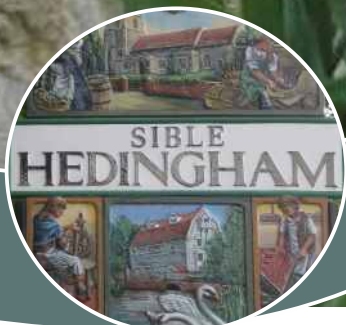
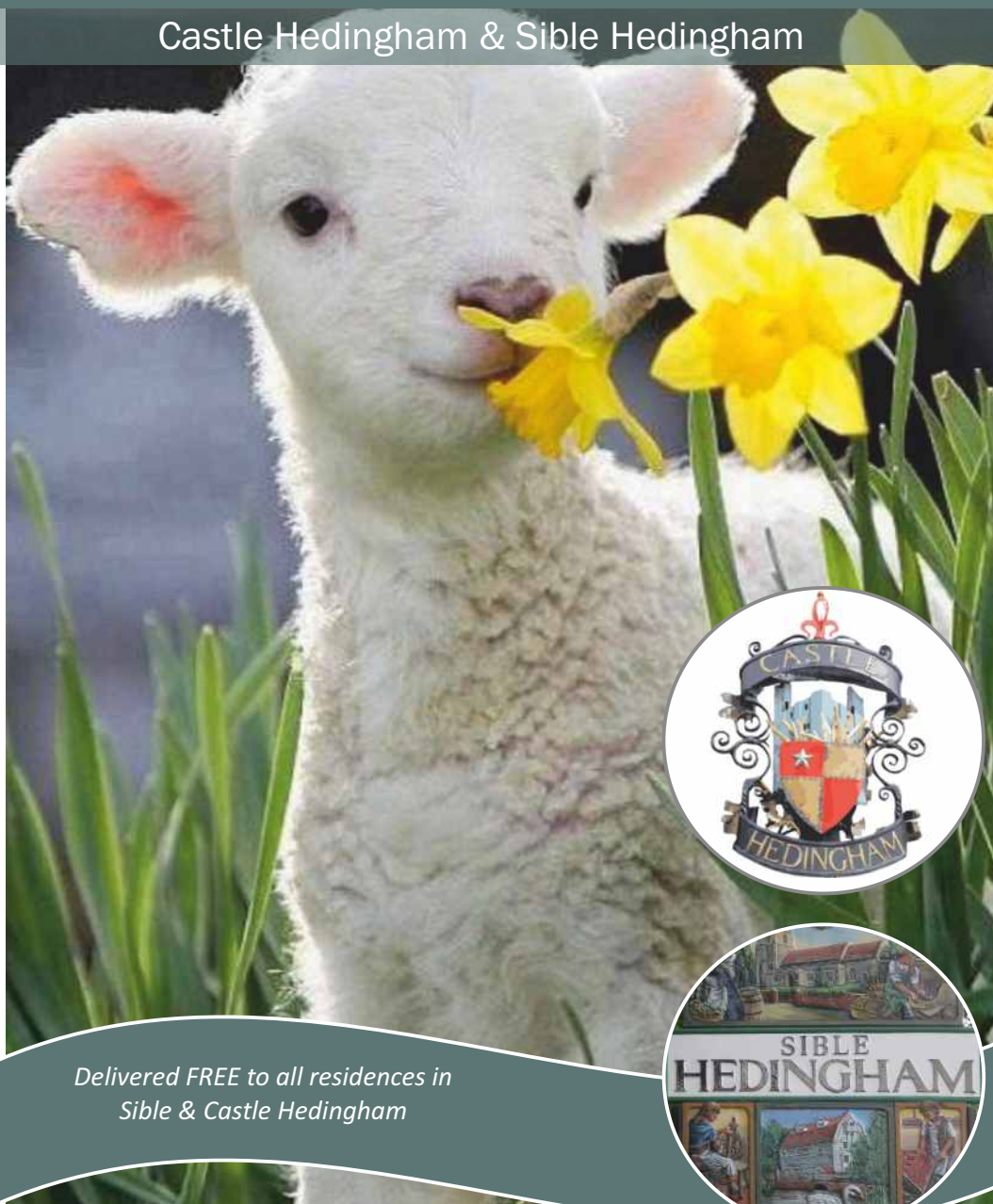


THE HEDINGHAMS

PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH 2025

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Welcome

If you're looking for a creature associated with March, it has to be a hare.

