:

Clerk: Naomi Alecock, clerk@bartonmills-pc.gov.uk

Website: bartonmills-pc.gov.uk **and Facebook:** Barton Mills Parish Council



BARTON MILLS BAPTIST CHURCH



I think I have said this before but to me October is a very insignificant month, however, when I worked with American friends, it was a time to start getting ready for their Thanksgiving holiday. **Time** marches on we are reminded, and don't we know it. We'll soon be Christmas shopping (if you hardy ones out there haven't already started). I myself find it hard to believe **we are already into October**, three quarters of the year have now gone.

It's a good job the **God we serve and love does not complicate things**. We can rest in the truth that **He is in control and He loves us**. **Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar passages in Scripture**. David wrote it and the more we read it, the less we need to worry. It begins *"The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want, He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters"* and ends with *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever"*. The more we **meditate on God's Word**, the less we need to worry!

Worrying doesn't change anything but trusting the Lord changes everything about the way we live our lives. We must learn to **turn our confidence toward God and cast our cares on Him**, we can then be calm in the midst of life's demands.

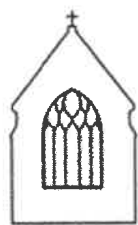
"When fear and worry test your faith, And anxious thoughts assail, remember God is in control and He will never fail."

We invite you to the Baptist Chapel in Barton Mills Street: Sundays at 3 p.m.

We are also willing to visit you to discuss Spiritual Questions or Pray with you,
01638 713892, sweetarrpeace@yahoo.co.uk

FAITH

FAITH RUTTERFORD, MBE



The Friends of St Mary's Barton Mills

friendsofstmarysbm@outlook.com

Fundraising in October

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the Autumn Quiz on Friday 16th October. We're very grateful for all the interest in tickets and are delighted to say that the booking for this event is now closed!

Our next fundraising activity will be to run the Raffle Table at the Autumn Fair run annually in the church.

This year it is on the afternoon of Saturday 24th October.

Scarecrow Retrospective

We really want to express how happy we were to see so many people at the village hall. Lots of memories were provoked and everyone there was talking delightedly about the good times they had when the festivals were a regular feature in the village. This was such an enjoyable afternoon, celebrating all that effort and fun over two decades.

BARTON MILLS 100 CLUB

The purpose of the Barton Mills 100 Club is to raise funds by operation of lotteries and draws to contribute to projects and/or organisations within the parish of Barton Mills for the general benefit of the people of Barton Mills. **If you are a village organisation who would benefit from a 100 Club financial grant, please do speak to Jackie Stirges - jackstirges@btinternet.com**

Sept 2026

£50	38	J Parsons
£30	43	A E Lowe
£20	156	M Titcombe
£10	145	J Peachey
£10	126	C Coomber

If you would like to become a member please contact our Treasurer: Janette Miller - 49 The Street. Tel 07818820955
IF YOU WANT TO WIN, YOU HAVE TO BE IN !!
Prizes of £50, £30, £20, and 2 x £10 monthly and twice a year additional prizes of £150.



MILDENHALL & DISTRICT MUSEUM AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

The Museum is OPEN

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 2 - 4 pm;
Friday 10 - 4pm



MILDENHALL MUSEUM SOCIETY TALKS

Thursday 1st October – Alan Denny - History Of Waterway
Transport in the Fens.

Talks are held at the Museum.
Doors open at 7:00 for 7:30 pm start
£2 members £4 non-members
Refreshments available
Annual Society membership £10



Barton Mills & District Gardening Club

MEMBER OF R.H.S.

Annual Subscription £20.00

£2.00 fee per meeting for members

New members and friends welcome as paying visitors

£5.00

Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th October

David Appleton will speak about
The East Anglia Black Poplar Project

For more information contact -

Secretary - Zoë Morris

01638 482986.



All over 50s Welcome

BARTON MILLS WEDNESDAY CLUB

WEDNESDAY 7th October. 2.00pm at the Village Hall

David Soanes and Richard Rigby will present their **MAGIC
LANTERN SHOW**. (Money raised for Medical Assistance Dogs)

WEDNESDAY 21st October. 2.00pm at the Village Hall

Marian Venables will tell us about **THE POPPY APPEAL**. This is
our fundraiser of the year. **RAFFLE AND BRING AND BUY**

REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS

Wednesday Club Annual Membership £10 payable in January

Admission - £2 members £3 non members

CONTACT ANN JACOBS TEL 01638-510008



Good Neighbour Scheme

There is a Network of Good Neighbour Schemes across Suffolk and over the past nine years that the Barton Mills Good Neighbour Scheme has been in operation, we have both contributed to and learned from experiences of jobs undertaken and support that other schemes and yours have been able to provide to a wide range of people, past and present, in our communities.

