

Aldringham cum Thorpe with Sizewell Newsletter



Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Easter 2026

Website: www.aldringham.onesuffolk.net

April 2026



Defensive rock bags being installed at Thorpeness

Photo courtesy of East Suffolk Council

Sea Continues to Take Terrible Toll

Devastation has continued along Thorpeness clifftop to the north of the village with a total of 11 properties now having been demolished along North End Avenue and at Tinkers End.

Such an outcome seemed unthinkable just a year (or even a few months) ago. But driven by strong north easterly winds, the sea has pounded the cliffs and beach until the shoreline has become almost unrecognisable. Organisations within the Parish, Thorpeness Community Interest Company (admin@thorpenesscf.org.uk) and the newly-formed Save Thorpeness group (savethorpeness@gmail.com) have been working

tirelessly with the Parish Council and East Suffolk Council (ESC) to raise awareness of the plight of parts of the village, as well as raising funds, both from Council coffers and private individuals.

Local MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter has held a series of public meetings at the Country Club (the next is on April 24th at 5.30pm), and villagers who signed up have been kept up to date with regular emails from ESC.

The update dated March 20th noted that the temporary rock bag defences, funded by ESC and private donations to the tune of £550,000, were due to be fully installed by March 20th. It is hoped these will last between two and five years, providing a breathing space while further plans for a permanent solution can be drawn up.

A long term defence could cost as much as £10 million. The Government has promised £18m to be spread between communities in Norfolk, Suffolk, and East Riding. However, this is not for installing sea defences; the cash will go towards selective property purchases and financing solutions in areas where homes face imminent risk from erosion and that "could provide a sustainable model for managing coastal transition". Parish Council Chair Maureen Jones says work on private installations to defend coastal homes will start imminently;

"Workmen are now preparing the ground in front of Drake House, The Coastguards and possibly a section in front of the Country Club grounds, for coastal defences. These will be different to the rock bags already placed in position from No.7 The Headlands to the land where Stella Maris stood.

The defences will be made up of piling (metal structure element driven or drilled deep into the ground), This will be noisy, so if you wonder what is going on this should explain. Works will not be carried out during the Easter Bank Holiday.

A compound for the workmen including WC facilities has been placed on the car park belonging to the Country Club, with metal fencing placed all around it. Other defences will soon also be placed in front of the rest of The Headlands"

Parish Council Update April 2026

As usual, Parish Councillors are working hard on various issues within the Parish.

Good News

After several years of hard work The Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Aldringham-cum-Thorpe was formally 'made' at the Full East Suffolk Council Meeting on 25th February 2026. This will now be referred to regarding any Planning applications received etc., regarding the Parish. Thank you to everyone involved regarding this Plan. *(158 parishioners voted on February 12th 2026. 149 voted to accept the Plan, 9 voted against. No spoil ballots were submitted – ed)*

Spring Flowers and Daffodil bulbs

How lovely everywhere looks with the wonderful golden daffodils which have now come out in various areas in the Parish, especially in Aldringham opposite the Parrot, and along Aldringham Lane. Thorpeness now has areas in front of The Dolphin, Old Homes Road and at the front of the Ogilvie Pavilion, we are also waiting for the Wallflowers to awaken and give us some colour in the wooden tubs in both villages. I hope you all enjoy seeing these colourful plants on a daily basis and look forward to seeing splashes of colour to brighten the day.

Coastal Erosion

When I last wrote the Parish Council Update in December 2025, none of us who live in Thorpeness were prepared for the damage caused on the 2nd January 2026 along the beachfront from North End Avenue to The Headlands. This led to the demolition of 10 more properties during the first few weeks of 2026. All the

Parish Councillors were very horrified and saddened to observe the damage which occurred. The witnessing of the demolition teams and their large vehicles and cranes moving from one property to the next has upset and worried so many residents. Our thoughts are with the owners of the demolished properties.

We have been working hard with East Suffolk Council and The Coastal Management Teams, attending meetings at The Country Club in Thorpeness, Drop In sessions and Zoom Meetings on a weekly basis, and also speaking to the local Newspapers and the TV companies, trying to raise awareness of the critical situation our village now faces. In the beginning it seemed as if we were not achieving much, but with the help of our MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, Save Thorpeness and property owners, at long last after the loss of all these properties, plans for temporary defence works in front of No.7 The Headlands, Johnnygate, the Public Footpath in front of the demolished Tinkers End site and Stella Maris are being put in place as I write. To see rock bags being delivered, unloaded, taken along the beach and placed where required has been received with a sigh of relief by residents and property owners. Owners of The Headlands and other properties to the south are hoping to follow on with defences as soon as possible.

These are only temporary measures to provide time until more permanent defences can be planned and money raised for a much larger scheme to help protect our very beautiful village for the future.

!!!PLEASE!!!

DO NOT WALK along the Beach area where ongoing works are being carried out.

STAY AWAY from the Cliffs and the Cliff edge as these areas are VERY DANGEROUS .

A Big Thank You goes out to everyone who has helped raise money and worked tirelessly to raise the Urgent Awareness of the situation regarding Thorpeness.

Thorpeness a 20mph Zone

This is an ongoing project and hopefully will be agreed in the future. This should help with safety issues on the roads in the village, if (as we hope) motorists abide by it. Thanks go to Councillor William (Bill) Seale for all the hours and hard work put into this project. Bill will report further on this project for the Parish.

