

Aldringham cum Thorpe with Sizewell Newsletter



A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

Website: www.aldringham.onesuffolk.net

December 2025

Devastation on the Cliff



*Caption:- The second house on North End Avenue to be demolished was The Warren, pulled down in November. This is the site before and after
Photos courtesy of Chris and Maureen Jones.*

Speaking to Mrs Jean Flick in August at her beautiful home The Warren on North End Avenue, Thorpeness, it was clear the situation there was very serious and she could be required to move out within months. But no one could have foreseen how very quickly the sea would force demolition of the home she had cherished for 25 years. The Warren was pulled down at the end of October, with Jean moving into her daughter Frances's house across the road. She is still there currently, and does not want to comment further, except to thank everyone for their good wishes.

At the time of writing, The Chantry, next door to The Warren, is under imminent threat of demolition, due in early December.

Well attended public meetings in August and October were addressed by East Suffolk Council officers, who recently released a document containing the answers to questions from the community. If you are concerned about the risk to your property and would like to speak to the team please email coastalmanagement@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.

The document adds: "The Environment Agency's National Coastal Erosion Risk Map (NCERM) for this frontage shows erosion risk zones up to 2055. The current risk zone for 2055 is seaward of the road and therefore suggests residents landward of the road have a 30-year period in which erosion risk should not impact their access or home. However, we also know that the Ness, a geological subsea feature to the north of North End Avenue, also influences rates of erosion along the frontage and this is much harder to predict." The NCERM can be viewed here: Thorpeness MIN13.3 | Shoreline Management Plans.

Caption :- The old sea defences now in ruins and a prayer left anonymously close to North End Avenue



Parish Council Update Dec 2025

The Parish Councillors have been working extremely hard during 2025 on various projects in the Parish.

In Aldringham a wonderful shelter has been erected near the Play Area along Mill Hill, It really does look beautiful, especially when the lights are on. A wooden seat has also been erected for residents and visitors to sit inside the Shelter. Many thanks to Councillor Tony Wheeler and Councillor Bill Seale for working so hard on this project, and I am sure you all agree, this is a good example of what can be achieved to make our Parish really special.

In Thorpeness the planted flower tubs have been very colourful this year. The summer geraniums have now been replaced with wallflowers and bulbs, and over the coming winter months should produce some welcome colour. These really make the village look cheerful during the days of winter and spring.

The Neighbourhood Plan is now getting to its final stage after receiving approval from an independent examiner once one or two alterations were made and queries settled, and has now gone back to East Suffolk Council. Our thanks go to Eric Atkinson who has worked extremely hard with Parish Councillors and NP committee members to get the to this stage. Eric will give a more detailed update further on in this newsletter.

Energy Projects Parish Councillors have been attending the Community **Sizewell C** Forum Meetings throughout 2025 and questions have been submitted by local residents. As a forum member we are only allowed to ask two questions (and sometimes one extra) during the meeting, but please remember you can also go into the Sizewell C Office, High Street, Leiston if you have any urgent concerns. A leaflet has been issued called Community Connections which lists various ways you can get updates. If you have not received this, please call in at the local Office.

Ways you can get in touch:-

Sizewell C Information Office, 48-50 High Street, Leiston, IP16 4EW *FREEPHONE 0800 197 6102*

www.sizewellc.com @sizewellc szcworkstracker.co.uk
info@sizewellc.com

Sizewell C will soon start building the College on the Coast to be located opposite the Sizewell C Ancillary Construction site Offices, on the road out of Leiston to Sizewell. This will provide spaces for 150 students and a drop-in space for 50 apprentices. This will be open in September 2027, and will give our local youngsters wonderful opportunities, without having to travel to Ipswich, Otley or Lowestoft etc.

Railway – New Branch renewal works between Summerhill footpath and Leiston Level Crossing have been taking place, and a new level crossing is being constructed along Abbey Road, Leiston.

Beach works are now progressing for the proposed two new jetties, and a pathway under the jetties will be opened.

As I am sure you are all aware, works are continuing as quickly as possible on the new two village bypass,

Yoxford and Friday Street roundabouts and the Northern and Southern park and rides.

I hope this is helpful, as I know all the works going on at the moment on this massive project can be upsetting. But please remember you can contact the office in the High Street, Leiston or go online to discuss any concerns.

Scottish Power Renewables EA1N & EA2– There are many sites also locally regarding this project, The archaeological works and digs are now nearing completion. Thorpeness had a problem with very large trailer lorries offloading equipment along the Thorpe Road, and then continuing into Thorpeness and turning round at the triangle in front of the Dolphin, obviously causing havoc and considerable damage . This was all reported by the Parish Council to Scottish Power whose local offices are on land near Cakes and Ale Caravan Site in Leiston.. The issue was quickly resolved and damage made good. Concerns were also raised in Aldringham regarding very large vehicles causing problems along Aldringham Lane and at the crossroads by The Parrot.