The network of schemes in the villages and towns that have embraced the initiative over the past two decades have volunteers who are keen to offer their time, enthusiasm, skills and friendship to their community neighbours. All too often the Schemes hear from members of their communities that their "neighbours" don't like to trouble anybody when it comes to tackling those little jobs that as many of us reach our mature years become increasingly tricky to undertake. Why not contact your Good Neighbour Scheme and see if we can help you to carry out those tasks.

Our services, which are free of any charge, are designed to support villagers across the entire Parish of Barton Mills. We do receive calls from nearby towns and villages to see if we can offer help in particular circumstances and we cannot do so within the limitations of our Scheme. However as private individuals outside of the Scheme, help has been able to be given informally in certain cases where not to do so would leave a person struggling. As the only such scheme left operating in the former Forest Heath district of West Suffolk we are often considered by social practitioners as a body to approach to see if we could add some support to their service users.

See our advert in this Barton Miller that sets out what our range of services can offer. Please remember that you can contact us on **07419 211040** to see if we can help you with your needs.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Barton Mills Ladies Club

8 Sept 2026. Our Speaker was Joanne who came to talk to us about Badgers.

Joanne belongs to Cambridgeshire Badger Group, this is a group of volunteers who are dedicated to protect badgers. The group survey the setts and offer advice on setts under threat. Badgers are protected by law and people can be prosecuted if caught harming them.

Joanne told us about their habits, lifestyle and dangers that threaten them. The biggest danger are cars, so many are hit by cars. If an injured animal is found the best thing to do is report it to the group and they can arrange for it to be taken to safety and looked after. Their habitats are disappearing fast with so much new building in the areas they would make their homes. Sadly, badger baiting goes on and many are killed. The badger will not attack unless it is in a very dangerous situation.

The very hot summers have been particularly difficult because their main diet is worms and they have been deep under ground, too deep for the badgers to reach. It has been known for them to go into old graveyards in their search for food and dig up bones!

Joanne has badgers in her garden and she has cameras which show their antics which we were able to watch on her tablet. She puts out treats for them and the film shows their playfulness, her cat watches on and a muntjac just wanders around.

It was a very informative and entertaining afternoon.

Our meeting for October is the return of Amanda Sutherland with her talk on 'Make Do and Mend' This will be on Tuesday 13th October in the village hall.

Sadly, the Barton Mills Ladies' Club will be closing at the end of the year. It was previously a part of the Woman's Institute for over 60 years and then more recently changed to a Ladies Club. The Committee are standing down, some have been a part of the Committee for a very long time.

If anyone would like to form a Committee to keep the club going please contact me Marilyn Badger on 01638 720633



MILDENHALL AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

Celebrating

75 YEARS

ACTIVITY OPEN DAY
October 30th, 2026
Activities: 11 – 3.30pm
Open: 10 – 4pm

Anglo Saxon life with Ross Harvey

Make a Roman Mosaic
11 – 12.30pm
2 – 3.30pm

Make a Roman Coin
12.30 – 2.00pm

Mildenhall Treasure Talk
11am
12.30pm
2.30pm

Potted History
Make your own Roman pot
11 – 12.30pm
2 – 3.30pm

Dig for Treasure!
11-12.30pm
2 – 3.30pm

Tickets: £5 per child
(free adult ticket with child)
Discount for 3 or more children in a family
Valid all day
Adults: £3 + donation for activities
Available from
Museum and Library
October 1st

NATURE NOTES October

Seeing squirrels burying acorns and conkers in my garden this week reminded me that autumn is here and winter is approaching. Even the exceptionally mild weather we are having will not deter creatures from getting prepared for potential shortages to come. I hear you say: "how do squirrels find the food they have buried?". I'm told they have a very good memory and can remember where most of the items have been buried. However, those that are lost may eventually germinate and can then be dug up for food. You may be aware that seeds that have sprouted are more nutritious than un-sprouted ones so that is a win-win for the squirrels!