Outstanding Works to be carried out :-

- We are hoping to repair or renew the wooden Thorpeness signs as you enter the village from Aldeburgh;
- We are hoping to install new Trail Boards for Aldringham when these have been completed by The Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group;
- The wooden tubs will be planted with colourful Geraniums for the summer months, and will

receive a fresh coat of paint when the weather is suitable;

- New trees will be planted;
- The Parish will be updated regarding the Emergency Plan;
- Carry out new projects when required.

Emergency Plan

A Meeting has been held recently with The Environment Agency, Roger Brown (Plan Coordinator) and Parish Councillors to discuss ways of making people aware of who to contact in an emergency. Notices will be placed on our Parish Information Boards with helpful telephone numbers. Please see more Emergency Plan updates further on in this Newsletter

New Councillors

If you feel you could spare a few hours of your time and are really interested in the Parish, it would be wonderful if you would join us on the Parish Council. At the moment we have five Councillors who work very hard throughout the year, however we would welcome anyone who feels they can help support our Parish and parishioners. Please contact our **Parish Clerk Shirley Tilbrook 01728 830001** if you are interested.

Maureen Jones

Chair

Energy Projects

Overview

Christmas seems a long time ago. The Parish was eerily quiet even when we stepped out on to the major roads. Quelle surprise! Sizewell took the Builders' Fortnight, so the roads were empty - so welcome for them **and** for us. It was over too soon and we are back to Traffic Management and road diversions. The weight of everyday traffic is staggering. My wife and I drove back from Ipswich the other day and counted the oncoming lorry percentage and reached a conclusion that there was one lorry for every fourth road vehicle. I met an old friend at a meeting yesterday and he and his wife played the same game and came to the same conclusion- one to four. No wonder the roads are breaking up with potholes. Those which are repaired reappear quickly under the weight of traffic.

Perhaps we should be asking the energy companies to make contributions to the Highways' budget. It is always stretched.

Anyway to the Energy Projects.

Sizewell Enabling Works

To be fair to Sizewell, they are getting to the point where their workforce traffic should start to disappear from the roads as the two Park'n' Rides are nearing completion. They will be opening, both Wickham Market and Darsham, in phases from spring. More interesting is that the trainline and railhead are now fully installed and the first engineering train reached the Ancillary Construction Area (ACA) in February, and the first aggregate train arrived in early March. SZC are hoping that 60% of all aggregates and bulk products should come to site both by rail and sea, which should seriously reduce the road traffic.

The Beach Landing Facility is being constructed and should be finished and ready to unload aggregates in the second quarter of 2027.

On the roads, Friday Street and Yoxford roundabouts are programmed to be finished in the next few months, though they now say that the contractors will complete the road surfacing earlier. But there are still a lot of ancillary works to finish so early summer looks likely. The two villages bypass does not finish until late 2027. What the programme has in for the connecting roads has not been decided - a date of October 2027 is given for the Yoxford bypass.

Sizewell B, which was planned to stop working in 2035, will be looking to extend its lifetime to 2055.

Scottish Power Renewables

East Anglia Two and East Anglia One North have now concluded their discharge of requirements from the DCO and can now begin work starting with the substation at Friston, now renamed the Kiln Lane Substation. Work has started there on the civils and groundworks. It was hoped that the two projects would quickly follow each other down the cable route, however a government decision not to give EA1N a subsidy of £4billion meant that SPR would delay their start and finish date when they thought that both projects would be done by 2030.

SeaLink-NGET(National Grid Electrical Transmission)

This reinforcement of the Grid, connecting Suffolk to Kent with a subsea cable, is in the formal six month examination phase with the Planning Inspectorate. There are Open Floor Hearings starting from March 23rd and the full examination will close on 5th May.

LionLink NGV National Grid Ventures

This is an Interconnector, a subsea electric cable proposed to run between UK and the Netherlands. It is still in the in the pre-application stage with public information exhibitions being held by National Grid Ventures. Details are available online at LionLink about National Grid. DCO submissions to the Planning Inspectorate expected late 2026. Expect Fireworks on this one.

Helios 250MW Solar Farm

The location is still unknown, though rumours have it behind Red House Farm and BBC had it alongside the substation in July 2025.

Hardly a feast for the eyes.

Traffic Calming Measures for the Parish

March 2026

Since our last report in December, there have been a couple of developments that it is hoped will make this arduous and glacial process somewhat easier to navigate. Firstly, Suffolk County Council has backed a policy to lower speed limits on roads appropriate for a 20mph zone, with a view ' to enhance road safety and improve quality of life across Suffolk's communities'. Secondly, we received the results of the various surveys that have been enacted, which really affects Thorpeness and it seems likely that the whole village will become a 20mph zone. There will be four more surveys and we hope that these will have 'put this measure to bed'.

Reducing the 60mph limit on Thorpe Road

This one is still problematic, and vandalism to the Survey Equipment on three different occasions hasn't helped. It is an item that Highways seem to frown upon. There was a significant majority in favour of the proposal to reduce the limit to 40mph. Four more surveys are now planned, but Highways is pessimistic - perhaps they sample the traffic on a hot or holiday weekend.

Moving the present 30mph limit to the Aldringham Village sign on Thorpe Road

This very obvious measure seems likely to go through. Reducing the 40mph limit on Aldeburgh Road from the Village sign to the present 30mph sign.

