

# Your Rushmere

Winter 2021 Newsletter

## Inside this issue...

Favourites such as  
Young Zone, Rushmere Readers, Children's Competition, Nature Notes & Local History.

Articles on  
Neighbourhood Plan, The Rushmere Commoners, Your New Councillor.

Local updates on what your Parish Council has been up to!

A Merry Christmas to Everyone from Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council

[www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net](http://www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net)



## VACANCY

### Assistant Registrar of Burials

Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council, Lawn Cemetery, St Andrews Church, The Street.  
5 hours per week (260 hours p.a.)

Main Duties to include:

- Working with the Registrar of Burials and to provide cover when Registrar unavailable
- Keep an electronic diary of burials and map of cemetery up to date
- Send invoices and service order forms via email to clients and the parish office
- Respond to email enquiries relating to the lawn cemetery
- Other duties that may arise

Training and familiarisation with regulations, procedures, applications and lawn cemetery will be provided.

You must have a good basic knowledge of Excel, Word and Outlook and be able to deal considerately by phone and occasionally face to face with clients.

For further information please contact the Parish Clerk Sylvia Stannard by 23 December 2021:  
E-mail: [sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk](mailto:sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk) or telephone 01473 711509

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## THE BIG GREEN ISSUE IS COMING THROUGH YOUR DOOR SUMMER 2022

Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council is conscious of the 'Climate Emergency' we face and as part of that have started to look at what we can do as a parish to be part of the solution. Look out for more news on this soon. In the meantime we are busy putting together a 'green' version of the Summer 'Your Rushmere' full of relevant articles and investigating a more environmentally friendly way to produce the physical newsletter. If you would like to get involved please contact:

[sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk](mailto:sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk)



## Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council



**Hello** to you all! I'm sure it's not just me but this year has gone by at a very quick pace, BBQs, holidays and long evenings now seems a distant memory. Like most years we can hope the weather next summer will be a bit drier.

We have, as usual, a packed newsletter but I would just like to draw your attention to one particular article and that's the Neighbourhood Plan. A lot of work has gone into this project and the finish line is quickly approaching. In order to accept or reject this Neighbourhood Plan we will need to hold a referendum. It is important for residents vote in this referendum. So keep an eye out for when this will happen.

**In the meantime I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2022!**

*Chris Griggs - Chairman of the Newsletter & Website Advisory Panel*

### Rushmere St Andrew Parish Councillors & Officers

<b>Beech Ward</b>		
Mr C Griggs	65 The Street, IP5 1DE	07921 821869
Ms C Evans	9 Blackdown Avenue, IP5 1AZ	01473 617535
<b>Village Ward</b>		
Miss A Cracknell	148 The Street, IP5 1DH	01473 719746
Mrs B Richardson-Todd (Vice Chair)	57 Playford Road, IP4 5RJ	07801 736067
Mr R E Whiting	105 Playford Road, IP4 5RQ	07831 204270
<b>Tower Ward</b>		
Mr D Noske	Millbank House, Tuddenham Lane, IP5 1DU	07860 564480
Mrs M Brown	15 Chestnut Close, IP5 1ED	01473 725720
Mr D J Francis	14 Clovelly Close, IP4 5UF	01473 723453
Mr M Newton	11 Chestnut Close, IP5 1ED	07788 456641
Mr R Nunn	c/o Parish Council Office	01473 711509
Mr P M Richings (Chairman)	29 The Pastures, IP4 5UQ	01473 436688
Mr K Driver	8 Butterfly Gardens, IP4 5TF	07748 488206
Mr B Ward	12 Playford Road, IP4 5RH	01473 622272
Mr J Westrup	9 Holly Lane, IP5 1DN	01473 272257
Mr J Wright	4 Bodiam Close, IP3 8QR	07494 447391
<b>Clerk to the Parish Council &amp; Responsible Financial Officer</b>		
Mrs S Stannard		01473 711509
Email: <a href="mailto:sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk">sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk</a>		
<b>Assistant Clerk &amp; Advertising Enquiries</b>		
Mrs S Jenkins		07568 632110
Email: <a href="mailto:sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk">sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk</a>		
<b>Parish Office</b>		
Tower Hall, 5 Broadlands Way, IP4 5SU		01473 711509
<a href="http://www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net">www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net</a>		
<b>Allotment Management</b>		
Mr John Westrup	9 Holly Lane, IP5 1DN	01473 272257
<b>Registrar to the Burial Authority (Lawn Cemetery Enquiries)</b>		
Mr A Duncan	8 Crofton Close, IP4 4QR	01473 727389
<b>Safer Neighbourhood Teams</b>		
<b>Tower Ward &amp; Beech Ward: To speak with an officer at Ipswich East SNT - telephone 101</b>		
Email: <a href="mailto:IpswichEast.SNT@suffolk.pnn.police.uk">IpswichEast.SNT@suffolk.pnn.police.uk</a>		
<b>Village Ward: To Speak to an officer at Woodbridge SNT- telephone 101</b>		
Email: <a href="mailto:Woodbridge.SNT@suffolk.pnn.police.uk">Woodbridge.SNT@suffolk.pnn.police.uk</a>		
<b>PCSO 3357 Eleanor Miles is our Partnership Funded PCSO and covers all 3 wards</b>		
Telephone 101 Email: <a href="mailto:eleanor.miles@suffolk.pnn.police.uk">eleanor.miles@suffolk.pnn.police.uk</a>		
Further information available at <a href="http://www.suffolk.police.uk">www.suffolk.police.uk</a>		