A few days ago, I saw a flock of five Jays fly over the house; slightly unusual as they are rarely seen in large groups. Then I heard that a small flock of Jays had been seen flying in off the sea at Hollesley. This prompted me to find out how the Acorn crop is this year. Apparently, Oak trees have produced far fewer acorns this year following an exceptionally heavy crop last year. This allows the trees to regenerate and is part of a natural cycle. So, how does this relate to Jays? Acorns are a main part of their winter food supply and in poor years many Jays migrate to Britain for the winter. In October 1983, an acute failure of the European acorn crop combined with a successful breeding season triggered a massive westward movement of Jays. Up to 10,000 birds were recorded moving through southern Sweden and 6,000 were seen over Cornwall. There were minor irruptions in 2005 and 2021, but it is yet to be seen whether 2026 will be a big 'Jay year'.

In October we generally start to see the arrival of migrant Fieldfares and Redwings from Scandinavia, triggered by much colder weather. I have just checked the weather forecast for Sweden and it seems their weather is much the same as ours at present so it's unlikely the birds will be flying south just yet. The mild weather here continues; yesterday I saw an abundance of butterflies: Clouded yellow, Common blue and Painted lady

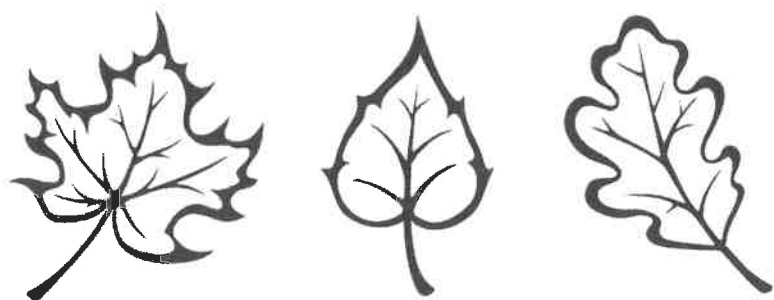
included. This year has been a productive one for butterflies. Plants that would normally start to die down are still growing strongly; in fact, many of our late flowering garden plants have produced a second flush of flowers after having been cut back.

The leaves on some trees and shrubs have started to change to their autumn shades of red, orange and yellow. The recent drought prompted some trees to lose a lot of leaves but this was unconnected to autumn leaf fall; leaf drop during drought is a survival mechanism to reduce transpiration of water. Hopefully, in the spring, those trees will return to their normal state.

Hawthorn berries seem to be much fewer this year due to the dry weather, but well-established Blackberry bushes have produced a good crop. Sloes of the Blackthorn bush *prunus spinosa* are plentiful, too. Bring on the Sloe gin! The native Spindle tree also seems to have done well. An uncommon resident of our hedgerows, the Spindle produces prominent, dark pink fruits which open to reveal bright orange seeds. This attractive small tree is easy to propagate; just plant some of the orange seeds in free-draining compost and leave them outside, or in a cold frame, for the winter. The seeds require a period of cold to germinate so, by spring, you should have some plants!

Whatever you do this autumn, don't forget to make some time for nature, be it garden watching or visiting the great outdoors. There is so much to see at any time of year, and you are always guaranteed to learn something new!

Ken Venus.



BUS SERVICES SERVING BARTON MILLS

(updated 16 Sep 2026)

The village is now only served by one school related bus service although this is available to the general public. It is always advisable to check school/college opening days/dates before making travel plans. Also, to check exact service details with the relevant bus and coach operator before planning a journey.

Telephone numbers are shown below.

Times

Destinations and other information

Mornings

0753

Barton Mills (Church), (The Street), (Bull Inn) to Bury St Edmunds (Bus Station) (0845)
(Mulley's schooldays only service 955 which starts at West Row (0730) then travels via Mildenhall (Bus Station) (0745), Barton Mills (0753), Icklingham, Lackford, Flempton, Hengrave and various Bury schools and West Suffolk College)

Afternoons

1540

From Bury St Edmunds (Bus Station, Stand 3) to Barton Mills (1630) and onwards to Mildenhall (1637), West Row, Beck Row, Holywell Row and Lakenheath. *(Mulley's schooldays only service 955 picking up at the various Bury schools and West Suffolk College after leaving the Bus Station)*

