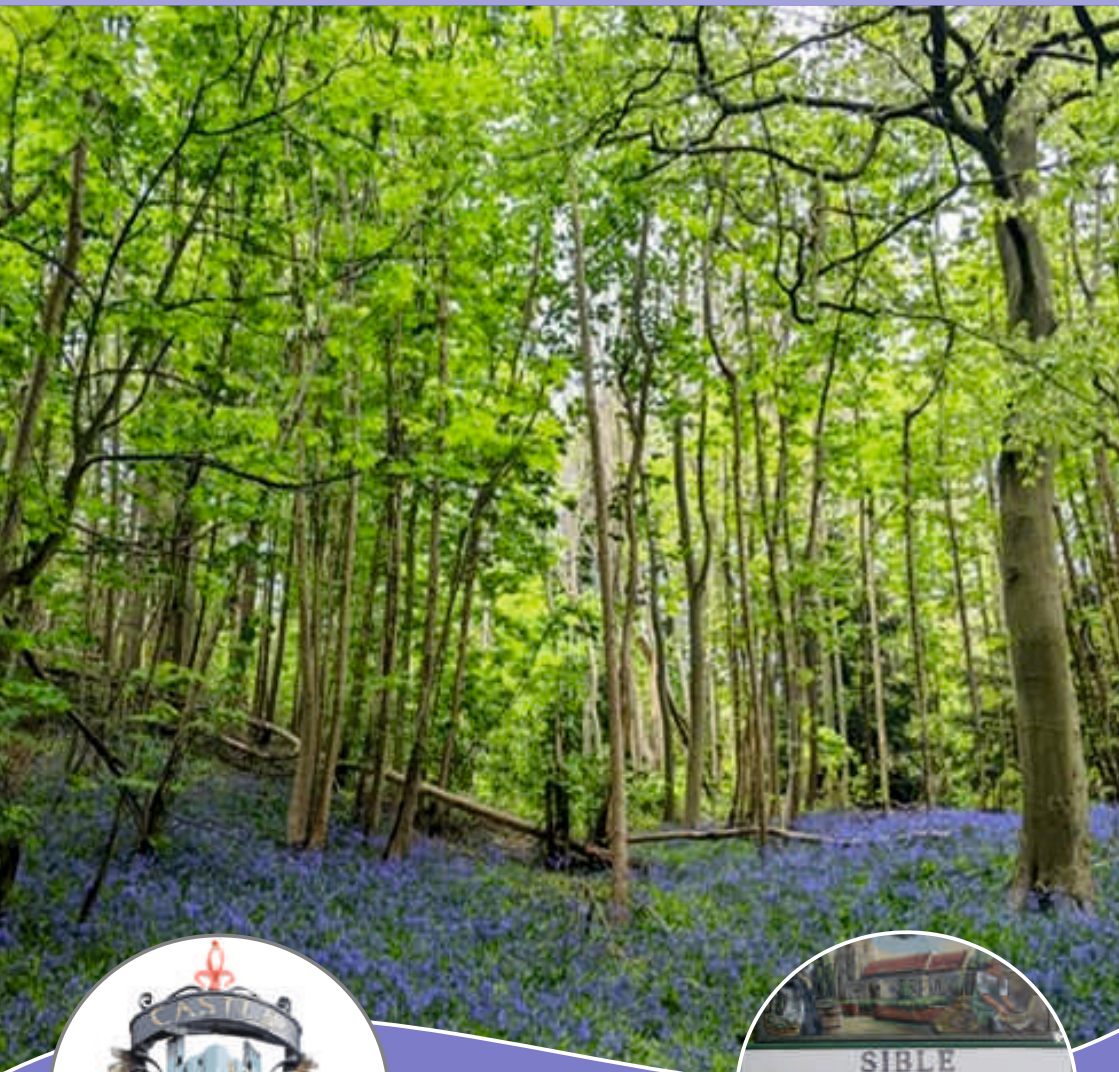


THE HEDINGHAMS

PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2026

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Welcome

May is the month in which badger cubs start venturing above ground and can be found playing close to the sett. Often the first sign of their emergence is patches of flattened bluebells. Fox parents are still busy supplying food for their rapidly growing cubs, which may now start accompanying them on foraging trips. As the cubs grow, they hone their hunting skills by play-fighting with



their littermates. These games can be so absorbing that the young foxes will sometimes come within a few feet of a quiet observer. There are also young stoats and weasels to be found this month, sometimes seen travelling in family groups. Hedgehog courtship gets into full swing this month, with a male circling an initially unwilling female as she huffs and headbutts at his side.