### Parish Council Meetings

Details of these meetings can be found on the Parish Noticeboards and on the Parish Council Website at: [www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/agendas-and-minutes/](http://www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/agendas-and-minutes/)

If you wish to attend a meeting as a member of the public please first advise the Parish Clerk. Due to COVID-19 restrictions face to face meetings are subject to the Parish Council Protocols Policy available on the Council website.

- Full Parish Council -Village Hall**  
Thursday 13 January, 7.30pm  
Thursday 10 March, 7.30pm  
Thursday 12 May, 7.30pm
- General Purposes and Finance Committee -Tower Hall**  
Thursday 10 February, 7.30pm  
Thursday 14 April, 7.30pm  
Thursday 9 June, 7.30pm
- Parish Amenities and Services Committee - Tower Hall**  
Thursday 20 January, 7.30pm  
Thursday 17 March, 7.30pm  
Thursday 19 May, 7.30pm

**Planning and Development Meetings**  
These meetings are arranged as and when we receive planning applications for discussion. Notice of meetings and agendas will be placed on Noticeboards and the Parish Website.

**The Parish Office is open but please first book an appointment.**  
Telephone: 01473 711509  
Parish Clerk: Mrs Sylvia Stannard  
Email: [sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk](mailto:sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk)  
Assistant Parish Clerk: Mrs Sarah Jenkins  
Email: [sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk](mailto:sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk)

## Meet New Councillor, Derk Noske



I've recently joined the parish council and wanted to introduce myself to you. I moved to Suffolk 26 years ago with my wife and have lived in Rushmere St. Andrew for the last 12 of those years. We both love the area which has been a fantastic place to raise our two sons. I think it is a great place to live, with its easy access to the beautiful Suffolk countryside and all the facilities of Ipswich on our doorstep. In my spare time I love music, cooking, spending time with friends and skiing in the winter. Just before lockdown I started homebrewing with some friends – it is definitely the best lockdown hobby – and we're now enjoying the chance to finally meet in person and share some of our produce.

I have worked for BT and Openreach throughout my time in Suffolk; currently I am the Openreach Chief Architect responsible for the design of it's new fibre network. Family and work kept me pretty busy in the past and didn't leave much time for volunteering and contributing back to the community. Our boys have recently left home for university so I am pleased to finally have time to do more of that. When ex-councillor, Amanda Bridger asked me last year whether I wanted to join the parish's neighbourhood plan working group as a volunteer I jumped at the chance.

The experience really opened my eyes to the valuable work that the parish council does. I have been hugely impressed by the hard work, dedication and professionalism of the councillors and parish clerks. They give so much of their personal time and energy for the benefit of the community. So I am absolutely delighted to be able to join them in their efforts and look forward to turning our community's aspirations into tangible improvements for us all.

**Councillor Derk Noske**

## News from the Allotments

Autumn is again upon us the time of year to prepare for the coming spring of 2022, where do the years go!

I've just taken down my runner beans after a very good crop, this year I planted as usual in late April hoping that all frosts had departed, but then I planted a second row six weeks later this proved a bonus as I've only just finished using them.



I'm preparing the ground now for my Broad Beans and I will plant them before the end of October. The seed to buy is Aguadulce which will stand the winter very well and give a early crop next May/June, because they have overwintered the Blackfly its normal enemy is not keen on them and much prefers the spring sown varieties. You either love or hate Broad Beans but on the plus side they freeze very well so you can eat them all year round.

Here at the Rushmere Allotments we are very fortunate as we have a stables next door as our neighbour, and we have courtesy of the owner access to lovely horse manure and now of course is a good time to dig it in ready for next season.

Allotments are still very much in demand, and we have a large waiting list, but Rushmere residents will be afforded priority so don't be put off

from applying via our Parish office.

The Allotment Manager, John Westrup on 07768 350313 Email: [johnwestrup@mac.com](mailto:johnwestrup@mac.com)

Parish Clerk, Sylvia Stannard on 01473 711509 Email: [sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrews.org.uk](mailto:sylvia.stannard@rushmere-st-andrews.org.uk)

**Councillor John Westrup, Allotment Manager**

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## Rushmere St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan

Over the past year a Working Group formed by the Parish Council has been preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Rushmere St Andrew.