Brown hares are much larger than rabbits, have much longer black-tipped ears and long legs, but they also have a quite different stance. A hare in motion rises on its legs, starting to look a bit like a small antelope; when running at full speed it seems to skim over the earth, its feet never touching the ground. Stationary, it stands up tall on its hind legs to see what's going on around it, then hunches down and seems to vanish, camouflaged against the ground. Hares are largely nocturnal, solitary, and, as they live above ground, leave few visible traces of their lives.



Their courtship behaviour, however, is more obvious. Hares are seen to stand up on their hind legs and box each other, and this was thought to be two furious males competing for the favours of a female. In fact, it's usually a female rebuffing an over-amorous male. Such conspicuous action out in the open seems mad indeed, for a normally shy and secretive creature.

Ideal habitat is a mosaic of non-intensive open farmland with both arable and pasture and hedges. Numbers have declined nationally by 80% in the last century, due to changes in farming practice, habitat loss and hunting, and the species is of conservation concern. Best sightings are in stubble fields or young arable crops.

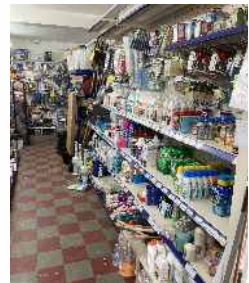
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Church Services



This information will always be available on the church website at

<https://www.hedingham.info/>

(look at the tab 'Services and Events')



March

Date	St Nicholas's, Castle Hedingham	St Peter's, Sible Hedingham
Sunday 2 nd Mar	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Family Worship 6pm Youth Meet-up
Wednesday 5 th Mar	11am Ash Wednesday Service	
Sunday 9 th Mar	No service	9.30am Family Communion
Sunday 16 th Mar	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Family Worship
Sunday 23 rd Mar	No service	9.30am Family Communion
Sunday 30 th Mar	Benefice Service 11am St Andrew's, Great Yeldham	

ST PETER'S CHURCH



WORKING GROUP

1st MARCH 10am - 12pm

Come and give a hand in the church or churchyard.



YOUTH GROUP

2nd MARCH 6 - 7.30PM

For young people 10 - 17 Come and join us and learn about the Christian faith!

Church Activities

ST PETER'S CHURCH



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 22nd March

10am - 12pm

Come along for coffee,
cake and chat.

All Welcome



ST. NICHOLAS'S CHURCH

Weekly Coffee Mornings take
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cake or scone

10.30 — 12 noon for £2

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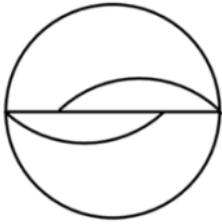
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Baptist Church

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6)

Take a look at the line drawing below. Starting anywhere on the line you like, try to trace the whole shape without lifting your pen (or finger!) off the page and only going over each part of the shape once. Not easy, is it?



Now, I have become slightly obsessed with these types of puzzles recently; it probably says something profound about my psychological condition – but we'll get into that another time! There is, however, just a single solution to the puzzle. A path that can be traced that ensures you don't have to go over any section twice and that you cover the entire shape. Keep trying and you'll get it in the end!

This got me thinking about what Jesus said to his disciples in the gospel of John. He is unequivocal about the path we need to take if we want to be with God the Father – it involves Jesus – in fact, it's the only way! We may try other paths to spiritual happiness and fulfilment in our lives, but we are never going to end up in the right place unless we follow the path of Jesus by inviting Him into our lives. Earlier in the same gospel, we are reminded in the words of Jesus, 'I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the one who sent me has eternal life...' (John 5:24). Jesus was the way God chose to redeem mankind.

So, just as in the puzzle we can find it frustrating to go over the same path again and again and not reach the proper end point, our life journey can sometimes echo this. Jesus invites us to avoid this frustration and follow His path; the path that leads to eternal life with God.

Sunday Morning Services including Sunday School for children of all ages: 10.30am followed by refreshments – everybody is welcome

Cygnets (Parents/Carers and Toddlers): every Monday in school term, 9.30-11.30am, £2 per family

Hedingham Hotspot: Thursdays 10.00am-2.00pm, free of charge

Hedingham Baptist Foodbank: Tuesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm, referral required before arrival (referral available from a range of agencies e.g. Braintree District Council, Doctor's Surgery, Schools etc.)

Nick Vosper (01787 460265) nick@hedinghambaptist.org

Dave Wright dave@hedinghambaptist.org

Carole Rainbird carole@hedinghambaptist.org

www.hedinghambaptist.org www.facebook.com/hedinghambaptist

For all events see details on Facebook or Website



Catholic Church



The Catholic Parish of St Francis of Assisi Halstead
Father Felix Adiele The Presbytery, 90 Colchester Road,
Halstead CO9 2EW

Tel: 01787 472477

Email: halstead@brcdt.org

You are warmly welcomed to join us in our religious,
pastoral and social activities.