Suffolk County Council 'Connecting Communities' - Suffolk County Council and The Voluntary Network offer the 'Connecting Communities' dial-a-ride mini-bus service. They might be able to arrange transport within the Forest Heath area where no regular bus service links exist. For further information the contact telephone number is 01638 664304. Booking hours: Mon to Fri 0800-1600. Service hours: Mon to Sat 0700-1900. Website: <https://communities.suffolkonboard.com/about/>

during school holidays but do not run on Public Holidays. National Express runs every day). Suffolk County Council no longer produce printed leaflets but times may be seen on their website: www.suffolkonboard.com/buses

Service number	Bus company/ phone number	Main places served
16	Stephensons 01440 704583	West Suffolk Hospital-Bury St.Edmunds-The Fornhams-Flempton-Lackford-Icklingham-Fiveways*-Mildenhall (Bus Station)-The Hub-Worlington-Red Lodge-Kennett-Studlands Park-Newmarket (buses continue to Bottisham and Cambridge (as service 12) <i>(* 'Barton Mills, Silver Lodge' is now shown in the timetable. Silver Lodge is a house on the A1101 Mildenhall Road across from the MacDonalds building).</i>
80/80A	Coach Services 01842 821509	Mildenhall-College Heath Road-Holywell Row-Lakenheath-Brandon-Santon Downham-Thetford <i>(Certain trips via West Row. Beck Row early morning/late afternoon as service 80A)</i>
355	Mulleys 01284 702830	Holywell Row-Beck Row-Mildenhall-Icklingham-Lackford-Flempton-The Fornhams-Bury St Edmunds
357	Coach Services 01842 821509	Mildenhall-Worlington-Freckenham-Red Lodge-Herringswell-Tuddenham-Cavenham-Risby-Bury St Edmunds
358	Coach Services 01842 821509	Mildenhall-College Heath Road-The Hub-West Row-The Hub-College Heath Road-Mildenhall
727/728	National Express 0871 781 8181	Great Yarmouth-UEA-Norwich-Thetford-Mildenhall-Newmarket-Cambridge-Trimpington Park & Ride-Standed Airport-Heathrow Airport (Daily service)

Be Seated



ARMCHAIR

BEANBAG

BENCH

BLEACHER

BOOSTER

BOOTH

CART

CHAIR

CHAISE

COUCH

CUSHION

DIVAN

FUTON

HASSOCK

LAP

LOVESEAT

OTTOMAN

PAPASAN

PEW

RECLINER

ROCKER

SADDLE

SETTEE

SKI LIFT

SOFA

STOOL

STOOP

THRONE

WINGBACK

ZABUTON

In case you weren't able to get to the Scarecrow Retrospective held in August here is a transcript of Rodney Knights speech when unveiling the new bench on the Village Green.

Before the unveiling, some thanks are due:

First, to our organisers of the day, Liz and her Committee, Rev. Mark, Christine and Roz. An awful lot of work gathering, storing and setting up (let alone putting it away again!) all the Scarecrow memorabilia that you see displayed; and all their helpers of course (you know who you are).

Secondly, to the Parish Council, who always supported Scarecrows and have generously provided this memorial in honour of the founders.

And finally to those in the past who had the less glamorous but vital roles of organising and administering the Festivals and collecting and accounting for the money.

Here we recognise and thank Diana and her group under Pat at The Manor who provided up to 250 cream teas over each weekend, Diana for her themed Trails round the wood for the children and especially Frances Lewis, who chaired the Scarecrow Committee, kept everyone on track and dealt with all the money.

Without all this help the Scarecrow Festivals might have been too chaotic and produced no funds for the church fabric.

Colin and Lis have lived in the village since the 1970s. They built their own house and one for his mother at the end of the street and later others and were always an active and inspirational part of the church and the village. Colin with his squeezebox and Lis with her photography were always prominent in village life. Who will forget the inspired Flight of the Red Sparrows down the Street and round the field and the vicar David, with a smoke bomb between his legs, doing aerobatics, all to a mock commentary from the saluting point?

Or the amazing Barton Mills Pedal Car Grand Prix, when privately constructed race-cars did time trials round Church Meadow?

Or the huge tractor-pulled trailer laden with straw bales sitting for a month in the field next to the A11 with huge scarecrows of Lis and Colin inviting attendance at the forthcoming Festival?

These examples and what you have seen displayed in the Village Hall are part of the genius of Lis and Colin to find ideas and implement them so determinedly that provided huge enjoyment and fun for so many people over so many years.