The Offshore Wind Farm works will be starting in 2026, and please be aware that Thorpe Road, between Thorpeness and Aldringham will be closed from the 5th January 2026 to the end of January. It does mean we will have to go via Aldeburgh to travel to the A12, Leiston, Saxmundham etc.

Also the Parish Council have asked Scottish Power to help clean out the ditches near where they are working to help alleviate flooding on the Thorpe Road. Please contact Scottish Power if you have any concerns. William Seale will give further updates later on regarding Energy Projects.

New Suffolk Water Project Parish Councillors also attended a consultation at the Leiston Community Centre on Saturday 22nd November, regarding Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage Project. This is a large project to make sure Suffolk has a reliable supply of water for the future. Four proposals have been put forward for transferring drinking water from the existing Saxmundham Water Tower (or close to proposed pipeline networks as part of this Project to Sizewell C) Please be aware one of the proposals section 12B goes along Aldringham Lane, across the crossroads through fields in Aldringham to eventually come into Sizewell, this is the pipeline corridor and can cause several road closures of Aldringham Lane and Thorpe Road. Please complete the online feedback form via

Suffolkwaternetnetwork.co.uk or email swsp@nwl.co.uk
Copies available at Leiston and Saxmundham Libraries. If you need a paper copy of the Feedback form, contact Suffolk Water by phone on 0800 1412108 or email as above to request one.

It is very important for you to give your view as this could once again impact our Parish, and will start in either 2029 Or 2030.

Coastal Erosion Public Meetings were held at the Country Club in August and October to discuss the severe erosion along the coast in front of North End Avenue, Thorpeness. Unfortunately, since these meetings, we have seen the demolition of The Warren and at the time of writing The Chantry is also threatened with imminent demolition. Our thoughts are with the owners of these properties. The Parish Councillors feel

so upset that more could not be done to save these notable buildings, which have graced the top of the Cliff for many years – in the case of The Warren, almost a century. It is so sad to see the coastal erosion happen so quickly.

We have asked Sizewell C for advice and help, and are waiting for a date to meet with them. Proposals are being worked on at the moment to protect houses further down North End Avenue to the Headlands, so we hope (and I am sure you will all agree) that 2026 will have a more positive outcome.

Additional Projects

- We are planting more bulbs around the Parish.
- We are helping the ongoing Croquet Project for 2026
- We have helped the New Pavilion Project
- We have supplied a new bench with the help of the Heritage Group, along the walkway to the Beach
- We have paid for New Deer Signs in the Parish
- We are looking at repairing the village signs along the Aldeburgh/Thorpeness Road and at signs in Aldringham.
- We are working on '20's Plenty' for Thorpeness and Aldringham
- We are working with the Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group on new trail boards for Aldringham.

If you are aware of any problems in the Parish, please report to the Parish Clerk, telephone numbers at end of Newsletter.

Nearly at the end – it is with great sadness we record that Chris from The Parrot will be leaving us in the early part of 2026. Chris has been a wonderful landlord and has helped arrange special events, quizzes, and bingo as well as providing special lunches and coffee mornings for the community, breakfast events for The Pilgrims and has hosted in the Parrot hot mince pies and mulled wine for the Carols by the Tree event. Chris has also been a wonderful supporter of the Saxmundham Foodbank and Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group. We wish you every success in your new career and THANK YOU for your help.

Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council Wish All our Parishioners A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Maureen Jones

Chair

Energy Projects - December Overview

Since our last report in August, it really feels that things are really ramping up with the multiple Enabling works for the two major projects. Of course, Sizewell C is the big one and the one that 'slaps you in the face' when we leave the leafy backwater that is our Parish. To go either ways on the A12 and we are hitting major road and pre-contract works and their integral material movements. The road to Yoxford must be reaching the numbers of lorry movements that the boards have predicted over the last ten years in Theberton and surrounding villages. Yesterday, returning from a warming lunch in Westleton, we counted fifteen lorries heading to Yoxford in the time it took to drive the opposite way along the B1122 turning towards Leiston Abbey. They seemed to outnumber the cars and we have only just started.

Anyway, enough of my moaning, you want to know what is happening.

Sizewell Enabling works. As we can hear from the Piling works, a start is being made to the sea defences where the desalination plant will be sited. The foundations of the concrete batching plant are being poured, so these two items will reduce the traffic somewhat, as there will be no need for shipping in water and concrete. The conclusion of works to the two Park and Ride schemes will be most welcome to the residents of King Georges Avenue as the multitude of cars parked should dissipate over the next few months.

The roadworks themselves, are a feat to be marveled at in all their bewildering complexity carried out with massive machinery. Having worked all my life in construction, but not in road building, I am baffled by their strategies and sequences in getting to a finished item out of piles of earth, aggregates and tarmac. I take my retired hard hat off to the myriad of Site Engineers and Managers, both men and women. Astonishing- I don't have a clue what you are doing. Fair play to you all !

Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) EA2 and EA1N

In our Parish, most of the work that has been carried out is Archeological Works, which we have seen to both sides of Thorpe Road , just past the village sign. They have now dropped down to the rear of Gypsy Lane, where they have stripped off the top metre of topsoil. This is the area where the Horizontal Directional Drilling will be set up to drill under the River Hundred, Aldeburgh Road and the wood next to Aldringham Court. This was finally given the go-ahead on this in September, about which we are highly delighted. They intend to start in the Summer of next year.

Two access points have been created for the SPR projects off Sizewell Gap to the other Drill Head and landfall behind the cliffs north of Thorpeness. The temporary haul work on Snape Road has now disappeared into the distance and working toward the proposed substation in Friston.

National Grid Electrical Transmission- (NGET)-

SeaLink has now entered the Planning process with a first Open Floor session at Snape Maltings on November 5th . A silent procession of black clad mourners, some four hundred strong, marched against the concentration of energy projects in the Suffolk Countryside and the Cumulative Effect it is having upon all of us, even at this early stage. It looked very effective from the drone footage. Thankfully, there is very little intrusion in the Parish by SeaLink, only a difficult delivery of very large cable drums down Aldringham Lane on their way to the drilling site at North Warren.

National Grid Ventures -(NGV)- Lionlink There are no current proposals for any Lionlink developments which will affect the Parish at this time.

Helios 250 MW Solar Farm is a project for a large solar farm and battery site near the proposed Friston substation. No location has been announced. They anticipate a formal launch in late 2025, so they are leaving it a little late for that. Another industrial complex laying waste to our countryside. Watch this space.

Traffic Calming Measures for the Parish **Next chapter**

You may recall, or you might have a copy of the August Newsletter on front of you, that Tony Wheeler and I were standing at entrance of the Parrot with TJ, our redoubtable County Councillor, a lady from Suffolk Highways and two of 'Suffolk's Finest'. We had agreed to carry out a number of surveys at various points of issue. There is unfortunately a backlog in the placement of survey equipment, such is the demand. They were eventually mounted at the start of July and were retrieved for analysis two weeks later and results were printed up in due course. One had been positioned in the Whinlands in Thorpeness, two in Thorpe Road (one at the Golf Crossing and one at the Tea Room), and one on Aldeburgh Road near Five Acre Barn. Alas, the one by the Tea Room had been vandalised by cutting the cables across the road after five days. This meant the survey at this particular position had to be rerun and another delay ensued. This was put in place at the start of September and when the equipment was collected it had been tampered with on its first day of operation and no data collected.

All parties, now without our police officers who have completed their contributions, agreed to have a meeting to discuss what information we had garnered from the other surveys.

Unfortunately TJ could not make the date but has been kept informed and has offered advice over the outcomes, so only myself, Tony and a new officer, Charles Harrison, from Suffolk Highways were present.

The conclusions, where possible, were as follows:-

1. Making Thorpeness a 20mph zone

Although the traffic survey is in support of a 20mph, Highways policy is that no such limit should be approved for B class road and could only approve of such a limit in exceptional circumstances. To go ahead with this we would need a data led argument for this to happen. I would argue that Thorpeness in high summer would qualify for this, however there is to be a change to the county's Speed Limit Policy which could affect this judgement. We shall see.

2. Reduction of the National Speed limit on Thorpe Road to 40mph

This was the survey that had been vandalised. A further survey has been booked. More Council money lost through someone's vindictive behaviour.

3. 30mph sign to Aldringham Village from Thorpeness Highways' Policy does not allow for this alteration. There must be at least 20 or more houses on each side of the road to represent a start of a suitable habitation, something we do not have at this site. We can only wait for the result of any Thorpe Road possible speed reduction to make this a safer stretch of road for the cottages and businesses before reaching the 30mph at the Parrot crossroads.

4. Reduction of the 40mph limit to 30mph on Aldeburgh Road from the Village sign.

The results of the survey did meet some aspects of favourable criteria, however more information would be needed both with traffic surveys and well as a residents' survey.

There should be a yes/no questionnaire delivered to all houses in Aldeburgh Road as well as Fitches and Gypsy lane before Christmas and a series of road surveys will be carried out in Aldeburgh Road through various stages

of the construction works.

5. 20mph limit through Aldringham Village.

This was always going to be a 'big ask' as both Suffolk Police and Highways do not include 20mph limits on B Class roads, even in the face of recorded data showing flagrant ignoring of the existing 30mph. Our only means of combating this is the spraying large 30 Roundels on the road surfaces and sprayed white hatching to both sides of the road as you enter the zone.

6. Golfers crossing on Thorpe Road

Both the roundels mentioned above and road signs at this danger point have done little to affect the speed of traffic at this point. It was suggested that a 90degree crossing point be created rather than allowing the golfers to walk at their present angle which exposes them to a longer time crossing. Due to the set up of the verges and the road here would necessitate a full crossing point with drop kerbs on both sides.

Speed Indicator Devices - Statistics

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 October 2025 is set out below.