We recently consulted residents and other interested parties on the draft plan, a major milestone in the preparation of the neighbourhood plan. Consultation on the draft plan closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021. Thank you to all those residents and other interested parties that commented on the draft plan. The Working Group and Parish Council are reviewing all submitted comments to decide whether any amendments to the Draft Plan is required.

The next step is to submit the Final Draft Plan to East Suffolk Council. This is scheduled for early 2022. East Suffolk Council will consult the public and other statutory consultees soon after they receive the plan. The consultation will be for a six-week period. This will be another opportunity for residents and other interested parties to comment on the Neighbourhood Plan.

After the six-week consultation period on the Final Draft Plan an Independent Examination will follow. The Independent Examiner will review the Plan and consider any objections to it.

The Examiner's Report will recommend whether the Plan, possibly with amendments, should proceed to a referendum in the parish. If the Examiner recommends that a Parish Referendum be held it is likely that this will be held in the Spring/early Summer 2022.

A parish referendum will be organised and paid for by East Suffolk Council in the same way as a local election. Notice will be given of the Referendum and all those living in the parish that are entitled to vote will be asked whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be approved. No matter how many turn out to vote, if more votes say "Yes" then the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted and used by East Suffolk Council when considering planning applications.

For any updates please view our website: <http://rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net/neighbourhood-plan/>.



To find out the winners of the Neighbourhood Planning Group's Competitions in the Summer Newsletter please see the back cover. Thank you to everyone who entered.

## Rushmere Commoners Committee

Rushmere Common is a unique environment in the area and is home to a number of different species of wild-life. It takes careful management to enable this wild-life to thrive alongside a busy golf course, dog walking area and commuting routes. Along with the golf club we provide rubbish bins to help minimise rubbish, dog waste bins and supply around 100,000 dog waste bags each year.

The Rushmere Commoners Committee (RCC) have been busy in the last few months meeting with the Rushmere Golf Club (RGC) and The Green Light Trust. We have been discussing the plans and activities needed to manage the common during the winter months. Our regular contractors have also been working hard to keep paths open as the bramble and gorse have grown well this year. It is the ideal time, now through to April to get the major work underway so we aren't disturbing nesting birds and the plants are not in vigorous growth stages.

Rushmere Common and the Sandlings and Mill Stream Local Nature Reserves are home to a variety of flora and fauna. There have been 22 out of 31 possible UK butterfly species. recorded in the area. At least one of which - the white letter hairstreak is a UK priority species and has high Butterfly conservation status. For more information <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/white-letter-hairstreak>

The gorse covers large areas but needs careful management otherwise it becomes overgrown, woody and a fire hazard which then doesn't offer the cover for the wildlife it does when younger. This combined with areas we need to improve for safety reasons to improve visibility for both walkers and golfers. There have been a number of near

misses recently and with the sun low in the sky we ask both walkers and golfers to take extra care.

It's important that as the managing trustees that we look at how we maintain the heathland, heather and grasses. If left unchecked the trees (whilst magnificent in places) and gorse would take over and we would lose the environmentally important landscape. Greenways with the parish council do a fantastic job in managing the Sandlings and Mill Stream Local Nature Reserves and we want to ensure our activities are complementary.

You may have already seen signs up on the common relating to the work Green Light have been doing to expand the heather areas and allow the gorse to re-generate, thus allowing better cover for wildlife. The oaks in several areas have grown up very close to each other and need room to expand. You may notice some with dead branches etc. The RCC also recently commissioned a tree survey and we are looking at the work that requires. More on that as plans emerge.

One of our biggest challenges is disposal of off-cuts etc. We will be working with the fire brigade on controlled burns, looking into chipping and making use of areas for natural piles for insects etc to thrive. Before any burning takes place areas will be checked for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

The management committee manages the common for the good of the commoners, if you'd like to join the committee or if you have any queries on this matter please contact: [clerkushcommoners@gmail.com](mailto:clerkushcommoners@gmail.com) or see our website: [rushmerecommonerstrustees.onesuffolk.net/](http://rushmerecommonerstrustees.onesuffolk.net/)

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Stay Safe and keep an eye on changes to Government Advice on Covid-19

**Bixley Farm**

When talking about the history of Rushmere St Andrew we often think in terms of the village in The Street but over half of the current parish, which lies to the south of the A1214 covers the heath and Bixley Farm, extending and taking in part of the Ipswich Golf Club and lies to the south of the A1214.

Bixley was a parish in it's own right but by 1844 was reduced to just one farmhouse, and is now part of our parish. According to Whites County Directory of 1844, it is noted that:

*"BIXLEY, now only a farm in Rushmere, is nearly 2 miles east of Ipswich and was anciently a separate parish, with a church dedicated to St. Petronville, and was in some way connected with the adjacent extra-parochial places, called Alnesbourn Priory and Purdies Farm. From Bixley Decoy Ponds, on the south side of the parish, a rivulet flows eastward to the Deben, and has near it some rich marsh land. These ponds or meres, anciently abounding in rushes, gave name to the parish of Rushmere."*

These ponds formerly held wild duck, widgeon and teal etc.