May is a good month for listening to birds as well as watching them, with the unmistakable call of the cuckoo. A stronghold of the nightingale can be found at Fingringhoe Wick (Essex Wildlife Trust) – listening to the male's repertoire as he proclaims his presence is a truly astonishing experience. The centre offers late evening openings and guided walks.

Tawny owlets can be found 'branching', while most other owl species will be feeding nest-bound chicks. Please remember that tawny owlets are very precocious and will branch at a young age, so just being out of the nest is not necessarily an issue.

Putting people in contact with organisations that provide services they need.. This service can help you with local social group; learning; entitlement benefits; fire and home safety checks; health & fitness; transport; carer's support and care services; volunteering and much more...



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Essex Wellbeing Service Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00am - 7.00pm
Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm

All enquiries, will be responded to during the opening hours above

Church Services



This information will always be available on the church website at
<https://www.hedingham.info/>



May

	St Nicholas's Castle Hedingham	St Peter's, Sible Hedingham
Sun 3rd	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Family Worship
Sun 10th	No Service	9.30am Family Communion
Sun 17th	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Family Worship
Sun 24th	No service	9.30am Family Communion
Sun 31st	Benefice Service 11am Holy Communion Tilbury juxta Clare	

COFFEE MORNINGS



**St Nicholas' Church
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**St Peter's Church
Sible Hedingham
Saturday 16th May**

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Baptist Church

Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the World' John 8, 12

During Easter we celebrated Jesus' death and resurrection, we are now in that Resurrection period when Jesus spent 40 days appearing to the disciples before His Ascension into Heaven. My favourite story of this time is where Jesus joins two of his followers as they leave Jerusalem, sad, confused and disappointed that the man, Jesus, whom they had thought had come as their Messiah, had been crucified and now people were saying that his body had been stolen. They did not recognise Jesus as he walked with them explaining all that had happened and how the prophecies written in their scriptures had been fulfilled. When they reached their home in Emmaus they invited him in to stay for a meal. When Jesus took the bread and gave thanks their eyes were opened to the knowledge that this person was in fact Jesus. Jesus then left, they were so excited they set off back to Jerusalem, all of 7 miles away, to tell the others. 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he explained the meaning of all that had happened in the last few days in Jerusalem?', they said to each other. We are living in very uncertain and troubled times at the moment. Jesus said he was the Light of the World. We need that light to cut into our present darkness. We need our eyes to be opened and our hearts 'to burn within us' as we recognise that only Jesus Christ can truly bring Light and Peace into our troubled times. Take time to pray, to read the Bible, to reflect on all that was accomplished through the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. CR.



Activities

We would love to see you at our weekly **Sunday Services at 10.30am.**

Messy Church ... May 30th 4-6pm Free fun for Families.

Term time **'Cygnets'** on Mondays, 9.30-11.30am, for carers with children under school age. £2 per family.

Food Bank Tuesday from 2.00—4.00 pm

Hedingham Hotspot, a safe space to chat, enjoy refreshments, lunch and use of the Wi-Fi. Free Thursdays 10.00—2.00 pm

Men's Coffee on alternate Friday mornings. 10-12.00 **May 8th and 22nd** Free

Holiday Club August 3rd – 7th mornings. Booking required

Card Workshops: April 18th and May 16th 9.30-12.30 £12. (4 different cards and techniques) All materials supplied.

contact@hedinghambaptist.org (Carole)

07761 885418 (Gary)

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

For all events see details on Facebook or Website





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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



On 21st May we welcome Suzanne and David Littler who are on the UK Filling Station Team. They love to pray with people.

We also welcome a band of musicians for the evening - so be ready to sing!

Please come- especially if you would like prayer, or are just interested to see how North Essex Filling Station works.
 Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall.
 CO9 3DA

7.00 for food. 7.30 start.
 Ending about 9.pm.

We sing and listen and pray together, seeking to be close to Jesus.
 The evening (including food and beverages) is free.