A Catholic Mass is celebrated at St Nicholas' Church,
Castle Hedingham, every Sunday at 9.00am.

Details of the Mass times at St Francis of Assisi Parish Church
are published on our Facebook page and can also be found on
Enjoy Halstead and Streetlife Halstead pages.

halstead@dioceseofbrentwood.org or stewardofthegospel592@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/stfrancishalsteadparish

We meet in Castle
Hedingham Memorial Hall
on Thursday 20th March.
John and Ann Coles are
coming from London. They
once headed up New Wine.



Together they still serve the church in
many ways. **Come at 7.00 for food
and/or 7.30 to start.**

We welcome anyone curious to learn
more about Jesus, especially those
seeking a closeness to Him. **No need to
bring your wallet or purse. The event is
free.** There will be time to pray for you if
you are finding life tough.

No Meeting in April.

**And if you need prayer, people are
there for you.**



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Household Recycling

My Recycling Calendar

MARCH 2025

MONDAY ROUTE 6	TUESDAY ROUTE 7	TUESDAY ROUTE 2
 3  10  17  24  31	 4  11  18  25	 4  11  18  25

 Grey bin and food bin

 Different collection day

 Clear sacks and food bin only

 Different collection day

 Green bin, clear sacks and food bin

 Different collection day

 Green bin (SUBSCRIBERS ONLY), clear sacks and food bin

 Different collection day

Grey Bin We will only collect waste that is in the bin with the lid shut.

We will not collect additional bags on top or near the bin.

You should only put your bin out by 7am on the day of your collection.

Green Bin Garden waste collections are a subscription-based service.

Go to: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling>



Hedingham United FC

The Hedingham United men's firsts & reserves teams compete in the Essex and Suffolk Border League. Please go to the website for up to date fixtures. Here is the Lawn Meadow home fixture for the ladies' first team.

D2 16 Mar 2pm HUFC Ladies v Stones Ladies FC

Contact Steve Parsons 07488 362530 for more information

CH Women's Group

Our next meeting, to be held at the Memorial Hall, Castle Hedingham from 2pm, is on Wednesday 19th March. Our speaker this month is Mark Lewis, a retired university lecturer with many varied interests and passions, with a keen interest in unusual local customs and rituals. His talk entitled 'The Girl with the Windswept Hair – The Grace Darling Story' gives an account of the famous Northumbrian heroine who quickly became a Victorian superstar. He explores her life, the courageous rescue at Longstone Lighthouse and her enduring legacy.



We are a friendly group of ladies so why not come along and see for yourself, we will always make you welcome. Contact Sylvia on 01787 469129 for any enquires about the group.

COACH TRIPS Call Ann on 07442 180237 or Hilda on 07513 886288 to enquire or to book.

Our first coach trip this year is to the historic town of Rochester, Kent on 26th March. The cost for this 'do-as-you-please-day' is £28 pp. Here there are many interesting places to visit including the Cathedral, Norman Castle & Museums as well as quaint, independent shops and a great range of eateries.



April 23 – East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden

May 23 – Wroxham Mini Worlds including the knitted Sandringham estate, then to Hoveton Hall for their rhododendron display,

June 25 – Belvoir Castle, home to the Dukes of Rutland.

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WETHERSFIELD CHAMBER CONCERTS

www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk



Sunday 13 April 2025, 4 pm.

DANIEL SHAO – flute

KUMI MATSUO – piano

Bach, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Chaminade

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Sunday 27 April 2025, 4 pm.

MAXIM CALVER – cello

ANGUS WEBSTER – piano

Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy

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Sunday 11 May 2025, 4 pm.

KYLE HUTCHINGS – piano

Mozart, Liszt, Franck

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Ticket price: £20 (concessions £18)

Season ticket: £54 (concessions £48)

Children under 16: free

All seats unreserved

Complimentary refreshments during interval
and after concert

VENUE: WETHERSFIELD CHURCH

Further information:

www.wethersfieldchamberconcerts.org.uk



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MADE SOME FIR CONE BIRD FEEDERS

MADE ST VALENTINE'S DAY MOBILES

MADE THINKING DAY PIZZA

PREPARED FOR OUR ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING + SPRING SALE

HELD A MONOPOLY EVENING WITH HOT CHOCOLATE + POP CORN

CELEBRATED CHINESE NEW YEAR + CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL

Guides

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE REST OF THE TERM TO :-

COOK YOUR OWN PANCAKES

TAKE PART IN GUIDING ACTIVITY SHEETS + GAMES

PLAY RACQUET SPORTS + DARTS

MAKE MOTHERING SUNDAY CRAFTS

ENJOY EASTER GOODIES + CRAFTS + GAMES



Girlguiding

Registered charity number: 306016

Join a local Guides group hedingham.guides@btinternet.com

Sible Hedingham Library

Opening hours Monday 9am-1pm
Thursday 2pm-7pm Saturday 9am-5pm

What's On

MONDAY - Baby and Toddler Rhymetime 9.30 – 10.00am

Knit and Natter 10.00am – 12.00noon (*bring your own knitting and have a chat*)

360 Walking Group 10.00am – 12.00noon (*Meet at the library for a 3-4 mile walk. Wear appropriate attire, refreshments provided afterwards*)



THURSDAY - Book Group Meetings 2.00 – 3.00pm *Contact library for details*

Pokemon Card Swap 3.30 – 4.30pm



SATURDAY - Lego Coding 9.30 – 10.30am *Please book via the Essex Library website*

Baby and Toddler Rhymetime 10.00 – 10.30am

Crafts for Children 10.00am – 4.00pm

Lego Coding 2.00 – 3.00pm *Please book via the Essex library website*

Lego Blockbuilders 2.30 – 3.30pm



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Heddingham History Group

THE RIDDLE OF BOUDICCA



An illustrated talk by guest Essex author

Andrew Summers

Friday 28 March 2025 at 7.30pm

**at Heddingham Baptist Church, 177 Swan Street, Sible Heddingham,
CO9 3PX (next to 'The Sugar Loaves')**

members of Heddingham History Group FREE / non-members £5/
school/students/under-25s FREE

Annual membership £12.50 – you can join at any meeting

Tea/coffee & cake/biscuits £2

ALL WELCOME For further information, phone 01787 829317 or e-mail
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Craft a Poppy

Calling All Knitters and Crocheters!!

Sible Hedingham Parish Council would like to create a display of knitted/crocheted poppies in the village to commemorate Remembrance Sunday in November this year. We have a few crafters who are already busy with their needles and hooks, but in order to create an amazing display, we need more crafters please!! They are really easy to make! Wool is fairly cheap to buy (charity shops are a great place to pick some up), but the PC will reimburse the cost of wool if desired (receipt required).



There are two drop-off points in the village where you can take your finished works of art – the Library and the Parish Council Offices. There are basic patterns available to collect from those places and, of course, on-line (the Royal British Legion is a good website to try). Of course, you are not limited to using those patterns – adaptations can be easily made eg number of stitches, size of needle/hook or thickness of wool etc. Please only use red wool (shade unimportant) with black centres. Please attach a couple of lengths of wool to the back of the poppies to enable them to be tied to the backing of the display. A few purple ones would be good to include to commemorate all the animals who were also killed alongside the soldiers. Hopefully your beautiful creations will survive the vagaries of the British weather and once the display is dismantled, they will be kept for future use.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SESAW ANIMALS

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare is closed and in the process of winding down. We no longer have any animals but need to trace anyone fostering a SESAW animal. If you are one of our Foster Carers and have not yet been contacted, please text or phone 07720 079370 as soon as possible and ideally, by 31st March 2025. Please DO NOT surrender an animal to anyone purporting to represent SESAW. If in doubt, contact the above number immediately.



NOTICE TO ALL PET OWNERS

All cats and dogs must now be microchipped by law and their details kept up to date. Other small animals may also be microchipped. Please ask your vet to scan your pet and check the registered details are correct. They will be able to tell you which database to contact or you can check here:

<https://www.check-a-chip.co.uk/>

If you have a SESAW pet you can email info@sesaw.co.uk with your details and the chip number and we can check for you until 31st March.

We thank all past and present friends and volunteers for their support and dedication to animal rescue over the years. They all contributed towards the Charity's reputation and success story. SESAW could not have existed without them.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes



Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting Held in the Village Hall on Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.30 pm

In the chair – Cllr Beavis

Present:– Cllr Adam, Cllr Calver, Cllr Fennelly, Cllr Hendry, Cllr Heywood, Cllr Lee, Cllr Luxon, Cllr Ranson, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Tufnell, Cllr Young &

C/Cllr Schwier

Mrs L Slade – Clerk & 7 Members of the Public Apologies for absence - Cllr Cole.