St. Petronille was the patron saint of France and patron saint of fevers, mountain travellers and hospitality. Her Feast Day is celebrated on 31st May.

Most of the land was originally owned by Admiral

Broke and was later sold to George Tomline in 1840 and subsequently bought and developed by John Chater from the 1990s onwards. Bixley House now known as Bixley Hall, and a few farm buildings are the only remaining original buildings.

The estate was sold in 11 lots in 1928 including the following:

Bixley House, Bixley Farm buildings plus 20 acres, a grass paddock of 2 acres, smallholding of 11 acres including Meadow Cottage, enclosure of land of 36 acres, enclosure of land of 17 acres sold to Golf Club, Rifle Range and two further grass meadows. The Rifle Butts are noted on an information board in the Mill Stream Nature Reserve.

According to the Historic Monument Record, there were two practice trenches probably from the First World War sited on Bixley Heath Golf course, which are still visible from the air as earthworks.

Rushmere Common was used for military purposes in the nineteenth century and there is still some evidence of a parade ground on the rough area of heathland just off Heath Road, the rifle ranges were also used by the territorial army for practice. There is some evidence of a ditched enclosure from medieval times, maybe for stock, and of course the heath was used for public executions.



View of Bixley House. Lot 1.

**GENERAL REMARKS.**

THE ESTATE as described in these Particulars, and now offered for Sale in 11 Lots, is all FREEHOLD.

The Vicarial title rent charge on all the Lots has been redeemed under a 50 years' Annuity from 1921, and the amounts stated in the Particulars in respect of each Lot are the annual payments apportioned for the purpose of this Sale only.

All the Lots, except Lot 6, will be sold with a right-of-way (in common with other owners) over the roadway running Northwards from the Foxhall road opposite the Golf Course Hotel.

ORDER OF SALE. The Vendor reserves the right to alter the arrangement of the Lots, to offer the Lots in any order other than as described, to sell two or more Lots together, or to withdraw from sale any Lot or Lots, as he may consider desirable on the day of Sale.

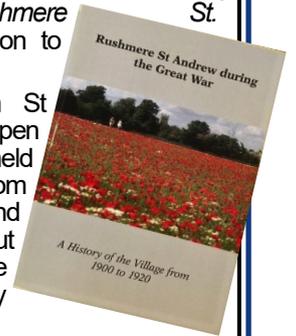
SALE PARTICULARS. The Particulars are believed to be correct, but their accuracy is not guaranteed, and no claims for errors or omissions will be admitted. The dimensions and areas of each Lot are stated approximately. The Plan is provided for purposes of identification only.

If you have not yet obtained a book about the history of the parish, there are some available, *Rushmere St Andrew during the Great War*, and *The History of Rushmere Andrew*, and these could be a solution to some of your Christmas present buying.

These can now be obtained from St Andrew's Church during one of their Open Door Sessions, which are currently held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.00 am to 12 noon, when coffee and biscuits are available. If you are out walking or driving through the village please drop in and you will be made very welcome.

**Contact Ruth Silburn, Local History Recorder with any Rushmere St Andrew local history information**

Email: [rsilburn@hotmail.com](mailto:rsilburn@hotmail.com)



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All proceeds will continue to provide much needed help, especially following two outbreaks of COVID for our charity in Tamil Nadu, India, including the building of another RTU House.

## Nature Notes

2021 has proved to be a challenging year for nature. Winter was extended with more nights of frost in April than normal. It meant that successful pollination was limited resulting in several species of trees and hedgerow plants having a much-reduced fruiting crop this autumn.

Observations from the garden are not that encouraging either. In previous years bird feeders were being emptied in a matter of days. Now it takes weeks. Signs are that things are picking up, however, because small flocks of House Sparrows and Goldfinches are returning. On a wider scale, migration of Redwings and Fieldfares have been reported. Once in the gardens they will make short work of the Rowan Berries and Rose Hips.

Meanwhile the notion of "Climate Emergency" is being taken more seriously. Your Parish Council is represented on the Community Partnership Rewilding Forum. In conjunction with neighbouring parishes several initiatives are under way. These include rewilding grass verges, encouraging residents to set aside part of their garden (or patio/balcony etc) for

nature. Martlesham Parish Council recently held a successful "Climate Summit" with talks, displays and advice chats on all things environmental.

The Rewilding Forum is planning to take an active part in the Martlesham Fete to be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2022. By then Rushmere St Andrew will have held its Jubilee Event and our rewilding schemes will be well underway. We hope to have a stall at the Martlesham fete enabling us to share news and progress of our projects alongside the many other environmental and "green" schemes being developed in this area.