Location	Incoming	Outgoing
Aldringham - Aldringam Park		
Total Vehicles	220,248	213,463
Average Speed/mph	30	31
Max speed/mph	87	97
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	233	296
Aldringham - Vicarage		
Total Vehicles	123,604	170,327
Average Speed/mph	29	33
Max speed/mph	67	99
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	93	326
Thorpeness - Pavilion		
Total Vehicles	76,650	101,707
Average Speed/mph	30	31
Max speed/mph	65	86
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	135	360
Thorpeness - The Haven		
Total Vehicles	68,003	78,268
Average Speed/mph	29	32
Max speed/mph	86	89
Vehicles in excess 50 mph	141	296

Planning -

Tony Wheeler, Parish Councillor

Since the Summer Newsletter, the Parish Council has received eight planning consultations, seven in Thorpeness and one in Aldringham. The planning applications comprise: -

- Erection of Replacement Dwelling 2
- Building alteration and/or extension 2
- Change of use 1
- Tree felling/surgery 1
- Vehicular Access 1

- Variation to an existing consent 1

The council has registered no objection to six whilst two remain under consideration at the time of writing. East Suffolk District Council have permitted the six applications.

In addition to the conventional applications above the council has been consulted by Suffolk County Council upon 4 applications by Scottish Power relating to Discharge of Requirements (DORs) for planning matters such as traffic management and emergency planning arrangements for EA1N and EA2 cabling works. Also, the council has been monitoring a number of other DORs registered with East Suffolk Council and whilst not a formal consultee, the Parish Council is commenting where concerns arise having particular regard to issues of direct concern such as noise control.

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>

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has now successfully passed the independent examiner's scrutiny, and the decision statement will be published by East Suffolk Council before Christmas. The final step of the process to complete the Plan is carried out by East Suffolk Council, who will publish the Notice of Referendum early in the new year with the Referendum taking place in February. Watch out for the notice.

Eric Atkinson – Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Group

Defibrillators

Just a quick reminder in case of emergency - We have four defibrillators in the Parish:-

- In the Boathouse porch off the Green by the Meare – available 24 hours
- At the Pavilion – available 24 hours but gate may be locked for vehicular access
- A private defib owned and managed by the Golf Club Hotel – available 24 hours through Reception
- On the wall of The Parrot and Punchbowl in Aldringham

With the exception of the Golf Club device, you will need a code to open the boxes containing the defibs. You get this by dialling 999 and giving the location of the defib, and you will be given the code.

Aldringham Village Shelter

Aldringham has a welcome addition on Mill Green with the completion of a delightful oak framed shelter. Funded from parish council community investment reserves, the shelter will provide welcome weather protection for community gatherings and a focal point for village events whilst also offering shelter for ramblers, cyclists and visitors to the green. Having already hosted the October visit by the coffee caravan, the shelter, complete with soft lighting, will be providing the centrepiece for the annual service of Carols on the Green on Wednesday 10th December.

Tony Wheeler -

Parish Councillor



East Suffolk Council

We continue to engage with the community about coastal flooding and erosion following a public meeting on the 19th August. An in-person meeting was held at The Country Club on 21st October and re-run online on 17th November for those who could not attend in person. The council's Coastal Management and Adaptation Team, shared data and evidence outlining the coastal erosion and flooding risks in the village to help people understand the current and future level of risk.

It was explained that the current erosion at North End Avenue has not increased the existing flood risk at Thorpeness. The Environment Agency have also said that "The flood risk management policies in the SMP are clearly laid out for the EA frontage and no significant immediate or medium-term increased risks are anticipated. The recent SMP refresh did not recommend any policy review or specific actions".

In addition, the latest Environment Agency's National Erosion Risk Map for this frontage shows erosion risk lines up to 2055. The current risk line for 2055 is seaward of the road. However, we know that the Ness, a geological subsea feature to the north of North End Avenue, also influences rates of erosion along the frontage and this is much harder to predict. As such we have engaged with as many of these residents as possible and shared a risk-based approach to managing their risk so that we collectively have a plan to take action should the threat of erosion exceed the 2055 risk zone.

In parallel to discussing future risk, officers have been working with those imminently affected by erosion to help them make necessary plans for safe removal of their properties. Losing a home to coastal erosion is extremely distressing and the Council are working closely with homeowners to provide adequate time to remove their belongings and demolish their properties in a planned, safe and dignified manner.

East Suffolk Council are regularly monitoring the area and will continue to engage with residents as necessary. We are also undertaking a wider study of the impacts of coastal change along the Suffolk coast, which will help to better understand future change at Thorpeness.

Sarah Whitelock

ESC Councillor

Community Emergency Planning

We have seen the devastating effect of coastal erosion as another house in North End Avenue has been demolished before it fell into the sea, and a second may be gone before you read this. Sadly, this is not the end of the story as coastal erosion has affected this coastline for a thousand years or more, and will continue to do so. However, Thorpeness is not about to be washed away any time soon, but we must remain vigilant and aware of the risks we face. East Suffolk Council has indicated that they are conducting a wider study of the impacts of coastal change along the Suffolk coast to help better understand future change at Thorpeness. Further, ESC 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. 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.