Household Recycling

My Recycling Calendar

MAY 2026

MONDAY
ROUTE 6

5 11 18 26
TUES TUES

TUESDAY
ROUTE 7

6 12 19 27
WED WED

TUESDAY
ROUTE 2

6 12 19 27
WED WED

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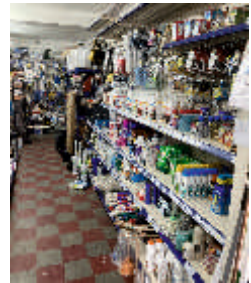
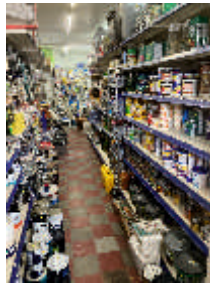
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CH Bowls Club

After a very wet winter and early spring, we have enjoyed some dry, sunny weather recently which has allowed our greenkeeping team to work on the bowls green in preparation for the start of the 2026 bowling season. The electric fence around the green and the artificial crows flying above it, have worked well by reducing the visits to the green from real crows and our neighbourhood badgers have found somewhere else to visit. The greenkeeping team have done an excellent job, and the green looks fabulous and makes us all want to get out there and bowl again. We do not have long to wait because the green will be open for bowling from Sunday 19th April, weather permitting of course.



We have increased the number of teams we have bowling in various leagues based in North Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. We have introduced a new team, called the Kestrels, to the Steeple Bumpstead Bowls League bringing our total to four teams across three divisions.

We have also added a third team to the North Essex Federation League, unimaginatively called the C Team. Perhaps next season we will rename the three teams in this league to something more interesting than A, B and C.

Our first Friendly match will be at home against Courtauld Halstead on 28th April and league matches will start in May. The regular Sunday rollups that start from 19th April at 2pm will no doubt be very popular as everyone tries to get into shape before the league matches start.

On 19th May, we will be holding our annual Open Day from 10am when we invite anyone who would like to try their skills to come along and have a go. This is followed by a barbecue at lunchtime, which costs £5. A roll up with club members will take place in the afternoon which you are invited to join. It is a great introduction to the game of bowls as well as the social side that our club enjoys. Please feel free to come along if you would like to find out more about us.



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CH Women's Group

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 20th May at 2pm in the Memorial Hall, Castle Hedingham. We welcome back our speaker, the popular Bryan Thurlow, whose talk is entitled "Maria Marten and the Red Barn". Bryan is an experienced speaker with a background in professional theatre and drama lecturing. He is a great storyteller and often introduces the audience to the voices of the various characters. This time Bryan brings to life some of the leading characters to tell the true, tragic story of their complex lives and eventual murder in the Red Barn at Polstead.

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.

Thursday 21st May – Holt and Stody Lodge

Gardens. Stopping first for lunch in the picturesque Georgian town of Holt, then moving on to Stody Lodge Gardens, renowned for their breathtaking displays of rhododendron and azalea. Cost is £45 to include coach, entrance and a cream tea. As tea and cake are included, please state dietary requirements when booking. Payment please by 25th April. Cheques payable to CHWG.



Wednesday 24th June – Broadstairs. This is a do-as-you-please day in this lively coastal Kent town with timeless features and a laid-back atmosphere. The town has many aspects of historical interest and marine history. It was Dickens' favourite holiday spot and today includes the Dickens House Museum. Cost is £29.



Wednesday 12th August – Thursford Backstage

Tour - Join us for a behind the scenes tour of the world famous Thursford Christmas Spectacular, hear the stories, and view the costume store (which houses over 2000) and uncover what goes on backstage. Lunch is included eg sandwiches, sausage roll, quiche, scone, tea and coffee etc and is followed by music on the Wurlitzer Organ and optional rides. A day to remember. The cost is £68 pp to include coach, tour, lunch and music. Please state dietary requirements at the time of booking.

A WEEKEND IN HARROGATE – FRIDAY 3rd TO MONDAY 6th JULY

Join us for this weekend staying in Harrogate, 3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the Cairn Hotel. Included visits to Lincoln (Friday) and Bakewell (Monday). A scenic drive through the Yorkshire Dales with visits to Skipton and Ripon, and entrance to RHS Harrow Carr as well as some free time to explore Harrogate. The cost is £455 pp. Please contact us if you would like more information.

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What's On

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

Walking Group 10.00am – 12.00noon (*Meet at the library for a 3-4 mile walk.*)

Wear appropriate attire, refreshments provided afterwards

Arty Bookworms 10.30am - 11.15am



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

After School Craft Club 3.30 – 4.15pm



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 11.00am – 1.00pm

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

Puzzle Club (Adults) 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Lego Blockbuilders 2.30 – 3.30pm



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Heddingham History Group

HEDINGHAM HISTORY GROUP

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An illustrated talk by HHG member and author

Wanda Sellar

Friday 29 May 2026 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/
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Parish Council Meeting Minutes



Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting Held in the Village Hall on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7pm.