Public Comment

A resident shared his concerns about the number of deer being knocked down and killed on Halstead Road. There is a blind bend at the base of the hill, at which deer cross – this has been known locally over many years as ‘the deer crossing.’ Although there is a 40-mph speed limit in place, traffic very often exceeds the limit and the amount of traffic is increasing. Contact has been made with Cllr Schwier, who has submitted an LHP for additional deer signage to be placed on current poles. Cllr Taylor has also contacted two members of Essex Police for advice. It was also reported the signage along the Halstead Road needs cleaning and vegetation cleared as the signs are not clearly visible.

A resident spoke about the recent loss of his son and the charity work he and his family are undertaking in their son’s name – Enders Touch Charity. Over 450 Christmas presents were donated to their charity and delivered to Colchester, Harlow and Great Ormond Street Hospitals over Christmas and a private party was held for terminally ill children in Stanway; they have also installed a water fountain in Bangladesh in their son’s name. The charity has also united with One Nation and joined lots of other charities to provide help where they can. They would like very much to help the village community and welcome suggestions for ideas or a project they can help with.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2025, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved - there were no matters arising.

Chairman’s Report - Cllr Beavis reported a meeting held with Alan Jones and Rob Hubbard of the Earls Garden Residents Association at which the S106 money was discussed.

The planning application for the Parish Beacon at the Recreation Ground has been submitted.

County Councillor’s Report - C/Cllr Schwier spoke on the following matters:

ECC PRECEPT - has been kept as low as possible

ECC - new Chief Executive.

The launch of the Priority One Scheme enabling additional crews and resources to fully re-surface some of the most deteriorated roads.

Fly tipping – all agencies are involved. Incidents to be reported to operations at BDC, who will clear as quickly as possible.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Devolution of ECC has received Government confirmation

Questions to C/Cllr: Condition of the roads and increased traffic was raised – in particular dropped drains. The cover may be owned by a utility company, so will need to be repaired by them. If the condition is dangerous telephone the emergency number at Highways, if not use the 'Tell Us' tool and report online.

There is very little data to support the effectiveness of deer signage, however if the Parish Council decide to add signage Cllr Schwier will support the decision. There is, however a legal process to adhere to via an LHP submission.

Disappointment in the result of the speed survey along Braintree Road; from the data recorded by ECC, it has been decided not to progress an LHP to install a 40-mph limit prior to the 30-mph limit.

District Councillors Reports - Cllr Beavis informed the new meeting time of 6:30 pm for Castle Hedingham Parish Council.

Braintree District Council has set their Council Tax at 3% in order to maintain the current services at the current level.

There have been meetings with Bloor Homes concerning development agreements. A completed bid for the footpath at the end of the Riverside Walk – this has been scheduled for work in the summer.

One Medical have approved and appointed a provider.

Cllr Beavis thanked Cllr Ranson and Clerk for attendance at meetings with a representative from Bloor Homes and representative of the Earls Garden Association.

Cllr Taylor and Cllr Tufnell attended The Three Fields Vision for the Future –

Wethersfield Airbase meeting with guest speaker James Cleverly, MP.

Events, Community and Communication – Meeting held on Thursday 30 January 2025

Cllr Taylor shared feedback from the meeting prior to leaving to attend another Parish Council meeting in Castle Hedingham.

It was decided to fully replace the damaged item at the Skate Park.

Two ladies in the village are knitting poppies and asking for volunteers to help; these will be displayed around the two village signs and the Parish Council Office windows for Remembrance Day in November. (See Page 16)

Quotations were discussed for the Parish Beacon and a meeting took place to decide the exact location; a planning application has been submitted.

All ideas are welcome for the upcoming VE Day Celebrations.

A recommendation to further support the Parish Magazine.

Receive and approve the Monthly Payments for authorisation

A request was made to omit the last item on the Monthly Payment Sheet from authorisation as a discussion was needed. All other monthly payments, having been previously circulated, were approved for payment.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tree surgery maintenance at Greys Hall Meadow and Recreation Road was approved. It was resolved to purchase the wrought iron beacon basket and pay the fee of £363.00 for the planning application for the Parish Beacon.

Adoption of the EALC Reserves Policy - this covers the general reserve and the earmarked reserves. It is recommended that the Parish council hold 9 months worth of revenue in the general reserve – approved.

Cllr Ranson volunteered to represent the Parish Council and liaise with Essex Police; this will be an item on future agendas - approved.

Reports from sub-committees if applicable:

Finance, Governance and Audit – Meeting to be held on Thursday 13 February 2025
Cllr Calver reported there are sometimes timing issues with financial decisions; discussions take place at the FGA Sub-Committee meetings but may also take place at the Full Council meetings, dependent on the timing of each meeting. Cllr Tufnell instigated the FGA could meet more often; this may be considered further.