This time of the year is also the time that we are reminded about the dangers of seasonal flu and the precautions we should take to avoid getting the flu. The first thing to remember is that we need a 'flu jab' that will reduce the risk of contracting flu and/or reduce the effects of flu if you do catch it. Contact your GP surgery for an appointment or take advantage of the 'walk in' flu surgeries being run by local chemists. If you feel vulnerable do not be afraid to wear a mask when travelling and wash your hands frequently. These

actions will help reduce the spread of flu and reduce the risk to yourself, helping to keep you well.

The top tips for preparing for the winter include:

- Think how you will cope without the internet. Ensure your phone is fully charged.
- Heat your home to a minimum of 18C.
- If high winds are forecast put away garden furniture, equipment, trampolines etc.
- Ensure water pipes are insulated.
- In the event of transport disruption consider working from home.
- Ensure your car is ready for the winter – tyres, antifreeze, wipers etc
- Get a flu jab

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

Roger Brown

roger.brown72@btinternet.co

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)

Generous and Popular Publican Says Farewell to The Parrot

"Well, the time is nearly here for me to say good bye to The Parrot. After eight and half years of running the pub it is time for me to move on to pastures new. I am hugely proud to have my name alongside so many others that have had the privilege of running such an historic pub. I am also proud to have brought The Parrot to the centre of village life again.

Together we fundraised to have a defibrillator installed outside the pub. I fought tirelessly with the local highways, which included weekly radio chats and even front page news, to remedy the constant flooding that used to occur outside the pub. As a community we have raised thousands of pounds in cash and thousands of pounds worth of food for the local IP17 Good Neighbours, as well as all the other monies raised for various other charities.

We have been a home for book clubs and boules teams. We have been a place for proposals and wedding celebrations. Covid lockdown saw the birth of The Parrot Puzzler, my weekly online quiz, which lasted for 5 years. This culminated in its own YouTube channel, a published book and a weekly slot on the local radio station. Our quiz nights and bingo nights continue to be as popular now as they ever have been.

None of this would have been possible without the support of each and every single person that visited us over the past years. Nor without the team that I have had in place. People come and go a lot in this industry but I hope that everyone has been proud to work at The Parrot.

None of the above would have been possible if it hadn't been for my tenure at The Dolphin however. I might be saying good bye to eight and half year at The Parrot but I am also saying goodbye to nearly eighteen years at The Dolphin. The Dolphin has seen the best and worst of me

Men's Cycle Tour Races Through

but it has been an honour to have been a part of this fantastic place for so long; and with David and Kerry building the foundations for what is has become today. I literally owe my career to David who gave me my first job as a spritely sixteen year old at Thorpeness Golf Club. I'm sure twenty six years ago he never would have thought that I'd still be chewing his ear about stuff. I haven't got the words to show my appreciation but know that you will never be out of my thoughts.

My leaving day for The Parrot is 12th January so we still have lots to get through before I head off. On 10th December there is Carols on the Green in Aldringham and also the same day sees me hosting the Christmas Quiz at The Dolphin. Bingo is back for one last outing on 17th December. I am enjoying a Christmas Day off this year with the family. New years eve we will be open for drinks to see in 2026. Please keep an eye on our social media for our exact opening times in the new year as we wind the business down.

I start my new job on 1st February working with H & J Chocolate in Beccles along with their restaurant, Twyfords and the Farm Café in Marlesford. Thank you all once again and I wish you the happiest Christmas" - *Chris*

'Mourners' march to save our Coast from Energy Project Overload

On November 4th, a great many AcT parishioners (including your editor) were among the crowd of nearly 450 people present at Snape Maltings at a demonstration against the cumulative impact of energy projects on the local area.

Dressed in black and many carrying black umbrellas the 'mourners' processed through the reed beds to the front of the concert hall where many went on to attend the two day public hearing.



Caption:- Demonstrators against the cumulative impact of numerous energy projects wend through the reedbeds at Snape Maltings

September 2nd saw crowds out across the Parish to urge on cyclists in the opening stage of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men's race. The tour passed through large swathes of Suffolk over two days, before moving on through Bedfordshire and Warwickshire to a final conclusion in Wales on September 7th.

The stage through this Parish passed without serious incident. Olav Kooij of the Netherlands was the winner of this stage and two others, though he did not feature in the top three on the final podium. Young Frenchman Romaine Gregoire (22) was the overall winner.



Caption:- On-lookers cheered on the cycle racers in Thorpeness

Local Groups

AND NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS!

Building Work to Start in January



Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground CIO

Our grant applications to East Suffolk Council – Community Infrastructure Levy Fund (CIL) for £735,000.00 and the Sizewell C Community Fund for

£310,000.00 have been successful. We now have all the funding secured to start the build.