Present – Cllrs Adam, Beavis (Chair), Calver, Fennelly, Lee, Luxon, Moore, Ranson, Taylor, Tufnell, & Young
Mrs L Slade – Clerk & six Members of the Public

Public Comment

A resident informed she had spoken to a lot of people who attended the Easter Egg Hunt and all feedback was very positive. Everyone had a great time and felt it was a good community event. Thanks were given to everyone who helped.

Casual Vacancy Co-option - Andy Bass joined the meeting and duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Councillor.

Reports:

Chairman's Report

At a meeting in December 2025 at BDC, permission was granted for development of the Tanners Dairy site with funding for improvements at Oxford Lane and the repair of the footpath to the Church. However; the developers of the site will not be fulfilling the S106 requirements and want the site looked at again without the provision of S106 monies. This is not acceptable and is now on hold.

Cllr Beavis thanked Cllr Luxon for the amazing Easter Egg Hunt and reported it was an excellent event, very well attended.

All who took part in the Community Litter Pick were thanked. Two residents who regularly litter pick were thanked for the large part they play in keeping the village clean.

The graffiti in the village is still an issue. BDC has supplied more removal spray and a volunteer from the fire station has removed some of the graffiti at his own cost. Thank you to all who have helped with the removal so far. All information concerning the graffiti has been passed to the BDC Community Safety Team, who is working with Essex Police.

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Schwier's reports are at: <https://siblehedingham-pc.gov.uk/category/news/>

District Councillor's Report

Castle Hedingham Parish Council have a large planning application that has been submitted.

The new bins/stacking boxes have been delivered. Some issues have been resolved; however residents need as much communication as possible. Post Meeting Note:

Members of the Waste Minimisation Team will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 27 April 2026 at 7:00 pm

The Local Plan Review is still open for comments; there has been an issue with the final upload, which will hopefully be dealt with. The parish council will add comments.

Action: The Clerk and Chairman to finalise the process for making comments back to

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

BDC on the Local Plan Consultation.

Cllr Beavis has been approached by the Chief Executive of One Medical and there is a meeting planned. The building of the medical centre will not be cancelled but the costs need to be looked at again. Cllr Beavis will keep the Clerks of Sible and Castle Hedingham updated

BDC has received the order that it will close and a new unitary council will form, consisting of Braintree, Colchester and Tendring. The new council and all parish and town councils will serve a five year term.

Cllr Beavis took questions:

There will be a paper copy of a calendar for the bins, which will be circulated for one year.

The owner of the Castle Hedingham doctor's surgery has been made aware of the delay in building the medical centre and will be continuing the lease of the building as a doctor's surgery.

Finance

CPRE Membership of £60.00; RCCE Membership of £124.80; 2026/27 EALC Affiliation Fees of £917.34; ICO GDPR Data Protection Fee; Service of the CCTV equipment of £264.00 inclusive of VAT - All above payments were approved.

Reports from Committees

Finance Committee – Meeting held Wed 25/3/26. Update from the Finance Committee; minutes having been previously circulated to all Cllrs.

Cllr Calver thanked the Relief Clerk for all her time and effort in producing a very detailed, updated Asset Register. This will inform the renewal of the parish council insurance.

Governance, Audit and Personnel Committee – Meeting held Tue 31/3/26

Update from the Governance, Audit and Personnel Committee; Cllr Taylor informed the policies had been looked at in detail and there were a few tweaks to be made; these policies will be brought to the next Full Council meeting for approval. Cllr Calver thanked the Clerk for all her work on producing the policies; there were a lot of hours spent on working towards the compliance of the new Assertion 10 requirements. These policies link with the IT policy.

Planning and Highways Committee – Meeting held 13/4/26

The Planning and Highways Committee agreed to recommend the repairs of Rectory Road to Cllr Schwier to progress. It was also recommended to repair the damaged fence on the boundary of the Garden of Remembrance with St. Peter's Churchyard.

Events and Environment Committee – Meeting held Thu 5/2 & Thu 2/4/26

Summer Show Working Party - Cllr Taylor would like the event to be resident driven with one or two Councillors overseeing it. Cllr Taylor will be part of the committee. Cllr Fennelly thanked Cllr Taylor for all the work she has put in so far. Cllr Taylor would like to put a notice out to residents to seek any interest in forming a working party.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Cllr Lee reported Martyn's Law will be coming into force from April 2027; this will inform measures that will need to be in place for future planned events. The VE Day 80 Commemoration and the recent Easter Egg Hunt have demonstrated there is a good community spirit in the village, which it will be nice to build on. Cllr Beavis would like the Events and Environment Committee to look at putting an event on for the village in the summer.