The figures from the previous surveys were favourable, but Highways wanted opinions from the Aldeburgh Road residents. A short yes/no questionnaire was put through the letterboxes of all the houses of whether they agreed with the proposal and the result was a resounding 18-2 in favour. There will be two surveys to be carried out along this stretch of road and we are optimistic on this one.

Making Aldringham a 20mph zone.

This was given short shrift by Highways and Suffolk Police despite five years of speed monitoring, where it has been shown more than half the motorists who drive through the village are speeding. This writer is baffled by this, as are a lot of Aldringham residents. This figure has dropped slightly to a third with the installation of larger permanent S.I.Ds (Speed Indicating Devices), though speeds increase as motorists drive away from the devices. It seems that the flow of traffic is more important than safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Golfers Crossing on Thorpe Road

This one definitely is not going to happen. All warning signage that can be done without serious road works is in place. There are 'Slow Crossing' signs at both ends, roundels and hatching on the carriageways, and yet this is flouted on a regular basis. Heaven help us if one of the golfer's trolleys' battery gives out on crossing. The next surveys should be in the next couple of months - two years since we started on this 'journey', as they say on talent shows.

Bill Seale

Deputy Chairman AcT PC

Planning

Since the Winter Newsletter, the Parish Council has received 8 planning consultations, six in Thorpeness, one in Aldringham and one in Leiston. The planning applications comprise: -

Erection of new housing development in Leiston	1
Erection of solar panels	1
Building alteration and/or extension	4
Tree felling/surgery	2

The council has registered objection to one application and no objection to seven. At the time of writing, East Suffolk District Council have permitted two applications.

A schedule of conventional planning applications upon which the parish is consulted can be found in the News & Events section of the council's website, <https://aldringham.onesuffolk.net>

(The proposed housing development in Leiston is for 134 dwellings on land south of Perett Way off Red House Lane, roughly opposite the Leiston Leisure Centre, and close to the parish boundary. Full details, including the Parish Council's comments, are available through the above website – ed)

Speed Indicator Devices

The Parish Council has four speed indicators in operation providing permanent monitoring of vehicles passing through Aldringham and Thorpeness. Data from the devices is available to view in the News section of the parish council website, <https://aldringham.onesuffolk.net>. Summary data for the 3 months to 31st January 2026 is set out below.

Location	Incoming	Outgoing
Aldringham - Aldringham Park		
Total Vehicles	186,991	179,930
Average Speed/mph	29	31
Max speed/mph	100	97
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	170	230
Aldringham - Vicarage		
Total Vehicles	112,498	151,643
Average Speed/mph	29	32
Max speed/mph	69	76
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	61	190
Thorpeness - Pavilion		
Total Vehicles	43,857	59,376
Average Speed/mph	31	32
Max speed/mph	66	89
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	104	150
Thorpeness - The Haven		
Total Vehicles	50,553	55,655
Average Speed/mph	30	33
Max speed/mph	90	76
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	134	302

Tony Wheeler -

Parish Councillor

Community Emergency Planning

The devastating effect of coastal erosion has continued through the winter, and we have seen more Thorpeness properties demolished. The last properties to be demolished were those at Tinkers End.

I make no apology for taking this opportunity to reiterate in this newsletter the importance of being vigilant and

prepared for the worst effects of coastal erosion and flooding. However, I must just repeat that East Suffolk Council has said that the current erosion has not increased the existing flood risk to the wider village and added that no significant immediate or medium-term increased risks are anticipated in the existing Shoreline Management Plan. But please take a few minutes to look up the following and register if not already done. The Shoreline Management Plans for Thorpeness area can be found at this link:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/shoreline-planning/subsection/SMP7/5>

It is worth reminding all residents within the Parish that the Environment Agency will issue flood warnings through local radio, TV and to your mobile phone. To receive these warnings directly, you must contact the Environment Agency Floodline.

- Telephone: 0345 988 1188
- Textphone: 0345 602 6340

You can register for flood warnings at

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> and you can obtain the latest information for Suffolk at Suffolk Resilience Forum: <https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/>

If you follow this link, <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>, add your postcode, click on 'More about your rivers and sea flood risk' and then click on 'View a rivers and sea map' you'll be able to access all the information currently available from the Environment Agency.

You can register for weather warnings if you follow this link: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/subscribe-to-email-alerts>

I recently took part in a webinar with the Emergency Planning team of ESC. They were keen to emphasise the importance of registering for flood warnings and weather warnings. Please don't hesitate to do this. East Suffolk Council have created some very useful web pages entitled 'Coastal Erosion at Thorpeness'. These pages are updated regularly and contain a link to a weekly report detailing the effect of the coastal erosion at Thorpeness and the progress of the work designed to curb the rate of erosion. There is also a link to a fact sheet detailing the urgent coastal works at Thorpeness. These reports and fact sheets can be found at

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environmental-services/coastal-management/coastal-erosion-thorpeness>

Please take time to read the information and register for flood and weather updates.

If you think you are in a flood risk area the following web sites contain lots of useful information about property flood resilience measures:

www.befloodready.uk

www.floodmary.com

www.bluepages.org.uk

Suffolk Prepared has produced a Household Emergency Plan template. It has been designed to help you Get Prepared for emergencies by providing useful contacts and information for the family, including the essentials for your 'Grab Bag'. We have reproduced this with this Newsletter. I hope you find it useful.