Climate and Environment - Next meeting date to be arranged – Clerk awaiting replies from Cllrs for either the 26 or 27 March 2025

Events, Community and Communication – Meeting held on Thursday 30 January 2025 – Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday 18 February 2025 – see above report from Cllr Taylor.

Allocation of funds for the Events, Community and Communication Sub-Committee - Cllr Calver informed this has not been considered as part of the budget and will come from the general reserve surplus. Cllr Lee declared for the minutes, legislation must be sought for this allocation of funds. It was resolved to consider an indication of funds for the Events, Community and Communication Sub-Committee at a later date – approved.

To support the Parish Magazine - Cllr Beavis invited the magazine editor to speak concerning the current arrangements for the Parish Magazine and what support may be given for the year 2025/2026. The support given by the Parish Council last year was greatly appreciated; Cllr Beavis also remarked on the amazing job the editor does in preparing and publishing the magazine; it is a good publication and highly valued. It was resolved the amount of £3900 will be considered further and this will be an agenda item for the next Full Council meeting in March.

Planning – Meeting to be held on Tuesday 25 February 2025

Personnel – Next meeting date to be arranged.

Footpaths – Meeting to be held on Wednesday 12 February 2025.

Car Park - Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 27 January 2025 - This meeting was held to consider next steps for the Car Park; several ideas were put forward but no clear decisions have been made. Recommendations are to be brought to the next Full Council meeting on 10 March 2025.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Installation of additional bollards and yellow 'No parking' grid lines at the end of the flower bed bordering the Car Park - Deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

Community Litter Pick - Date to be agreed at the next Full Council meeting..

Local Highways Issues and Updates - lighting for pavement along by the zebra crossing and the lay-by outside the Fish and Chip shop - No further updates.

Sign to inform the location of the White Lion public house - The Clerk read an email from the Visit Essex Membership Officer to inform signage is usually approved for a Michelin Star Restaurant or a building of historical importance, so unlikely to be considered. It was decided there will be no further action at this time.

Update on the SID at Braintree Corner near Brickwall Farm - Cllr Beavis thanked Cllr Ranson for all the work he has undertaken to enable the working of the SID. The data is being downloaded and collected.

Update of further information concerning a weight restriction to the highway at Lamb Lane/Cobbs Fenn - given by the Clerk; Cllr Schwier has requested a Highway Engineer's visit and detailed report in response to the Parish Council and residents' concerns. Confirmation received of an Inspector to attend and reassess the issues. The report has been escalated and the inspection should take place within the next 5 – 10 working days.

Webster Almshouses Trust - Mr James Goodchild was approved as Nominative Trustee of Webster Almshouses Trust.

Hedingham Heritage Centre have requested a contribution of £560 for funding towards the research project - approved.

Request from Ender's Touch Charity to identify a community project to be supported by their charity - deferred to the next Full Council, at which it will be given due consideration.

Launch of the 'Love Your Bus Grant Fund' - See update in Castle Hedingham Parish Council minutes.

Update on path through Greys Hall Meadow - one quotation has been received; two more are awaited.

Date for the Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 1 May 2025 was agreed. An Annual Report will be produced for the Parish Magazine.

Clerks Report - This having been previously circulated was taken as read.

Agenda items for next meeting/exchange of ideas/final public comments

A Cllr reported the barriers at the Rectory Road closure were moved several times and vehicles mounted the pavement to drive through; any future barriers need to be more secure.

Cllr Young attended the installation of the new Rector on 13 January 2025.

Cllr Lee reported the EALC will not be at their location in Dunmow from September onwards; they are seeking a new location.

Meeting Closed: 9:45 pm **Next Meeting:** 10 March 2025

THESE ARE ABRIDGED NOTES FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAFT MINUTES - PLEASE REFER TO THE SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE FOR THE FULL TEXT.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

ABRIDGED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2025, 7.45PM AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB

Present: Cllrs Allen, Doe, Dover, Foulkes, Hemes, Jones, Mowle, Smith, Southgate

In the Chair: Cllr Southgate

Clerk: Claire Waters

Also present: Mike Hemes & Phil Jones (for co-option) & 1 other resident, ECC Cllr Peter Schwier, BDC Cllr Wendy Taylor between item 10 & 11

COUNCILLOR VACANCY – CO-OPTION

Mike Hemes and Phil Jones were co-opted as Councillors and welcomed to the Parish Council

Meeting start time: A new regular start time of 6.30pm was agreed for future Castle Hedingham Parish Council meetings. This will hopefully be convenient for residents as well as enabling District Councillors to attend before their own Parish Council meeting in Sible Hedingham, where they are both Parish Councillors.