Easter Egg Hunt - Cllr Luxon thanked all volunteers who attended and helped to hide the eggs. There were some eggs left over, which were donated to Braintree Food Bank via the Enders Touch Charity. Cllr Ranson informed there were over 100 children who took an Easter Egg home with them.

Footpaths Advisory Committee – Next meeting Wed 15/4/26

Charitable Trust – Cllr Taylor gave an update on the information received so far from the solicitors approached. There are still answers to several questions to be sought; however the steps to proceed have been highlighted. Cllr Adam, Cllr Tufnell, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Young and Cllr Bass all declared an interest in forming the new committee & the confirmation of this committee and its members will be on the agenda of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 11 May 2026.

Alderford Water Mill Update - (Open discussion) Essex County Council has put forward the idea of the parish council taking on the stewardship of the mill; however clarification needs to be sought as to what this will mean. A meeting took place on the 1 April 2026 between the Friends of Alderford Mill (FOAM) and the mill wright for the area. Volunteers open the mill on the second Monday of each month. They rely on donations and fundraising to enable the maintenance of the mill. The Grade II listed mill will need repainting and repairs to the roof and sluice gate in the near future. FOAM are keeping a record of the maintenance being carried out on the mill for future reference. Cllr Beavis thanked FOAM for all they do to keep the mill open and suggested the parish council will write to Essex County Council to report the concerns about the mill and lack of investment. Action: The Clerk

Annual Playground Inspection - Contractor B and appointed

'Love Your Bus' application from Essex County Council - the bids put forward by Great Yeldham Parish Council, together with Transport Made Simple, to improve the bus services for the three villages was successful. There are two awards: the first is to merge and coordinate 89/42/60 into a consistent Sudbury – Braintree corridor and extend 89; the amount awarded is £50,000. The second award is to deliver a promotional free fares initiative in Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and Castle Hedingham to drive patronage on new/extended routes; the amount awarded is £30,500. Our sincere thanks to Great Yeldham Parish Council and Transport Made Simple for all their hard work on this application.

Possible future height restriction at the car park – deferred as all ideas need to be considered further.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Resident's concern of anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Ground and a resident's request for additional steps concerning ongoing littering, noise, drug use and anti-social behaviour at Morris Green D/Cllrs Beavis & Taylor will take this item to Braintree District Council

Annual Parish Meeting - the APM is on Monday 27 April 2026 at 7:00 pm at the village hall. There will be teas, coffees, juices and other refreshments served.

Local Highways Issues - road conditions on Rectory Road and St. Peter's Church & the pot hole in Church Street were considered, along with ideas for improvements at Rectory Road, at the Planning and Highways Committee meeting - see those minutes for details.

Considered by the BDC Planning Committee on 31 March 2026

Clerks Report - taken as read. The next PCSO Community Drop In will take place on Thursday 30 April and will be advertised.

Planning Applications - Please see the Planning and Highways Committee Meeting minutes for full details

Next Meeting: - Monday 11th May - 7pm - Hedingham Baptist Church



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Sunday 29th March - 2pm	Sunday 19th July - 2pm
Sunday 26th April - 2pm	Thursday 13th August - 7pm
Sunday 17th May - 2pm	Sunday 20th September - 2pm
Sunday 28th June - 2pm	Sunday 11th October - 2pm

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Sunday 23rd August, 3-7pm

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

ABRIDGED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 13th APRIL 2026, 6.30PM AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB

Present: Allen, Doe, Dover, Foulkes, Hemes, Jones.

In the Chair: Cllr Doe **Clerk:** Claire Waters

Also present: BDC Cllr J Beavis & Cllr W Taylor to item 7

PROGRESS CHECK

Community Litter Pick: Thanks were expressed to everyone who supported our litter pick on the morning of Sunday 29th March, with a total of 23 people including accompanied children litter picking almost all the roads in the village, the Village Park and some footpaths. Locations where fly tipping was found were reported to Braintree District Council.

Village Park: The RoSPA annual play inspection is booked for May. Regular safety checks continue to be carried out by Village Maintenance, and the basket swing has recently been dismantled and checked for wear on the shackles. The sandpit has been topped up with two tonne bags of play sand.

HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Church Lane: Cllr Dover reported on a test strip dug in the grass bank by church wall which is narrowing the road width and causing difficulty with parking. It is not practical to remove the whole bank but it can be reduced in width, although the road surface beneath will be uneven. Action Cllr Dover will organise volunteers to clear away a strip at the road edge, with soil removed to the churchyard. A risk assessment will be provided to the clerk.

Majendie Lane: Confirmation received from NEPP that the primrose lines will be repainted. The H-bar is no longer supported by Essex Highways for reinstatement and would need to be paid for by the resident.

Byway 27: A large delivery of used road planings has been delivered by Essex Highways for filling holes on the byway from Rushley Green to Kirby Hall Rd. The Philp family are thanked for spreading the planings.

REPORTS

Police/Neighbourhood Watch. New monthly Community Safety advice from our Police Liaison officer is **published on our website news feed.**

<https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/category/news/> Residents can sign up to receive news automatically at <https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/> .

Weekly Neighbourhood Watch newsletters are published at

<https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-watch-police/>

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Braintree DC reports –Cllr Taylor reported:

Kirby Hall Rd planning application will be decided by BDC Planning Committee on 21st April. The case officer's report recommends refusal. The clerk reported that an Anglian Water fault report for the Nunnery Street pumping station received in response to an information request from Cllr Southgate had been forwarded to the case officer. Cllr Taylor and Cllr Southgate will speak at the Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr Beavis reported:

Local Government Reorganisation: A government minister for Essex is involved with the creation of the new North East Essex Council (NEEC) which will replace BDC & ECC and include Braintree, Colchester and Tendring. May 2027 are the elections for this new Unitary Council and appointments will be for 5 years. Councillors elected in May 2026 will serve for 2 years, with the second year acting as Unitary Authority shadow Councillors to assist the transition. The whole process could take at least a decade.

Medical Centre: A meeting will take place with the CEO of One Medical on 15th April. A complete financial review is being carried out but the project has not been cancelled. Parish Councillors raised concerns about continued delays, including their impact on the lease of the surgery at Falcon Square.

FINANCE

Annual Accounts: The full year end Accounting reports for 2025-2026 will soon be published on the website and presented at the Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday 30th April.

Npower invoices: Councillors gave their approval for the clerk to refer the matter to the Energy Ombudsman, since Npower have at last agreed there are no charges owed for energy use but are now claiming a £50 to £55 per month standing charge since June 2025 for 4 street lights at New Park that are not connected to the electricity supply. One quote from an alternative supplier for re-energising the street lights had been received. A quote from a second supplier had not yet been received. Energy suppliers are not keen to take on such a small account. Councillors also approved the clerk investigating the cost of permanent disconnection of the street lights, if this is the only way to avoid standing charges.

Pump House Rates: An increase of nearly 100% in the rates for the Pump House for 2026-2027, from £58.35 to £114.92, has been challenged at the Valuation Office Agency but with no success so far. The building is listed as a "ground floor changing room" in the same category as Village Halls & Scout Huts. Action: Clerk to raise another query, but in the meantime the April and May rates were approved for payment.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Timed Access Locks: The supplier Danfo confirms installation is booked for 19th - 21st May.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED: To make an additional donation of £100 to St Nicholas Church as thanks to the Church keyholder volunteers who have been locking and unlocking the public toilets in the meantime.

Cleaner vacancy: Three quotes from self-employed contractors/commercial cleaners were reviewed. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Dirt Aid cleaning from Sudbury for weekly cleaning on Mondays and Fridays.

ST JAMES FAIR, SATURDAY 25th JULY 2pm - 5pm

Cllr Dover confirmed arrangements so far, including use of the church for teas and indoor stalls, the Village Park for tents/gazebos and games, the Club bar for drinks. Indoor uses for the hall are still being considered. Most stallholders from last year have confirmed they will return. New participants and stallholders are welcome to contact Cllr Dover on wildd@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 30th Apr 7pm ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY Castle Heddingham Village Hall

Monday 11th May 6.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Castle Heddingham Club

The meeting closed at 7.47pm

Full minutes of meetings including planning applications and financial information are published www.castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Crafty Nannas

Meeting once a month on 2nd Tuesday 2pm – 4pm
The Castle Club, Church Lane, Castle Heddingham
with refreshments.