Finally, take care and don't forget to look out for your neighbours.

Roger Brown / email: roger.brown72@btinternet.com

Uppen About – some Parish tales

Uppen: to mention, disclose or reveal - (a word 'much used around Aldbro' according to Edward Moor's dictionary of Suffolk Dialect published in 1823)

Attention All Beach Baggers! It's That Time Again !!!

Despite works on the beach that will restrict our picking area this year, we intend to carry out the Village and Beach Clean as usual on Good Friday April 3rd. Everyone should meet at the Dolphin at 10am for a briefing and to be allocated a team leader to follow to their specific area. Depending on the number attending we shall split into three or four groups to cover the selected areas. We will return at about 12:30 for light refreshment, and perhaps some entertaining stories from younger pickers about their finds.

Litter pickers, hi-,vis jackets and bin bags are being supplied by East Suffolk Council, but please bring your own gloves.

Look forward to seeing all who can make it. We are hoping we might beat last year's record turnout!

Kind regards Peter Holmes (Beach bagger in chief.)

A little taste of Spain at 'El Loro'

The Parrot and Punchbowl pub in Aldringham reopened in February with Vicki Prentice and partner Colin Dimond at the helm, together with Vicki's sister Kate. Vicki and Colin have not previously run a pub, but they have experience in catering after operating a restaurant in Spain until it closed during Covid.

The menus at the Parrot already have a slightly Spanish flavour, with prawn pil pil featuring alongside regular pub favourites. The couple are contemplating providing paella events and tapas evenings as well. Vicki and Colin took over from much-loved publican Chris Theobald who has moved to work with H & J Chocolate in Beccles, which runs Twyfords Cafe in Beccles and the Marlesford Farm Cafe.

A Tale of Tiddly Teenagers at Tinkers End

The recent sad demolition of the group of flats at Tinkers End has brought back memories of a teenage escapade to one Thorpeness resident.

In the early years of the 1960s, Sydney Graham's parents gave up their roomy holiday home in The Headlands, where they would entertain at least 10 friends and family at a time, to move to a smaller, newly-built upper-floor flat at Tinkers End. Their friends the Thoms took one too.

One fateful evening after a night out with her friends, among them David Thom, (younger brother of Gill Steadman, latterly of Old Homes Road, who sadly died earlier this year) and Brian Sneath (late of Lakeside Avenue), Sydney found herself returning home well after curfew, having had a drink or two. Finding the doors locked, her friends encouraged her to climb onto the roof of the porch to reach the open bathroom window.

Alas, who should be in the bathroom but Sydney's mother, who, to say the least, was unimpressed to see her daughter at the window. Scrambling back down, Sydney fell and broke her wrist. So, in the wee small hours, her parents set off to drive her to A and E in Ipswich. However, as alcohol had been taken, doctors could not treat the patient, so they all had to drive home and return the following day. Two more trips to hospital were required over the summer, but a plaster cast was no barrier to Sydney's enjoyment; to her parents' consternation, she managed to fall into the River Alde while sailing, and still took her daily swim! Sydney was not put off Thorpeness by this salutary lesson – after 34 years living in Canada, she returned to the village in 2005 to make it her permanent home, and here she remains. She will be 80 next year.

Christmas Celebrations at Mill Green's New Shelter



The new hexagonal shelter on Mill Green created a lovely focal point for Aldringham's Carols on the Green on December 10th. Bill Seale made the seating and table top inside, creating a cosy and useful space, and Tony Wheeler, who coordinating it all, started the evening by relating its history. The builder/craftsman was there too - everyone agrees how beautifully it has been made.



Jill Hubbard and I had decorated it traditionally with greenery and ribbons, and it was lit for the occasion.

Around 50 adults and children gathered round plus several dogs and not forgetting Tufty the large male sheep brought along by Utta - he looked beautiful and waited patiently for his mince pies in the Outside Inn afterwards!



After a welcome from Revd Sarah, Marie sang a first verse solo in Silent Night, the first of eight Carols. Eight readings from members of the parish of both religious and secular pieces from Dickens to Shirley Hughes, included a reading by Pearl Rowe of a poem last read on this occasion by her mum several years ago. There are many thank yous to be said, not least to Chris Theobald of The Parrot and Punchbowl in his last Christmas as landlord who, for many years hospitably invited us into the pub and donated mulled wine and squash for our refreshment. The mince pies are made and given by parishioners for our enjoyment. Every year Gail and Stephen Southgate provide music to accompany us. It all seems a long way from my first Carols on the Green in 2002 when we heated mulled wine on Scott and Karen's camping stove and wished every one a Happy Christmas and I remember doing this in the snow on at least three occasions! It's so much more comfortable now. Thank you too, to everyone who joins in.

Christine Laschet

Local Groups

Building Works Underway at Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground CIO



Photo courtesy of Eric Atkinson

I hope you have all noticed that, as planned, work started on our new community centre on the 4th January and despite the very poor weather, the contractor has been able to keep fairly well to programme. March has seen the timber framing being erected in preparation to start boarding out the walls. What a delight to see the work progressing. We are looking forward to being able to use the building before the end of the year.