PUBLIC FORUM

With the permission of the chairman, Cllr Dover spoke to outline the reasons behind the grant request in respect of the Hedinghams Heritage Centre whose premises cannot open to the public until the GP surgery is vacated. The MODES archiving software proposed in the grant application is recommended by Braintree Museum and Essex Records Centre, and will enable the collection to be catalogued and made available online while waiting for the building to be converted for public use. Cllr Dover and Cllr Smith as trustees of the new Hedinghams Heritage Centre left the meeting for the grant application discussion and decision.

PROGRESS CHECK

Dog waste bag dispensers: Over 1000 bags had been used from the new dispensers since their installation in September 2024, showing that this initiative is being found useful. Dog owners are still encouraged to use their own dog waste bags where possible, the intention is for the dispensers to be for emergency use and to encourage good habits in picking up after dogs. New biodegradable bags have been ordered.

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Nunnery St bridge: A temporary repair is already failing. Cllr Peter Schwier ECC has requested a better, longer lasting repair as soon as possible and will update the Parish Council.

Public Rights of Way: The Footpath Audit document continues to be updated to form the basis of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) work proposal for the 2025-2026 financial year.

Action: To organise a meeting of Footpath Wardens to complete the P3 work proposal.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

A1017 Castle Hedingham 40mph sign: Lying flat on the verge –Essex Highways report 2958000. The sign is on their schedule for a non-urgent repair.

Bayley Street pothole: Essex Highways report 2961086. This has been assessed as not urgent for immediate repair and will be monitored during routine inspections by Highways staff.

Sudbury Hill drains: The clerk had sent a detailed report to Cllr Peter Schwier ECC with photos of all the roadside drains from Rosemary Lane to Bayley Street. Drain jetting crews worked at Sudbury Hill during January but all the drains remain blocked right to the top. Cllr Schwier will investigate and report back.

Castle Lane drain clearance: a resident of Castle Lane wished to thank Village Maintenance for digging out the blocked drain. Essex Highways will not deal with this due to the size of their drain jetting vehicles.

Parking Forge Green: A resident had contacted Cllr Schwier about vehicle access to Forge Green houses being blocked by parked cars. Essex Highways had referred the resident to the police who are responsible for dealing with obstruction, and North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) who are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of parking restrictions.

FINANCE

Grant application: RESOLVED: To award a grant of £560 to Hedinghams Heritage Centre, which represents 50% of the cost of MODES archiving software to enable items to be catalogued effectively. Sible Hedingham Parish Council has been asked for the remaining 50%. The Castle Hedingham grant will be funded from the Community Projects reserve, largely from the £500 which was returned to the Parish Council by the Solar Society when it disbanded and was set aside for a comparable community project.

VILLAGE PARK AND COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Village Park: A resident complaint about grounds maintenance near the park boundary was discussed. While the Parish Council is sympathetic to residents' desire for a degree of screening from the main park area, routine maintenance such as clearance of brambles and ivy needs to be carried out across whole park area leased from Hedingham Castle. Some residents are using the park land at the boundary of their gardens for containers such as compost bins and disposal of garden rubbish. Residents are asked to use their own gardens for storage and to dispose of garden waste responsibly, not in the park.

Village Park: It was agreed that "talk tubes" for younger children would be a good use of the remaining S106 funding. The clerk is obtaining comparative quotes for purchase and installation.

Community Allotment: Councillors were given a summary of the Community Allotment accounts. £1,176.96 remaining from the first round of BDC grant funding needs to be spent by March 31st 2025, with an end of grant report as required by BDC. **Action:** Clerk to finalise spending with allotment leaders.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

LOVE YOUR BUS GRANT

An Essex County Council grant is available to enhance existing bus services. The clerk shared a report of a meeting with the Sible Hedingham clerk and Jayne Laken of United in Kind to discuss options for the Hedinghams. It was concluded that the new Flagfinders 60 Braintree – Sudbury service was the most likely to meet the grant criteria. Transport Made Simple who are the new owners of Flagfinders need to confirm their commitment to be involved. It was hoped a draft would be ready for this meeting. Without the written support of the bus company and County Councillor, the application cannot proceed.

Action: Castle & Sible Hedingham clerks will try to meet the grant deadline with Flagfinders input. Cllrs Doe, Foulkes and Jones agreed to review any application ready for the final submission date of 21st February

NEXT MEETING

Monday 10th Mar 7pm Ordinary Parish Council Castle Hedingham Club

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Full minutes of meetings including planning applications and financial information are published at

www.castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

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Friends of Alderford Mill

There is very little to report this month as the mill has been closed over the winter months, with no activity apart from monitoring water level in the leat and the physical security of the building. There was only one occasion of a high water level immediately after the brief snow fall when the levels were the same either side of the sluice gate, within an inch of the cross bar, and reaching the underside of the road bridge, then only for a few hours. Since opening the sluice gates in late October there have been no sightings of the otters crossing the bank, but we still see the large rats overnight and muntjac at all times day and night.