As you have heard they brought the idea of life-size straw-filled statues to Barton Mills and bullied us all into accepting that people would enjoy taking part in a village-wide display of them which could also help fund repairs to the fabric of our 800yr old church.

And it worked! Over about 15 years this village was renowned for Scarecrow Festivals and the village and church enjoyed our fame and the small contributions of visitors to our coffers! Now we have the opportunity to say a big thankyou to them both and are pleased to declare open the bench and tree honouring them for their huge contributions to village life here.

May we salute them in the time-honoured fashion with 3 cheers!

HIP HIP HOORAH! HIP HIP HOORAH! HIP HIP HOORAH!

What's on in Freckenham at the Village Hall

[www.Freckenham Village Hall \(freckenham-pc.gov.uk\)](http://www.FreckenhamVillageHall(freckenham-pc.gov.uk)) this will be changing watch this space!

Monday Meet Up at the Village Hall 2 – 4pm. Free event but donation appreciated. Carpet bowls mat could be out and if little ones come along there are toys in the cupboard.

First Friday of Month Film Night on a summer break back 2nd Oct with Song Sung Blue (2025) Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams. PG-13 Doors & Bar Open 7pm film starts 7.30pm. £7 per person. Next film date 6th Nov.

Farmers Market with some Crafts 31st Oct 10 – 12 noon many regular stalls and even some with some Halloween themes and perhaps some Christmas gifts. Free entry & parking. Refreshments available homemade cakes and bacon rolls. Next market 28th Nov last one of 2026 so will definitely have Christmas theme.

Cash Bingo Fri 23rd October - £2 pp entry, £1 a game, bar & doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Fun night for all ages. Please pre-book your table on Freckenham Facebook DM or text 07542 198 933 or email freckenhamvh@outlook.com

Quiz night Fri 13th Nov professional quiz master, popular event best to pre-book as a team or to join a team VH mobile or Facebook message. £3 per person Max team of 6. Doors & bar open 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm. Can each team bring a raffle prize.

Check out our weekly events contact the organiser before just turning up! We have a new dance sessions starting in September for 6 – 17 year olds called 4th Dimension check their website www.4d-dance.co.uk for more details and booking in. Check on [Facebook FreckenhamVH & Freckenham, Suffolk Community Group](#).

CLUB NEWS

KNIT and NATTER GROUP

The Knit and Natter Group have been busy making Nativity figures for the Church Christmas display. There has been quite a lot of knitting and sewing in constructing these people and animals, so we look forward to seeing the complete display when it is set up.

We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4pm, and, at the moment, our meetings are being held in the Church.

New members are always welcome - come for the 'Natter' even if you don't knit.

Ali Swift 07982679926,

SOCIAL ART GROUP

This Group is 'resting' at the moment. But, for more information please give *Glenda Berrett* a ring on *01638 717925*.

BOOK CLUB

When the Book Club met on Thursday 10th September, we discussed Joanna Lumley's autobiography 'No Room for Secrets'. It was interesting to read about, though rather difficult to relate to, her high society style of life. But her accounts of life in foreign countries, especially India, were good, as were her descriptions of making the TV programmes in which she featured as 'Patsy' and others.

Our next meeting, on Thursday 15th October, will be at 11a Grange Lane, starting at 7pm, when we shall be talking about 'The Lightkeeper's Daughters' by Jean E. Pendziwol.

Then, in November, our book will be 'Offshore' by Penelope Fitzgerald.

New members are always welcome. For more information please phone *Frances Lewis* on *01638 713155*, or e-mail *frances_lewis11@hotmail.com*



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20MPH Speed Limits

The issue of quantity and the speed of traffic going through our village is the most raised topic by parishioners.

We have the opportunity to look at lowering the speed limit within the settlement boundary of the village. This should reduce speed and hopefully, number of vehicles coming through the parish.

Unfortunately, unlike other counties such as Cambridgeshire, we would not have any access to any grants or match funding, so every penny would need to be found by the Parish Council and the cost including surveys would be £12,000. This would mean funding for other projects would be lost or postponed until the next budget at least. It would also not include Worlington Road or the Old Newmarket Road as these come under Highways England who continue to block our efforts to get a speed reduction on these heavily used roads.

The Parish Council would like the thoughts and opinions of parishioners regarding a 20mph speed limit, given our current situation as I have explained it. Please email clerk@bartonmills-pc.gov.uk with your thoughts and/or questions, if you require further information.