Specifically, for Rushmere St Andrew we shall shortly commence planting 80 metres of natural hedgerow at Broke Hall Playing Field. A strip along the boundary fence to Cuckfield Avenue will be fenced off and set aside for a hedgerow and wildflowers. **We're also planning to hold an event there next year, planting a couple of specimen trees, alongside a time-capsule to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please keep a look out for more information in the New Year.**

The Greenways project team have been

busy at the village pond clearing invasive weed. They've also started their annual grass cutting to encourage new growth and bring our wildflower meadows back to life next year. At the time of writing, we are just unfolding plans for another new rewilding project alongside the main A1214 Woodbridge Road.

This land consists of a woodland copse and bramble thicket at one end with a wide grass sward at the other. Having been awarded a grant, the Parish Council commissioned a tree survey which identified a few issues such as tree branches overhanging telephone wires etc.

Tree safety work will be carried out and some non-native species will be removed.

The grass area will be planted with a range of flowers. We're looking at the idea of a swathe of Spring Bulbs which will be followed by Wild-Flowers (from a speciality supplier) growing through thus providing a bright village setting from early spring to late Autumn.

**Councillor James Wright (Parish Tree and Pond Warden)**

## Broke Hall Play Area New Path

You may have noticed that Broke Hall Play Area was closed for nearly a week at the beginning of October! Firstly, apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused but it was for a very good reason.

Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council has seen a need for play equipment which is accessible to all in recent years and has used funding to install an all-inclusive roundabout and bench at Broke Hall Playing Field. However, as it is a grass playing field, wheelchair users find it hard and near impossible to reach the equipment in bad weather when the ground is muddy. This is also true for those with pushchairs and anyone unsteady on their feet. Therefore, not only has a new resin path been installed from the entrance of the playing field to the roundabout and bench but also continues further to link together the other pieces of play equipment.

We really hope that you find this path useful and aesthetically pleasing and would like to thank District Councillor Mark Newton for providing the funding for the path out of his East Suffolk Council Enabling Communities Budget, it is very much appreciated.



Photograph by T Jenkins and Z Kubacka



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**Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 14th May at Broke Hall Play Area, Salehurst Road. Tree planting, time capsule etc ...**

**More information next year!**

## Stay Safe Online

It's been a long day, there have been glitches with the home broadband and the laptop or PC has been playing up. You have tried to check your mobile banking on the computer or phone but have been unable to login.

Family life is busy, there's a phone call or a text claiming to be from your service provider or bank. Thinking of the problems during the day you proceed with the call. A very helpful operator just needs to take a few personal details from you. They may even need to remotely access your computer. Does this sound familiar?

Sadly, I have been contacted by many people from throughout the age ranges that have fallen victim to scammers. They have received threatening automated phone calls claiming to be from BT, HMRC, Amazon, TV Licensing etc. It's so easy to be caught out if they call you just at the right time.

Technology has moved forward tremendously and there are some very good cyber security measures to follow. Unfortunately, social engineering is still the main tool for scammers and fraudsters. Human nature is still the best way for them to get through to sensitive information. A very convincing email still seems to bring the scammers results.

If possible secure your email login whether it be Yahoo, Outlook Gmail or O365 with two factor authentication. Make sure that you use secure passwords. I would suggest using the randomly created passwords and storing them safely. Don't use the same password for multiple sites. Hackers use several tools to test

sites every day including Credential Stuffing, Phishing, Password Spraying, Keylogging and Brute Force attacks.

You may notice that the phone calls you receive to your mobile and landlines that are not your family or friends are cold callers or nuisance calls. You can register your numbers on the Telephone Preference Service. This won't stop them all but it's a good line of defence.

The banks will not generally call you. If you do receive calls claiming to be from someone that urgently needs to speak to you take their details but do not call them back on a number that they have given you. Look them up online, see if you can find their details and number. Genuine people will not mind you being careful however the scammers will, which is a tell-tale sign.

Make sure that you have moved away from Windows 7 to 10 or 11. Windows 7 is not supported any more. Windows has a pretty good built in antivirus engine. It is recommended that you layer this up with a subscription malware/antivirus package. Try running system maintenance every week, clean up temporary internet data and run the antivirus scans.

Normal things like backup still apply. It's very common to have huge amounts of photos stored on the online cloud platforms but do you physically have these backed up – if you lose access to your account are you still able to see those precious photos?

**Paul Flaherty - CloudFlex Systems**



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Contact Paul

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[info@cloudflexsystems.co.uk](mailto:info@cloudflexsystems.co.uk)

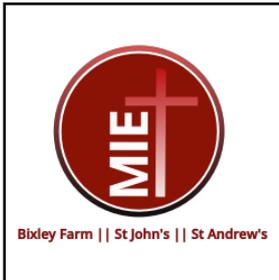
[www.cloudflexsystems.co.uk](http://www.cloudflexsystems.co.uk)

**internet  
matters.org**

If you need information on keeping children safe online have a look at Internet Matters where you can find comprehensive and credible resources, information and support.