With the lighter nights and Spring definitely in the air, we are also looking forward to our first events of the year. The annual coast fun run is on May Bank Holiday Sunday 3rd followed the day after on Monday 4th by our regular open day event at the pavilion when there will be an opportunity to come and see the progress on the new building and discuss what we have planned for the future. There will be a chance to have a taster of croquet and cricket with the user groups There will also be stalls, food and bar available. Put the date in your diary!

The summer Bike Meets will again be held on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month having restarted on 25th March at 5pm, Burger van and bar are available, all are welcome. The monthly quiz has also restarted after a break last year and as before is held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 for 7.30pm, again all are welcome. Walking football is now a regular activity every Thursday morning at 11am

We are again this year collaborating with the Croquet Club who have established a Community Croquet Project with the aim of creating a 'croquet community' by combining the sport of croquet with facilitated exercise and social activities, particularly targeting older people and those with limited mobility and other health problems. Over the winter we have been progressing a number of projects including clearing the area at the rear of the

pavilion, improving the storage in the pavilion and we have made a start on refurbishing the changing rooms. Groups now making regular use of Ogilvie Sports Ground are Thorpeness Cricket Club (Contact Francis Byrne 07775 791441); Thorpeness Croquet club on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (contact thorpenesscroquet@outlook.com), Uke-N-Smile ukulele club every Wednesday morning (contact iclampin@btinternet.com), the fun quiz on the fourth Thursday evening of the month (contact Sue Allen fabsueallen@hotmail.com), Walking football every Thursday 11am (contact John Sibley 07932 698196) and all the Parish Council meetings (see parish website for details).

If you would like to hire the pavilion or sports ground or receive our regular newsletter, please contact us via the Pavilion's website: <https://www.ogilviepavilion.org>

Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground Trustees

Thorpeness Cricket Club

Fixtures so far:-

Sunday 24th May V James Hickson11 Home 30 overs 1.30pm

Sunday 12th July V Toft Monks Away 20 overs 1pm

Thursday 16th July V Sudbourne Home 20 overs 6pm

Sunday 13th September V Toft Monks Home 20 overs 1pm

We're having to practice out in the middle at present ,using our mobile net , but hoping that our replacement net will be built to catch the coming season. We seeded and levelled our wicket in the autumn which has established itself over the winter months.

We're always looking for players. All abilities welcome so anyone interested can come to one of our nets which at present is 2pm alternate Sundays from 5th April '26.

Francis Byrne

07775791441 byrneengineering@zohomail.eu

Thorpeness Classic Vehicle Rally

10am Sunday 30th August '26

Gate open 9am

Exhibitors free

Spectators £5 per car

Stalls £10 per pitch

Rockin' Rhythm n Blues from Nick Ward and friends from noon

Bar with Green Jack Nightingale real ale, BBQ ,teas and coffee.

We had the best day yet last year so hoping for similar attendance this year.

We're short of attractions other than the classic cars, bikes, tractors even traction engines last year so if anyone has ideas for a stall or fete-type sideshows, let me know.

Proceeds to Thorpeness Cricket Club. This event is vital income for our club which looks to attract more young people to this fascinating and enduring sport.

Francis Byrne

07775791441

St Andrew's Church



With Easter fast approaching I would like to let you know what we have going on at church and in the parish over Easter. Please do feel welcome to attend any of these events.

On Maundy Thursday (2nd April) we have a service of Holy Communion at 6.30pm. This is a quiet service of reflection as we strip the altar and prepare ourselves for Good Friday. The Benefice Choir will be singing for this service.

On Easter Sunday (5th April) we have a sunrise service on the beach at **6am**, this will be followed by breakfast at the Country Club. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us for what is usually a joyful occasion, gathering around the Easter Fire as the sun rises on the horizon and we celebrate resurrection and new life.

We then have a service of Holy Communion on Easter Morning at St Andrew's at 11am.

Looking ahead further into the year, I would like to let you know about the following events that might interest you:

- Our usual service is at 11am every Sunday, everyone is always very welcome.

- On the fourth Sunday of the month we run an informal family service, this is suitable for all ages and stages of life, and an easy introduction to church.

- On May 23rd we are holding a Giving Day, the church will be open and staffed all day and will present a chance to come and see what we do, enjoy refreshments, meet the team, and offer support.

- On 6th June our very own choir member Joy will be giving a wonderful recital in the church.

- On the 13th and 14th June we are holding a Flower Festival, this is sure to be a fabulous weekend for all to enjoy, keep an eye out for further details.

Happy Easter to one and all, *Rev'd Mary Brown*

The Churchwardens add:-

Those on the Electoral Roll can vote for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council (PCC) members at the Annual General Meeting which will be in the church on Sunday May 17th. PCC members steer St. Andrew's activities through the year while the Churchwardens care for the church, are Bishop's Officers, and responsible for the finances with the help of the Treasurer. These volunteer roles are very satisfying. If you have a calling or vocation, please contact Rev. Sarah for information.

Flower Festival

Arrangements for the Flower Festival in the church on June 12-14 are progressing well and you will start to see details being advertised shortly.

Churchwardens:-

Dorothy Walker 07496 373579 or maryw64244@aol.com
David Copp 07747 030248 or davidcopp@hotmail.com

Coffee Caravan in the Shelter and Pavilion

At the last gathering in October we had a very effective try-out for the new shelter on Aldringham Green. We are pleased to say that it passed the audition with flying colours. The acoustics were great - you could speak to a neighbour across the floor yet talk quietly to the person next to you. It was also great for the helpers for scooting around the bench and chairs dispensing food and advice where needed.