T Club

Meeting on the last Wednesday each month at The Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Castle Heddingham 2pm – 4pm. A club where older people can enjoy a chat. Refreshments & raffle.
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Should you wish to know further details about any of these activities, please contact:

Jayne Laken on 07458 300 903

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Friends of Alderford Mill



Our first open day of 2026 was on Sunday 12th April. Throughout our opening hours, the waterwheel operated non-stop, ensuring the paddles were thoroughly soaked and their weight evenly balanced. We had 58 visitors over the afternoon, tea, coffee and cakes were enjoyed by some of the visitors and then rain set in at 4:30, duck food was available for the younger visitors to feed the few ducks. When the open day signs were returned the next Monday, ducklings were seen.

Essex County Council have been in touch with the Parish Council about taking on the stewardship of the mill as in 2 years they will cease to exist. After attending the Parish Council meeting on Monday, 13th April, I learned they were hesitant to take responsibility for it. As a result, it will likely be handed over to the new Unitary Authority when it is established, unless another solution is proposed.

Open Days and Wednesday Volunteers Group will continue as normal for the foreseeable future. The volunteers on open days set out various displays and inform visitors of the history and workings of the mill and offer tea and cakes. The Wednesday volunteers do general maintenance of the mill within certain safety guidelines and various projects to enhance the visitor experience. We look forward to welcoming both new and returning visitors at our upcoming open day on Sunday, May 10th.

CH Cricket Club



Castle Heddingham Cricket Club

Home games are played at our beautiful ground in Castle Heddingham - so come along and join the team or bring along a picnic and enjoy the idyllic surroundings.

Sunday	15 th May	Woolpit	1330	Home
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www.castleheddingham.play-cricket.com

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Please see our website walshfunerals.com for more details or phone us on **01371 856274** or email info@walshfunerals.com

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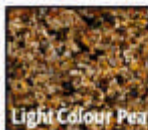
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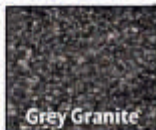
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CH Gardening Club

Hello everyone! It's hard to believe that it's already May, I expect you have all been busy in your gardens as everything seems to be shooting up.

Our meeting in April was a talk entitled 'The History of Marks Hall' given by Dr. Jane Pearson. Jane showed us some very interesting slides showing what Marks Hall looked like. During the war the house was occupied by military personnel, after which it was demolished and its contents distributed to other establishments.

Our meeting on the 14th of this month will be a talk given by Roger Hance entitled 'Nature Through The Seasons; Part One Spring and Summer'.

Our trips this Summer will be: **June 11th Hyde Hall and July 9th Fullers Mill.**

Please put your names on the lists at this month's meeting if you wish to attend.

Castle Hedingham Gardening Club - Plant Sale May 23rd - 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham - Refreshments and Raffle

Please come along and support us - it's always such an enjoyable event.

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. We are a very friendly group of people and are always pleased to see a new face.

Bye for now,

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

Chairman Christine Lucock 01206 210872.

Secretary Jean Collings 01787 461663.

Treasurer Maureen Lofting 01787 463343.



GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

- Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
- Hoe off weeds in vegetable patches
- Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- Mow lawns but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife, or mow less often so flowers can bloom
- Check carefully for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
- Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs and remove by hand if causing damage

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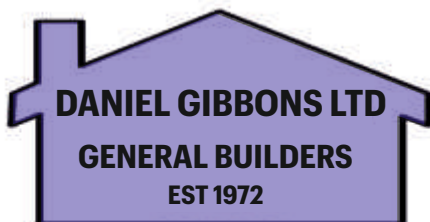
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Hedingham Heritage Society

Thursday 14th May 2026

THE HEDINGHAMS BY DRONE

Drones have revolutionised the way we see the world, giving photographers access to unique perspectives and compositions. At this meeting local drone photographer Simon Daw will showcase the power of this technology with bird's eye views of the Hedinghams' distinctive landmarks and beautiful countryside. Members free, guests £5

**7.30 pm CASTLE HEDINGHAM
MEMORIAL HALL CO9 3DA**



Thursday 4th June 2026

THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION IN ESSEX

From the 18th century, Britain underwent a significant transformation in the way it managed and farmed land. In this talk, Neil Wiffen from the Essex Records Office will draw on archive material to illustrate how Essex saw a steady shift to cereal farming and market gardening. Members free, guests £5

**7.30 pm CASTLE HEDINGHAM
MEMORIAL HALL CO9 3DA**



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- Tinned Sweetcorn
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The advertising 'year' runs from April to March - below are the advertising costs for April 2026 - March 2027 (10 issues)

Size of Advert	Annual Rate (10 issues)	Single Issue Rate
¼ page	£175	£20
½ page	£350	£42
Full Page	£680	£78
Advertorials	N/A	400 words & images £125