If you're concerned about something that you've seen on the internet, or behaviour that your child has experienced whilst online you should report abuse to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) [www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/)

## Bixley Farm Church



Bixley Farm Church is the third congregation within the Mission Ipswich East (MIE) group, alongside those of St Johns, Cauldwell Hall Rd and St Andrews, Britannia Rd.

After nearly 18 months, we have finally been able to resume our normal Sunday@4 services and enjoy meeting and singing as before, along with refreshments at the end. Despite the long lockdown our numbers have generally held up, though it has been a very difficult time for some. Supporting each other and local residents in prayer and in practical ways has been one of our priorities.

As reported last time some members from our congregation have also been instrumental in the setting up and running of a weekly pop-up shop at St Johns Church. For a fixed amount of £2, visitors can fill a bag with groceries. This has continued to date and anyone within the church parish, which includes Bixley Farm, can use the service.

Our mum and toddlers group has had to close but we have now started a weekly coffee drop-in point on Fridays from 2 pm till 3.30. Anyone can come along for a free cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

We have also held a Messy Church event in July with another planned for Nov 28<sup>th</sup> (2-4pm) This a form of church for children and adults together, as families, that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It will include a welcome drink and treats, and then some time will be spent exploring a biblical theme through fun and messy play. This will be followed by a short celebration time involving story (often with puppets), prayer, songs, and games.

All our events are still open to anyone to join and are publicised via our monthly article in the Kesgrave & Rushmere edition of In Touch magazine, and via the MIE website.

For further information/questions go to [www.mie.org/bixley](http://www.mie.org/bixley) or email [office@mie.org.uk](mailto:office@mie.org.uk) or call 01473 270978.

## Rushmere Baptist Church



### RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH BUILDING

We are very pleased to tell you that our Church building on The Street near Chestnut Pond, is open again for the Sunday morning worship service and for several groups and activities during the week. We meet on Sunday mornings at 10.45am and you are very welcome to join us.

There are groups for children and young people during the service. Please bring a mask to wear when walking around in the building and when singing. As in a cafe you can take the mask off once you are sitting down. If you prefer you can join the Sunday morning service on line as it is live streamed on the Church Facebook page.

For children and young people there are groups and activities on Monday evenings.

**FAF** meets from 6.15 – 7.30pm for children in school years 2 – 6, for a fun time of games, crafts and stories from the Bible. **SPRING** meets from 7.45 – 8.45pm for young people in school years 7 and above, for fun, games and discussion about faith and life. All children and young people known to you are very welcome to come along. Please contact us by email [secretary@rushmerebaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rushmerebaptist.org.uk) for

more information.

On Friday mornings RUSHMERE DUCKLINGS has re-commenced for children under school age and their parents or carers for fun and friendship. You are warmly invited to come along but you need to book a place in advance please, on the Church Facebook page.

For all ages if you enjoy walking you are very welcome to join us for a walk in the local countryside on Saturday afternoons at 2pm.

Groups and activities for senior citizens have also started again with **FRIENDSHIP HOUR** once a month on Wednesday afternoon to which you are very welcome, and **LUNCH CLUB** once a fortnight for which you need to register.

For times, dates and more information please contact us at [secretary@rushmerebaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rushmerebaptist.org.uk) or phone us on 01473 721455. If the phone is not answered please leave a message and someone will phone you back.

More mid week groups and activities will re-open in the coming months. For more information and updates please see our website and the Church Facebook page, or contact the email address given above.

(The building is Covid safe and we hope very much to be able to run all these services and groups throughout the winter and into next year but if the Government Autumn/Winter 2021 plan for dealing with Covid is implemented there will be changes.)

[www.rushmerebaptist.org.uk](http://www.rushmerebaptist.org.uk)

## Christmas Time

### CHRISTMAS AT RUSHMERE BAPTIST CHURCH

We would like to tell you about our plans for Christmas services & events to which you are all very welcome.



On Sunday 5 December our 10.45am worship service will be for all the family.

There will be opportunity to bring either a gift voucher, or a box or tin of sweets or biscuits, to be donated to **FIND**, the local food bank, who will share them with needy people this Christmas. If you would like information about useful gift vouchers please get in touch by the email address above.

On Sunday December 19 there will be a Candlelight Carol service at 5.30pm. This is a popular event and it would be lovely to see you there.

On Saturday December 24, Christmas Eve, please join us at Chestnut Pond (not far from the church), for an outdoor Carol Service lit by lights in the trees, at 6pm. It is another very popular occasion but there is plenty of space for you to join in.

On Christmas Day, Dec 25 at 10.30am, there will be a family worship service, you are very welcome to come along.

GOD BLESS.

**Rushmere Baptist Church**

## PCSO Report



Over the last few months, we have received multiple reports of criminal damage across the locality. This varies from graffiti of street furniture to the arson of litter bins. Officers from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team, along with myself, are continuing to conduct patrols in the key areas when possible, but if you see anything suspicious,

please do contact Police using the methods below.