We enjoyed it so much that a decision was made to experiment with the Pavilion for a meet-up and a cheer-up from the dismal winter we have just had. The first visit was the second Tuesday in January and with incessant rain and mud from the new Pavilion coming out of the ground, we were hardly expecting anyone. Three of us arrived at 12.30, for a 1.00 start, sat looking out, and were preparing to call it a day when a car came out of the mist and three of our staunchest ladies tiptoed through the puddles and made it into the warmth. From then on, a good crowd developed and we were on our way. It was great to see everybody again and the food was excellent as ever.

Since then we have had two more gatherings with good numbers and a few drop-ins from some East Suffolk officials out of curiosity and perhaps hunger.

We are back on the Green next month on April 14th with a 1.30-2.00 start.. See you all then.

Good Neighbours

Younger Volunteers Urgently Needed

Aldringham cum Thorpe Good Neighbours has now been operating for more than 18 years, and in that time we have carried out nearly 1900 recorded tasks, and many more that go unrecorded.

Since the last Newsletter, we have carried out 20 tasks, including two of our volunteers providing transport for someone on Christmas Day for the second year in a row. On our list of volunteers there are still several founder volunteers, including Hazel, wife of our much-missed inaugural Chairman Roger Searle, Jill Hubbard, Pete and Di Holmes, and Andrew and me (apologies to any I overlooked). But it has to be said we are no longer Spring Chickens!

While our amazing Chairperson Jo Ogilvie is a notable exception, we lack any volunteers much under three score years and ten (that's 70, for Gen Z readers, if any!)

And we really could do with some younger bodies to help out. No one ever needs to volunteer for a specific task, and the requirements are not onerous. You will be asked to submit to a Data Barring Service check to ensure you do not have a criminal record, and if you are prepared to undertake driving tasks (very much our main request), you will need to clear it with your insurers – this has never presented a problem.

If you feel you can help, please contact me, or leave a message on our helpline.

Meanwhile, if you are not in a position to volunteer, but need some help with a household task, shopping, form filling or transporting, call our helpline on:-

07521 047843

Pippa McLardy

Hon Sec

Croquet Club

THORPENESS CROQUET COMMUNITY

MOVE, MALLETS, & MINGLE

A FRESH WAY FOR THE OLDER PERSON TO STAY ACTIVE AND SOCIAL





GET MOVING

Start with gentle exercise to warm up and energize.

GAME ON

Try your hand at croquet - easy to learn, fun to play, and perfect for the older person.

RELAX & REFRESH

Cool down with tasty refreshments and good conversation.

This is a six week programme of half days. No experience needed. Just come, have fun, play croquet and make new friends in the idyllic surroundings of Thorpeness Croquet Club.

Where:- The Ogilvie Pavillion and sports ground
When:- Monday afternoons

For further information phone the Thorpeness Croquet Club 07459349577
Email thorpenesscroquet@btinternet.com

Fun • Fitness • Friends 

Free Taster sessions - please book in advance as spaces are limited

Pilgrim's Together

Spring has arrived at last and oh how we welcome it this year in particular. Our world seems to have been turned upside down recently with all the dreadful things that are going on. The Iranian situation and all its repercussions will have an effect on all of us and some people who were just managing to keep their heads above water financially will of course suffer the most, our prayers are with them all wherever they are, and also not forgetting the long-suffering people of the Ukraine.

Of course, our own local situation regarding coastal erosion and all the damage and upset it is bringing to our friends and neighbours is foremost in our minds. We at Pilgrims have started having a monthly prayer walk around the village, using the TAHG information boards as places to stop and recite the lovely Thorpeness Prayer, if you would like to join us we meet at the Heritage Hut at 10am on the first Saturday of the month, as I write this the next walk in Thorpeness will be on 11th April, as the first Saturday is during the Easter weekend.

We are continuing our weekly services on zoom (address at the end of this article) and also taking a service to the people in Aldringham Court. We are greatly missing our twice monthly breakfasts at the Parrot and are presently engaged in discussions to reinstate local face to face meetings, more of this in the next newsletter.

We should also, with Hamish Ogilvie's kind permission, be starting our outdoor summer services in Thorpeness during July and August, these services are open to all and we can be found next to the duck pond every summer Sunday at 10am (please bring your own chair). Just follow the sound of the joyful music.

Well, here's hoping that our next newsletter will find the whole world in a calmer and more peaceful state. We will continue to pray for people both near and far who find themselves in dangerous and perilous situations through no fault of their own, I hope you will continue to keep them in your hearts as well.

With our love and prayer

Sue - on behalf of the Pilgrims Together Worship Group

All information for Pilgrim events can be found by visiting us on:

<https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimsTogether473>

or for more information: email address:

pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com

Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group



Spring Greetings to all our Members and Supporters So – hopefully Spring is arriving as the daffodils are coming up and the Sun has given us a brief appearance! The Heritage Centre welcomes visitors from Easter to the end of September – and this year our first day of opening is Saturday the 4th of April. Then it is every Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 3pm .

Bank Holiday weekends we will possibly be open for extra days – watch this space !

Village and Beach Clean – happening on GOOD FRIDAY the 3rd of April based at the Dolphin. Watch out for updates on social media. With all the depressing news in Thorpeness over the last year a good news and uplifting day will be well received by all !