Following a recent meeting with our selected contractor, it has been agreed they will start site set-up in December, with work commencing at the beginning of January. We have an agreed build programme of 40 weeks, which should enable us to be in the new building by this time next year. Thank you to all who supported us with words of encouragement, through the questionnaires and attending our open days - your help has enabled us to get to this stage. We will be posting monthly progress updates via The Pavilion Newsletter, to receive a copy see details at the end, and also through this newsletter.

The winter months are always a quieter time at the Pavilion following our busiest time of July and August. These months see the Marmalade cricket match, the Thorpeness sixes event, firework parking, the with the Classic Car rally (which continues to grow in popularity), plus a number of private parties. We welcomed back The Alzheimer's Society for their second fund raising Trek26 events at the beginning of August with over 800 people taking part. Meanwhile, all the regular events continued to take place; croquet was played most days; cricket had a good season of matches; the rifle club met twice a week; Uke-n Smile; the quiz; the motorbike group and the parish council all continued to hold their regular meetings and we hosted four caravan rallies.

Following the refurbishment of the Croquet Clubhouse the Pavilion trustees are working with the croquet club to provide new storage facilities which will replace the dilapidated sheds that are currently being used and also a suitable toilet near to the croquet club house. The rear of the pavilion is also being cleared, where it is planned to make provision for activities such as petanque, outdoor table tennis, a play space, etc.

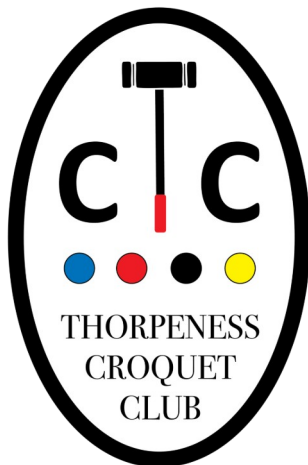
Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground Trustees

Croquet Club

Did you know there is a croquet lawn inside the Ogilvie sports ground? Well there is, and if your looking for a hobby that's equal

parts sunshine, socializing, and satisfying thwacks of balls gliding across perfectly kept (almost!!) grass? Then it's time to pick up a mallet and discover why croquet is the most delightfully underrated—and surprisingly skilful—sport in town. If your interested in a taster session email thorpenesscroquet@btinternet.com or phone 07459349577.

Alastair McElroy



St Andrew's Church



The Trustees of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust awards grants towards church, chapel, and meeting house building projects, four times a year. The money comes from legacies to the Trust, and the money raised by the annual Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride and Pedal & Drive events held in September. St. Andrew's volunteers welcomed participants with a comfort break, tea, coffee, and biscuits. Two of our congregation participated nobly with an astonishing number of churches visited that resulted in a share of their earnings being donated to St. Andrew's through the efforts of Sara Newman. Donations, like that from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust that are unrestricted can be used to pay for items like fuel for lawnmowers, repairs to equipment, etc. The larger grants the trust offers keep roofs intact and historic buildings secure.

To make the Minutes of the Parochial Church Council easily available to everyone, Amanda Jinks has created a looseleaf folder that is located beside the font. Amanda does a real service to the congregation and the PCC by recording the proceedings of the PCC meetings and documenting the Minutes.

The service on Remembrance Sunday, November 9th was attended by a large crowd on a perfect sunny Autumn morning. The congregation was transfixed as the clear bugle call sounded Last Post. and a robin joined in loudly. Birdsong is something that visitors to the church always enjoy no matter what season or time of day. David Copp and Eric Atkinson recreated our annual Field of Remembrance on the south side of the Church. Posters with photos and stories of local people who perished during the World Wars and after, are displayed thanks to the research done by members of the congregation. At St. Andrew's we are proud to care for graves that are recognised by the War Graves Commission. We had the yew hedges trimmed specially for the occasion and they were decorated with handmade poppies courtesy of the Chandlers.

Due to the generosity of the family of Mary Morton, a departed but dearly loved member of the Choir and a "Flower Lady," there was a silent auction on November 16th to acquire very attractive pieces of art Mary's paintings were on display in the church. and more than £600 was raised for Church funds.

Sunday November 30th was a busy day, with Morning Prayer, incorporating our Patronal Service, at 11am and our renowned candlelit Advent Carol service at 6 pm.

Services to be held over the holidays are on the benefice 'Christmas Card' available in each church and on the Benefice electronic weekly announcement. If you don't already get it you can sign up on the Benefice website.

Churchwardens:-

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

Friends of St. Andrews

Friends of St. Andrew's held a Coffee Morning on Saturday, October 11 with stalls including a Tombola, books, bric-a-brac, Pat's Hats, and a nice cup of coffee with time for a chat. Over £350 resulted that boosts our Fabric Fund. The Friends group organises different fund-raising events during the year and invites everyone to join up with £10 membership fee and enjoy different activities with lovely people that benefit the Church. Recently, Angela and Edward Chandler and the Friends supported a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Church Lane Ogilvie Homes after the Morning Service. Since the congregation was invited, no refreshments were served in the Vestry after the service. Over £300 was raised by a very large and convivial gathering.