In recent months, I have received reports of inconsiderate parking around Rushmere St. Andrew. As school parking is often an issue, I am in the process of sending out a letter to all the parents/guardians with children who attend a primary school in Kesgrave and Rushmere St. Andrew, advising of common parking offences and advising that these areas will be patrolled at school start and/or finish times. Parking concerns as well as speed enforcement remain a priority for me within the locality.

At the end of the summer term, I was able to visit some of the schools and nurseries in the local area. Community Engagement Officer PC Canning and I have been talking to the children, answering any questions they may have about what we do and talking about how to keep safe when they are out and about. It is nice to be able to engage with the children and it is an important thing to do - we want to build positive relationships rather than the police being something to be anxious about or afraid of.

Additionally, I have been able to attend several events in the area, such as the Kesgrave Fun Day and the Women's Cycle Tour that ended in Felixstowe, as well as running engagements such as bike security marking and pop up information stalls. It's been lovely to see so many members of the public out and about and being able to have such engagement opportunities.

Over the summer months, there have been some concerns raised over cold calling and fraud in the local area. This is related to the sales of products or services on the doorstep and involves an attempt made by the salesperson to convince customers to make a purchase.

### Top Tips in relation to cold callers:

- Always use your door chain and spy hole viewer
- Never open your door unless you know who it is
- Always ask for identification before opening the door. If in doubt keep them out.
- Put a sign on your door saying 'No Cold Callers'

For further advice please visit the related First Principle advice pages (linked below), and should you ever feel threatened or in fear, please call the police.

As always, should you have any concerns that you wish to contact Police about, please use the official channels – 999 in an emergency and 101 or the online reporting tool (<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something>) for non-emergency queries. Further advice on the above topics and many others can be found on the First Principle section of the Suffolk Police website: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/crime-prevention-z>

*I hope you all have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and continue to stay safe.*

### Eleanor Miles

Police Community Support Officer 3357  
Partnership Funded PCSO for Kesgrave and  
Rushmere St. Andrew  
Suffolk Constabulary  
Tel. (Non-Emergency): 101  
Email: [eleanor.miles@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eleanor.miles@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)  
Website: [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk)



## Speedwatch & ANPR



It's been some time since your local team have been able to conduct Speedwatch surveys.

Our local PCSO has however been

“on the case” and several motorists have received warnings and / or fines. We now have a team of seven who will shortly undergo formal training. Once the on-line and road-side training is complete the team will be in action. We are particularly looking at locations and times of the day which have been identified by residents where speeding vehicles present a significant danger.

We have also applied for several locations to be approved where we might instal ANPR cameras. Automatic Number Plate Recognition is in use everywhere (fuel station forecourts, car parks etc).

Those used to detect speeding vehicles are programmed so that the registered owner of the vehicle will initially receive a warning letter in the same way that those who are “caught” by Speedwatch.

All the data is collated by the Police who decide on the types of warning letters and in the case of repeat offenders what further action will be taken.

**Speed Watch Co-ordinator  
Councillor James Wright**

## Stay Safe at Christmas

We're coming to the annual time when many people go out to enjoy themselves.

As always, the traditional message “don't drink & drive” becomes even more relevant. We have been advised by East Suffolk Council Licensing that, like many other occupations, there are vacancies in the taxi / private hire profession. In consequence, resources may be in much higher demand than normal & they strongly recommend planning ahead & booking both your outward & return journeys.

### Also remember:

Keep an eye on your drinks and never leave them unattended. Even soft drinks could get spiked.

Avoid walking alone and never take short cuts through dark alleys or large open spaces.

Getting behind the wheel after drinking can have tragic consequences. Don't drink and drive.

Keep your PIN number safe; do not disclose to anyone or carry with your card.

**Suffolk Constabulary**

## Rushmere Readers

Our choice for the Winter read is **Finding the Plot** by Caroli Finch. It is a lyrical, insightful memoir about the healing capacity of community and the restorative powers of nature.

The author connects us through her daily experiences on her allotment spread over the four seasons. She charts the transformation of a neglected allotment into a sacred space of beauty and safety.

A practical invitation to slow down and smell the roses, we are called to discover a greater self-acceptance and understanding of our place in the world.

Not only for devoted gardeners and our many allotment tenants 'Finding the Plot'



gives us all permission to take time out from our busy lives. What better read for you or gift to buy for someone at Christmas.

The author talks but never preaches and it feels like retiring to an old friend each time you pick up the book. The short chapters also make this the perfect book to dip into and create a few moments for yourself.

Treat yourself to this uplifting read. It's like having an allotment without all the hard work. However if you are inspired you can always put your name on the Parish Council Allotment Gardens waiting list!