Pre – season tidy up on March 30th – a task force will have prepared the Centre and it's surrounds in readiness for the start of the season....thanks to all those that helped.

Boardwalk Bench – Hopefully you will have noticed the new bench at the end of the Boardwalk that TAHG and the Parish Council jointly funded to replace the very dilapidated bench that had finally fallen apart. There is a plaque that mentions the 2 sources of funding to sit and admire the view.

Our Volunteer Rota this season is being masterminded by Jane McLoughlin and she is awaiting your contact to get the dates filled up. You do not have to necessarily do a whole 4hr shift it that is difficult for you – please talk about it with Jane . Jane can be contacted on - janemcloughlin70@gmail.com

A reminder that a commemorative wooden display board is now on the gabion wall in the garden area of the centre

We proudly display brass plaques of past members and residents who have been involved in TAHG or individuals that just love Thorpeness. There is space for more plaques so if you are interested in remembering someone or celebrating a special occasion please get in touch via the Centre or a Committee member.

EVENTS –

Winter Warmer – our, by now, annual event was a great success in January at the Dolphin. Well attended with a lovely atmosphere and good food. A dark winters evening that was made bright by a great occasion. Thanks to Maureen for the Hamper that was raffled and Richard for donating the Fizz for the Higher / Lower game. Thanks as ever to David, Kerry and the Dolphin team for looking after us so well!

Long Shop Museum – as I type this report we are due to visit the Long Shop Museum in Leiston for an evening of interesting history of the Garrett Wartime involvement and also a chance to look round the museum. We will be treated to a performance, both live and Audio Visual, that has been created by one of our members Jill Hubbard and a small band of local compatriots. It should be most interesting and enjoyable.

Future events –

We are planning a repeat of the successful Summer Tea Party at Sizewell Hall- date to be confirmed

An Archive Recordings Evening is on our planning agenda – as is an evening of Jimmy Cecil films?

TAHG AGM – will take place on the evening of 21st April at the Thorpeness Pavilion – more detail to be sent out to members with an agenda and Committee information. It is your group so please do come along and participate in shaping the activities and what the Group does.

I say this every time BUT none of these events or running the Heritage Centre could have taken place without the hard work of the Committee and a committed group of volunteers who give up their time so generously.

Have a great Easter and we look forward to seeing you in Thorpeness

Richard Bodek – Chair of TAHG.

Neighbourhood Watch

It seems that Thorpeness is a village now known not just in our county, or in fact our country, but across the world - my son in Sydney saw a local resident interviewed. Sadly, of course, we are a topical subject for all the wrong reasons.

We, in North End Avenue, are very much a tourist attraction. Many have great concern of course, but when we see people climbing over gates onto private land, this doesn't seem like concern.

We have to be aware that we have more people working in our area, and of course more visitors to our village. Most are very honest, genuine people, but we have had a few problems in the past, so all I ask is for residents to be aware, keep eyes open, and please email me anything you feel should be reported.

Evelyn Rumsby (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator -email evelynrumsby@aol.com)

Foster Carers Needed

Across Suffolk, hundreds of children and young people need safe, nurturing homes where they can grow, thrive and feel secure. At the end of March 2024, there were 930 children in care in Suffolk, a number that has steadily increased over recent years, reflecting real and pressing need in our communities. Carers can be single, rent their home, and you don't have to have had your own children before. What matters most is a commitment to making a positive impact on a child's life. Visit:

www.nexusfostering.co.uk to find out more or start your journey today, call: 0800 389 0143 Email: foster@nexusfostering.co.uk



*Spring at last by the shore at Thorpeness
Photos courtesy of Chris and Maureen Jones*



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Aldringham cum Thorpe Parish Councillors

Maureen Jones	Chairperson	01728 453915
Bill Seale	Vice-Chairperson	01728 832306
Tony Wheeler		01728 831845
Sara Paulley		01728 454990
Denise Lupton		01728 598198
Shirley Tilbrook	Parish Clerk	01728 830001

District Councillors

Tom Daly		
tom.daly@eastsuffolk.gov.uk		07825 720877
Sarah Whitelock		
sarah.whitelock@eastsuffolk.gov.uk		07824 452388
Katie Graham		
katie.graham@eastsuffolk.gov.uk		07968 077446

County Councillor

TJ Haworth- Culf		
tj.haworth-culf@suffolk.gov.uk		07955 434442

Police - Suffolk Constabulary**Always Dial 999 for Emergencies, including Coastguard**

Non Urgent Issues		101
Community Police Inspector Liz Casey		
Elizabeth.casey@suffolk.pnn.police.uk		
PC 80 Cole Aryaenia		
cpt.halesworth@suffolk.police.uk		

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Aldringham – Maria Chapman-Bear		
tribunegang@gmail.com		
(Aldeburgh Rd and roads off except Aldringham Park, to borders with Leiston, Aldeburgh, and down Thorpe Rd towards Thorpeness)		
Thorpeness – Evelyn Rumsby		07809
840924		

Hospitals

Aldeburgh & District Community Hospital		
Park Road, Aldeburgh		01728 443850
Ipswich Hospital Heath Road		01473 712233

Doctors' Surgeries

The Peninsular Practice		
Church Farm, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh		01394 411641
The Surgery, Main Street, Leiston		01728 830526
The Surgery,		
Lamsale Meadow, Saxmundham		01728 602022

<u>Non-emergency</u> health problems advice		111
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<u>Power cut line</u> 0800 31 63 105 or simply call		105
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Environment Agency Floodline.