Good Neighbours

Not many tasks have come the way of Good Neighbours in the past four months, but as our Chairperson Jo Ogilvie says, we are here for anytime we are needed. One task we are very happy to undertake is to reunite two old friends for lunch on Christmas Day- one of our volunteers is stepping forward for the second year to provide transport.

Volunteers will be enjoying a change from the usual thank-you coffee morning – instead we will be raising a glass of mulled wine with some accompanying pastries at the home of our treasurer Joy Day and her husband Arthur on December 10th. Many thanks to them for their generous hospitality.

If you would like to join our band of volunteers, or need some help with a household task, shopping, form filling or transporting, call our helpline on:-

07521 047843

Pippa McLardy

Hon Sec

Pilgrim's Together

I was rather surprised to hear from Pippa (newsletter editor) a few weeks ago to say that it was once again time to put pen to paper, (or should that read fingers to keyboard) for an article to contribute to her winter newsletter. The time does seem to fly by these days as we head towards the Advent season, although for some it must feel like a lonely place and a time they are dreading if they have recently lost loved ones or are suffering health or financial problems. The world seems to be in no better a place than when I last wrote in the summer. But this is not the time to give up - it's a time to renew our efforts, help out, support and pray for those in difficulty. Whatever form your help takes please make an extra effort this winter to assist in any way you can. Of course, closer to home we hold in our thoughts and prayers those who have, or are about to lose their homes on North End Avenue. The wonderful prayer that has mysteriously appeared in North End Avenue attached to a cross must be of some comfort to those in danger of losing their homes and I hope they know we are all praying for a miracle to save them.

We have now put together our plans for celebrating the Advent and Christmas season locally and hope to see you at one of our events,

We start with:

Saturday 6th December, we will be supporting the Dolphin with a stall at the Christmas Fair, all our takings will be given to their chosen charity.

On Wednesday 10th December, we will be providing music for the annual 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' on Mill Hill, Aldringham, organised by Jill Hubbard and Christine Laschet.

On Sunday 21st December we will be hosting a Carol Service by the Meare in Thorpeness by kind permission of Hamish Ogilvie. We have done this for several years now and the start time remains the same at 4pm.

We are also looking to do a 'pop up' carol singing session maybe in the Thorpeness/Aldeburgh area but we will put notices around the villages if and when a date has been set.

At the end of 2025 we will be saying a sad goodbye to Chris, the landlord of the Parrot and Punchbowl. Chris has been so very kind to us Pilgrims over the last few years letting us use the space twice a month on Saturday mornings and whatever we have asked for he has always tried to say yes. Thank you doesn't seem enough for all he has helped us to achieve and we truly wish him well in the next stage of his life, whether it be near or far. We hope to have a meeting with the new licensees soon to see if we can continue in 2026 in some way. If not then we will rethink our 'Saturday mornings' and reinvent them in some new form.

We continue to visit Aldringham Court Care Home once a month and I'm not sure who benefits the most, the Pilgrims or the staff and residents. It's always a most joyous occasion for all of us. We have been invited to lead a Carol Service for the residents and their families as part of their celebration of Christmas.

That is all for now. All of us at Pilgrims wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year. May the love and the peace of the Christmas season be with you all now and into 2026.

With every Blessing

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



Seasons Greetings to all our Members and Supporters

As the colder and wetter weather arrives and Christmas approaches it is nice to look back at another successful Heritage Centre summer season. The Centre has once again proved to be a great tourist attraction welcoming

visitors from Easter to the end of September. This could not be done without our fantastic and loyal team of volunteers who take the time to promote and talk about this lovely Parish. No matter how many sessions you have helped – our gratitude to you.

This also could not happen without the fantastic work of Elizabeth Tipping who has organised the rota over a number of years now. We have to report that Elizabeth is now standing down from this role – A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU from us all. Keep your eyes open in the New Year when details will be sent out inviting volunteers to help man the Centre and providing information on how to sign up for the 2026 season.

Our visitors have again enjoyed the seaside garden and picnic area, where everyone, locals and visitors, are encouraged to sit, eat, and relax, as well as look at what's on show at our Centre. Thank you as ever to Chris and Maureen Jones, who ensure that the garden looks good all year round. This summer, the huge umbrellas, kindly donated by David James at the Dolphin helped keep our visitors shaded from the sun and dry from the rain.

Don't forget that a commemorative wooden display board is now on the gabion wall in the garden area. We proudly display brass plaques of past members and residents who have been involved in TAHG or individuals who just love the area. There is space for more plaques so if you are interested in remembering someone, please get in touch.

EVENTS - A Volunteer Thanks event was great fun and held at the Ogilvie Pavilion in early August – a lovely afternoon tea was provided and the room was buzzing with animated conversation. Thanks to all those that organised and provided the refreshments.