The reconstruction of the drive from the steam engine has been continuing in the background with one of the Wednesday team painting the wooden cog wheels at home to represent wear on the teeth mating surfaces.

We hope to demonstrate the donated corn mill which has been cleaned, reassembled and rewired. A new power feed has been installed and is currently waiting for an ECC electrician to connect and certify.

We are looking forward to our first opening of the year on Sunday the 13th April to welcome both new and our regular visitors. At present we are planning the programme for the year, repeating the most popular events and introducing something new. In May we open on the second Sunday which coincides with the National Mills weekend and then the second Sunday of subsequent months for the remainder of the season.

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CH Gardening Club

Hello everyone - we hope by the time you receive this our weather will have taken a turn for the better and we will be able to start getting our gardens into shape for the spring and summer.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again at our afternoon meetings which start on the 13th of this month with a talk entitled "In the Garden with William Morris - Flora as Art" to be given by Fiona Rose, after which we will be able to have a good catch-up over tea and biscuits.

We will be holding our annual Plant Sale on May 24th so hope you will be able to start putting aside some plants for us when you are sowing seeds and taking cuttings for your own gardens.

A reminder that our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, 2pm at the Memorial Hall, Castle Hedingham if you are not a member but would like to come along as a visitor you will be so welcome.

Bye for now

Christine, Jean, Maureen, Mary, Barbara, Suzanne, Michael and Brenda.

Chairman Christine Lucock 01206 210872.

Secretary Jean Collings 01787 461663.

Treasurer Maureen Lofting 01787 463343.



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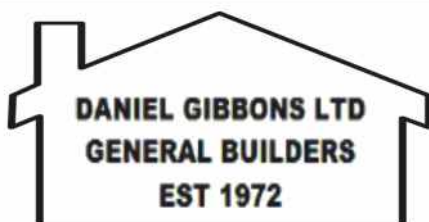
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Heddingham Heritage Society

Our next two Spring meetings - do join us for more about our native birds and reptiles.

Thursday 6th March

'What's happening to our birds' - Drew Lyness, British Trust for Ornithology -

Some of the trends and research regarding bird populations, highlighting standout studies of birds and their habitats in our local area.

7.30pm Castle Heddingham Memorial Hall CO9 3DA



Thursday 3rd April

'Snake encounters'

Sue Coleman

Sue has run a snake sanctuary for over 30 years and will be bringing some snakes with her, talking about these and about our native snake species.

7.30pm Castle Heddingham Memorial Hall CO9 3DA



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Bellringers St Nicholas's	David Newton	07919 043544
Bell ringers St Peter's	Janice Watkins	01787 460900
Book Group	Alison Cantor	01787 462537
C/Hed Bowls Club	Tony Haywood	axel54tony@gmail.com
C/Hed Club	Will Innes-Taylor	chairman@castlesocialclub.co.uk
C/Hed Gardening Club	Maureen Lofting	01787 463343
C/Hed Cricket Club	Terry Jackson	07870 566865
C/Hed Memorial Hall Bookings	Ann Edney	07736 239599
C/Hed Parish Council Clerk	Claire Waters	clerk@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk
		07845 056597
C/Hed Parish Council Chairman	Garry Southgate	01787 461638
C/Hed Parochial Charities	Brenda Beadle	01787 460336
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C/Hed Women's Group	Sylvia Anderson	01787 469129
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Saturday 9 th August Southend – MATINEE PERFORMANCE	"BAT OUT OF HELL"	FINAL SEATS!	£79.00
Thursday 14 th August London – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"EVITA"	NEW!	£105.00
Wednesday 3 rd September Southend – MATINEE PERFORMANCE	"TINA TURNER MUSICAL"	NEW!	£84.00
Friday 19 th September Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"RIVERDANCE 30"	NEW!	£99.00
Sunday 21 st September London – DAY VISIT	"MAGIC MIKE"	NEW!	£99.00
Friday 10 th October Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"HERE & NOW" THE STEPS MUSICAL	NEW!	£92.00
Thursday 16 th October London – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"JUST FOR ONE DAY"	NEW!	£89.00

Come and join us on the above visits in our Executive 16 seat Mini Coach with air-conditioning, USB points, leather seats and a panoramic roof. All visits require a minimum number of passengers to proceed.