Telephone: 0345 988 1188
Textphone: 0345 602 6340

Dental Surgeons

Aldeburgh Dental Practice		
167 High Street, Aldeburgh		01728 453333
Saxmundham Dental Surgery		
9 High Street, Saxmundham		01728 602537
Leiston Dental Care		01728 561873

Pharmacies

Aldeburgh Pharmacy		
125 High Street, Aldeburgh		01728 452763
Leiston Pharmacy		01728 832231
East of England Coop Pharmacy		
High Street, Saxmundham		01728 602051

Veterinary Surgeons

Aldeburgh Vets		
Hall Farm Lane, Saxmundham Rd, Aldeburgh		
contact@aldeburghvets.co.uk		01728 598111
Leiston Veterinary Clinic		
1d Eastlands, Leiston		01728 833566
Fromus Veterinary Group Fromus House,		
Street Farm Road, Saxmundham		01728 602599

Thorpeness Croquet Club

Alastair Mcelroy		croquetcommunity@outlook.com
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Good Neighbours Group

Help Line		07521 047843
Chairperson Jo Ogilvie		07594 238061
Hon Sec Pippa McLardy		plmclardy@hotmail.com

Local Heritage Group

Chairperson Richard Bodek		
richard.bodek@btinternet.com		
info@tahg.org.uk		
Volunteer's Rota		
Mrs Jane McLoughlin		janemcloughlin70@gmail.com
07977 105889		

St Andrew's Church

Churchwardens David Copp		01728 635816
Dorothy Walker		07496 373579 maryw64244@aol.com

Ogilvie Pavilion

Eric Atkinson		01728 830497
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Thorpeness Cricket Club

Mr F Byrne		07775 791441
Email: byrneengineering@zohomail.eu		

<u>Connecting Communities Transport</u>		01728 635938
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<u>Border Buses</u>		01502 714565
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WHAT'S ON from April 2026

Date	Place	Event
April		
Maundy Thursday 2 nd 6.30pm	St Andrew's Church	Holy Communion
Good Friday 3 rd 10am	Dolphin Thorpeness	Annual Village and Beach Clean
Easter Sunday 5 th 6am	Thorpeness Beach	Sunrise service followed by breakfast at Country Club
Easter Sunday 5 th 11am	St Andrew's Church	Holy Communion
Saturday 11 th 10am	Heritage Hut Thorpeness	Meet for Pilgrim's Prayer Walk
Monday 13 th	SCC Schools	Start of Summer Term
Monday 13 th	Ogilvie Pavilion	Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 14 th	Aldringham Green	Coffee Caravan
Tuesday 21 st TBC	Thorpeness Pavilion	TAHG AGM
Friday 24 th 5.30pm	Thorpeness Country Club	Update Meeting with MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter
May		
Sunday 3 rd	Ogilvie Sports Ground	Coastal Fun Run
Monday 4 th	Ogilvie Sports Ground & Pavilion	Open Day
Monday 11 th 7pm	Ogilvie Pavilion	Annual Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 17 th	St Andrew's Church	Parochial Church Council AGM following Service
Saturday 23 rd	St Andrew's Church	Giving Day
Friday 22 nd	SCC Schools	Last day of first half Summer Term
Sunday 24 th 1.30pm	Thorpeness Cricket Club at home	V James Hickson 11
June		
Monday 1 st	SCC Schools	Schools back for 2 nd half summer term
Saturday 6 th	St Andrew's Church	Recital
Sat & Sun 13 th & 14 th	St Andrew's Church	Flower Festival
Monday 15 th 7pm	Ogilvie Pavilion	Parish Council Meeting
July		
Sunday 12 th 1pm	Thorpeness Cricket Club Away	V Toft Monks
Monday 13 th 7pm	Ogilvie Pavilion	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 16 th 6pm	Thorpeness Cricket Club at home	V Sudbourne
Friday 17 th	SCC Schools	End of Summer Term (Mon 20 th is PD day)
August		
Sunday 30 th 9am	Ogilvie Sports Ground	Thorpeness Classic Car Rally

Every Thursday morning at St Andrew's Church 9am– Morning Prayers with Revd Sarah du Boulay. Every Sunday – St Andrew's Church Services 11am Pilgrims Together:- Every Wednesday 6.30pm on Zoom– weekly worship followed by get-together-). Second Sunday of the month(4pm) Pilgrim's Service and refreshment in The Pavilion . Every 4th Thursday of the month after morning prayers, BOBS meet to carry out tasks in the Church and Churchyard .Village Prayer Walk around the Parish – meet at the Heritage Hut at 10am on the first Saturday of the month (except April) . Last Wednesday of every month – Community Coffee Morning at the Dolphin Thorpeness.† Fourth Wednesday of every month – Quiz at the Pavilion, Thorpeness Also at The Pavilion :- Croquet, Weds, Fri, Sat; Uke n Smile Weds; Mobile Library Friday . Aldringham Ogilvie Homes 9.30am -10, Thorpe Almshouses 10.10-10.40, Aldringham Almshouses 10.45-11, Aldringham Mill Hill 11.05 -11.20. Move, Mallets and Mingle every Monday afternoon Thorpeness Croquet Club