Available at [www.amazon.co.uk/Finding-Plot-Allotment-CAROLI-FINCH/dp/B0875JSKPS](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Finding-Plot-Allotment-CAROLI-FINCH/dp/B0875JSKPS)

## Readers' Reviews

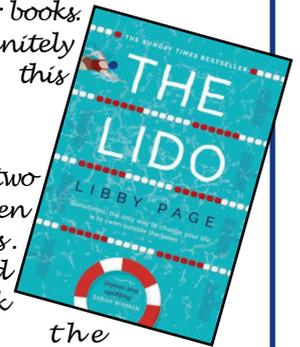
*I like this author and have read another of her books. Would definitely recommend this one.*

**S. Lake**

*Great to see two strong women characters. Really enjoyed this book although the swimming did make me feel chilly!*

**P Graham**

*A bit too slow moving for me. If you like stories about women from different generations you might like it!*



## More than the Average Christmas Cracker Joke!

It was suggested to me that I write a short piece about my book, **Contemplating Comedy**, seeing as I am a local author who has lived on Bixley Farm for the last decade.

The book was conceived, written and published in 2020 during lockdown and takes a humorous look at various aspects of life. While some of the humour is original, much of it consists of direct quotes from various comedians and other writers.

I guarantee you will find hundreds of genuinely funny lines inside which will bring a smile to your face and hopefully a more meaningful laugh than the usual fare of Christmas cracker jokes that do the rounds at this time of year. In fact the book makes a perfect Christmas present especially for the 'funny people' we all have in our life.



The picture shows Buffy, the cockapoo who is in charge of marketing. Buffy goes for a daily run with my wife Maria at some unearthly hour while sensible people (like me) are still in bed. If you live anywhere near the Rushmere water tower and happen to be out and about around dawn you have probably seen them whizzing by.

If you are interested in getting hold of a copy they are available in some local bookshops and also online via Amazon. Simply search for 'Contemplating Comedy'.

[www.amazon.co.uk/Contemplating-Comedy-Jonathan-Levitt/dp/1913567400/](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Contemplating-Comedy-Jonathan-Levitt/dp/1913567400/)

If you fancy a signed copy I am approachable on Twitter @JonathanLevitt7.

**Jonathan Levitt**

## Young Reads

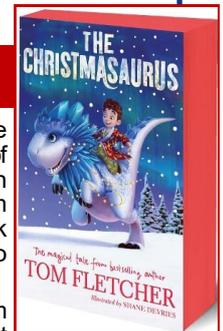
Even in this digital age children love the physicality of books. So what better than sitting down with them reading a Christmas book every evening building up to Christmas.

**The Christmasaurus** by Tom Fletcher was a hit when it first came out in 2017. It's about how a boy and a dinosaur meet one Christmas Eve and have a magical adventure. It's about friendship and families, sleigh bells and Santa, singing elves and flying reindeer.

Every child in my daughter's year 3 class at Broke Hall school read it that Christmas and even persuaded the teacher to read it to them too.

This is the first in the series of books which now also includes; **The Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch** & **The Christmasaurus and the Naughty List**.

Enjoy and discover that the impossible might just be possible!



**Sarah Jenkins**

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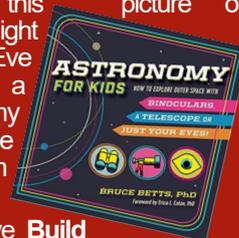
# Your Rushmere

## Colouring Competition Time



## Win a telescope and astronomy book

Colour or decorate this picture of Santa flying in the night sky on Christmas Eve and you could win a telescope & astronomy book. Maybe you will be able to look out for him yourself!



The winner will receive **Build Your Own Telescope kit** and **Astronomy for Kids**.

Pop your entry in the postbox at Tower Hall, 5 Broadlands Way, IP4 5SU. You will find it on the wall to the left of the doors. Please include your name, age and contact details. Alternatively you can email a photograph of your picture and send it to [sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk](mailto:sarah.jenkins@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk)

**Closing date: Monday 20th December 2021**



**Congratulations** to William Cheadle Age 12 whose correct answers to our Neighbourhood Plan competition won him Pictionary and Escape Room games. Well done.

**Congratulations** to Leo Blanchard, Age 6 who designed the fabulous poster pictured here, to get people to use the litter bins. Your colourful, eye-catching design immediately won over the judges.



Enjoy your Magnetic Building Blocks courtesy of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

Y	L	L	O	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	Y	T	A
R	M	O	B	E	S	P	L	O	H	H	R	P	U
L	E	L	G	N	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	L	R
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S	T	B	E	R	T	E	L	B	U	A	B	H	Y
H	R	U	E	R	A	T	S	R	U	T	I	A	E



**What goes Ho Ho whoosh, Ho Ho whoosh?**  
**Santa going through a revolving door!!!**

### Quick Christmas Craft:

Recycle sticks you find on Rushmere Heath by forming Christmas themed shapes such as stars and trees, tie them with red / white wool and hang them on your tree.



**WORD SEARCH: Find these 10 hidden Christmas words!**

**Presents Christingle Mistletoe Holly Turkey  
Rudolph Jumper Bauble Star Santa  
Good Luck and a Very Merry Christmas!**