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Thank-you to all those who kindly deliver this magazine around the two villages. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. If others would like to help, please contact:

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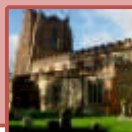
June	14th May
Jul/Aug	11th Jun
Sep	13th Aug
Oct	10th Sep
Nov	15th Oct
Dec/Jan	12th Nov
Feb	14th Jan
Mar	11th Feb

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Parish Contacts



1st Heddingham Guides	Kathie Hoyer	heddingham.guides@btinternet.com
Alderford Water Mill	Dave Home	07922 487467
Beavers, Cub Scouts & Scouts	Stuart Carter	01449 259046
Bellringers St Nicholas's	David Newton	07919 043544
Bellringers St Peter's	Janice Watkins	01787 460900
Book Group	Alison Cantor	01787 462537
Cancer Support Group (Sudbury)	Ruth Worsley	ruth-SACSG@outlook.com
C/Hed Bowls Club	Tony Hayward	axe154tony@gmail.com
C/Hed Club	Will Innes-Taylor	chairman@castlesocialclub.co.uk
C/Hed Friday Art Group	Dawn Howard	07868 520617
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@castleheddingham-pc.gov.uk
		07845 056597
C/Hed Parish Council Chair	Garry Southgate	01787 461638
C/Hed Parochial Charities	Brenda Beadle	01787 460336
C/Hed Tennis Club	Sam Stent	01787 463657
C/Hed Women's Group	Sylvia Anderson	01787 469129
Castle Players	Alan Rees	07964 024082
Essex Wellbeing Service		0300 303 9988
Explorer Scouts	Adam Hearn	07447 443390
Friends of St Nicholas' Church	Garry Southgate	01787 461638
Heddingham Baptist Church	Gary Wilson	07761 885418
Heddingham History Group	Jan Cole	01787 829317
Heddingham Medical Centre		01787 461465
Heddingham Singers	Bob Lilley	07790 573435
Heddingham United Football Club	Steve Parsons	07488 362530
Heddinghams District Councillors	Jo Beavis	07771 984365
	Wendy Taylor	07950 708780
Heritage Society	Trudi Cullum	07768 787777
Library	169 Swan Street	0345 603 7628
Molly's Wood	Jane Postma	07759 944215
Rector	Rev Justin Tomkins	01787 237211
S/Hed Parish Council: Clerk	Lesley Slade	01787 462568
S/Hed Parish Council Chair	Jo Beavis	07771 984365
S/Hed Village Hall Bookings	Fiona Earey	07739 582028
St Nicholas's Churchwarden	Sue Southgate	01787 461638
St Peter's Churchwarden	Tracy Goodchild	07530 244799
T Club)		
Crafty Nannas)	Jayne Laken	07458 300903

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Friday 19 th June Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"		£89.00
Thursday 25 th June Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"AND FINALLY..PHIL COLLINS"		£65.00
Sunday 28 th June London – MATINEE PERFORMANCE	"WICKED"		£109.00
Friday 3 rd July Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"BARNUM"		£95.00
Thursday 16 th July London – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION"		£89.00
Thursday 23 rd July Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"COUNTRY BY CANDLELIGHT"		£75.00
Saturday 1 st August Southend – MATINEE PERFORMANCE	"HIGH SOCIETY"		£99.00
Thursday 13 th August Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"LORD OF THE DANCE"		£99.00
Monday 24 th August London – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR"	FINAL SEATS!	£149.00
Saturday 5 th September Southend – MATINEE PERFORMANCE	"OPERATION MINCEMENT"		£94.00
Friday 11 th September Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"A COUNTRY NIGHT IN NASHVILLE"	NEW!	£69.00
Saturday 12 th September Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"THIS IS ELVIS" BEN PORTSMOUTH	NEW!	£69.00
Sunday 13 th September Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"ENDLESS LOVE: THE SHOW"	NEW!	£65.00
Friday 18 th September Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"CHOIR OF MAN"	NEW!	£89.00
Friday 25 th September Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"RAT PACK DINNER & DANCE"	NEW!	£95.00
Thursday 1 st October London – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"BEETLEJUICE"		£89.00
Sunday 3 rd October Southend – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"BURLESQUE THE MUSICAL"	NEW!	£92.00
Thursday 8 th October London – EVENING PERFORMANCE	"THE HUNGER GAMES ON STAGE"	NEW!	£105.00
Thursday 15 th October London – MATINEE PERFORMANCE	"SINATRA THE MUSICAL"	NEW!	£105.00

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.