A tour around West Bar Water Tower took place in late October and was attended by nearly 70 members and guests. Tom Leahy, the developer – was very welcoming and delighted to show us the finished building that has undergone a great facelift and is now marketed as a high-quality boutique accommodation. Amazing views from the top of the tower ...and we were blessed with good weather too. After the tour Tom gave us a great presentation in the Country Club about this and other projects and the detailed restoration he had to undertake to preserve the building. Extremely interesting – and a great opportunity to see inside the tower for many that had never done so in the past! Our thanks to The Country Club for their support with this event.

Future events –

- Dolphin / Thorpeness Christmas Fair – 6th December
- Our traditional Winter Warmer dinner at The Dolphin in Mid January ...date to be announced.
- An Evening On and Around the Meare – now being looked at for the 2026 season.
- Archive Recordings Evening – getting closer to being possible to promote.

Other ideas for Spring 2026 are currently in the melting pot.

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.

Richard Bodek

Chairman



Caption:- View across Thorpeness to the Meare from West Bar Water Tower taken during a TAHG event in October

Neighbourhood Watch

I am sure that you will have read much about our coastal erosion already, but the village has certainly been made aware of the continuing problem, and in many cases, have been very supportive. As a resident of North End Avenue, it has been heartbreaking, both to watch and listen to beautiful houses being bulldozed to the ground, with probably more to go, and of course with such heavy seas, many of us a little more away from the coast, becoming vulnerable. A very sad situation.

On a happier note, I have heard no reports of crime in Thorpeness, and I hope this is because all has been quiet. I repeat, I know, that we shouldn't become complacent.

Many of us have deliveries arranged through various carriers, and all too often I see parcels left on doorsteps, in some cases for days. We are being made aware of criminals following delivery vans, and collecting parcels left at premises, and although this doesn't seem to have moved to our area at this stage, it certainly could. With Christmas all too near, there will no doubt be more deliveries, so please do arrange for a safe place for these to be made, or ask neighbours to keep an eye.

I wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas.

*Evelyn Rumsby - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
07809840924)*

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@eastsoffolk.gov.uk		07825 720877
Sarah Whitelock		
sarah.whitelock@eastsoffolk.gov.uk		07824 452388
Katie Graham		
katie.graham@eastsoffolk.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-Beer		
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
--	--	-----

<u>Power cut line</u> 0800 31 63 105 or simply call		105
--	--	-----

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
------------------	--	--

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 Elizabeth Tipping		
01728 454165 or email -		eatipping@talk21.com .

St Andrew's Church

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

Ogilvie Pavilion

Eric Atkinson		01728 830497
---------------	--	--------------

Thorpeness Cricket Club

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

<u>Connecting Communities Transport</u>		01728 635938
--	--	--------------

Border Buses

		01502 714565
--	--	--------------

WHAT'S ON from December 2025

Date	Place	Event
December		
Fri 5 th various times	Dolphin Thorpeness	Thorpeness Village Christmas Meal
Sat 6 th 12 – 3pm	Dolphin Thorpeness	Thorpeness Christmas Fayre
Wed 10 th 10.30 - 12noon	22 Lakeside Avenue Thorpeness	Good Neighbours Volunteers' Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Event
Wed 10 th 6pm	Mill Green Aldringham	Carols Round the Tree
Wed 10 th 6pm	The Dolphin Thorpeness	Chris's Christmas Quiz
Fri 12 th	Various - Aldringham & Thorpeness	Mobile Library – see times below
Wed 17 th	The Parrot Aldringham	Bingo
Fri 19 th	County Wide for SCC schools	Last Day of term - Academies can differ
Sat 20 th 9am - 11am	The Dolphin Thorpeness	Breakfast with Santa
Sun 21 st 11am	St Andrew's Church	Carol Service
Sun 21 st 4pm	Meare Thorpeness	Carols Round the Tree
Wed 24 th 3pm	Aldeburgh Parish Church	Crib Service
Wed 24 th 11pm	Aldeburgh Parish Church	First Communion of Christmas
Thurs 25 th 11am	St Andrew's Church	Christmas Family Communion Service
January		
Mon 5th	Road from Thorpeness to Aldringham	ROAD CLOSED for the rest of January
Tues 6 th (Mon 5 th PD day)	County Wide for SCC schools	First day of Spring Term 2026 - Academies can differ
Mon 12 th	The Parrot Aldringham	Chris's last day at The Parrot
February		
Fri 13th	County Wide for SCC schools	Schools break up for half term hol - Academies can differ
Mon 23 rd	County Wide for SCC schools	Schools back for 2 nd half of Spring Term
March		
Fri 27 th	County Wide for SCC schools	Schools break up for Easter Hols

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-). **First Sat of the month 9.30am Outside Inn (Parrot) breakfast bap and ramble. Third Sat, Outside Inn 9.30am, 'Encounter' - Coffee and Croissant breakfast – please check close to date as Parrot is under new management from mid-Jan..** 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 . Last Wednesday of every month – Community Coffee Morning at the Dolphin Thorpeness.**Second Wednesday of every month – Community Coffee morning at The Parrot Aldringham - please check close to date as Parrot will be under new management** 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