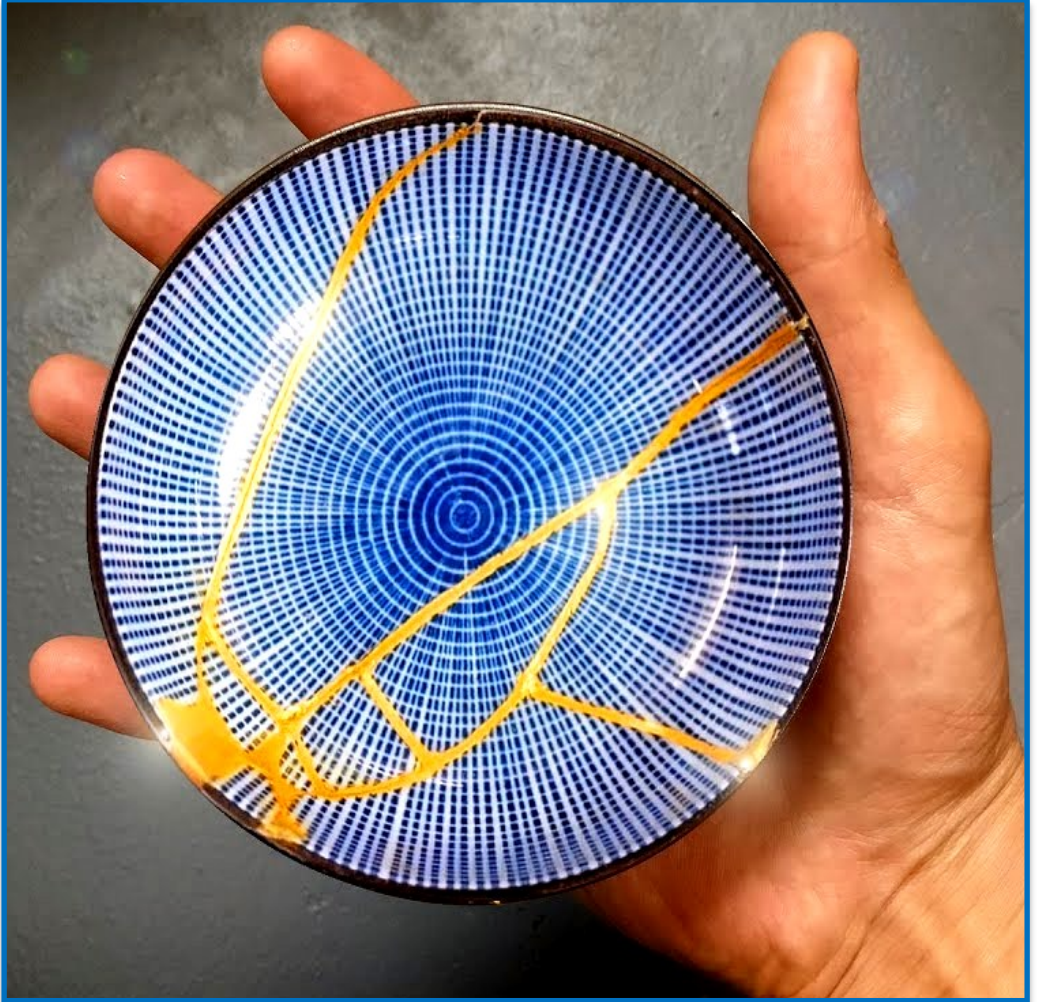




Village News

Produced by The Hempnall Group of Parishes



APRIL 2026

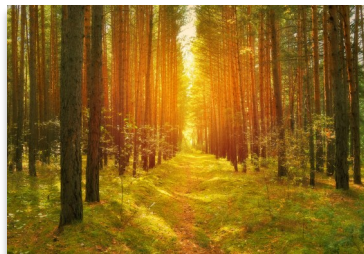
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GROUP WALK APRIL 2026

Sunday 26 April at 2:00pm

A walk from Barsham church followed by tea in the Church organised by Cheryl Coutts.



GROUP WALK MAY 2026

Thursday 14 May 10:00am

A walk from Sheringham Park followed by lunch at Kelling Reading Rooms organised by David and Margaret.

Topcroft Open Gardens 2026

Advance notice that Topcroft Open Gardens weekend is being planned for Sunday 24th May and Monday 25th 2026, 11:00am to 5:00pm.



£5 entry, free carparking,

refreshments. Further details to

follow but please save the date. If you are a resident in Topcroft and a regular supporter of this event by opening your gardens hopefully you will be able to open again this year. If you have had a rest and wish to come on board or if you are considering opening for the first time all will be welcome. For further details please contact Daphne on 01508 482448 or e mail daphnebeckett@gmail.com .

HEMPNALL WI.

Our March meeting was held at The Mill on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.30pm with 13 members present. The low attendance was due to the weather which worked against us as it was very foggy. Our business part of the meeting was held first then we were given a very interesting talk by David Horsley entitled 'From Midnight Sun to Norfolk Winter' illustrated by some excellent slides. He was thanked by Mrs Wilkinson and refreshments were then provided by Mrs Davy and Mrs Edden.

Our next meeting takes place on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm at The Mill. The Village Florist is our speaker and she will be doing a demonstration. If you wish to join us or need any details, please contact Cindy Brookes 01508 398521 or email cindylbrookes@icloud.com.

Notice from Bedingham Parish Meeting

The 2026 dates for our Parish Meetings are:

Tuesday April 21 for the AGM and

Tuesday September 22 for our budget meeting

Both meetings start at **7.00pm in Woodton Village Hall**

ALL residents of the Parish are warmly invited to participate and attend.

Rural parishes like ours are unique,

but we should not take this quiet independence for granted.

Your attendance at these two short meetings a year is an excellent way to formally evidence our village community.

There will be Sloe Gin afterwards too!

As always, if you have any enquiries or items for the Agenda, please contact Bedinghamparish@gmail.com or call me on 07770 794053

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM on April 21.

Caroline Seaman – Parish Chair

Woodton Parish Council Meeting Dates 2026/27

Woodton Parish Council meetings for the 2026/27 financial year have now been scheduled.

Meetings will take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 12th May 2026 – Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 16th June 2026
- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Tuesday 13th October 2026
- Tuesday 8th December 2026
- Tuesday 19th January 2027
- Tuesday 16th March 2027

All Parish Council meetings are held at **Woodton Village Hall** and start at **7.30pm**, unless otherwise stated.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend and are encouraged to come along to see how local decisions are made and to raise any matters of interest or concern.

Topcroft Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2026

All meetings are held in The Sports Pavilion, Topcroft Street, NR35 2BL

- Monday 18th May 2026 - 7.30 pm
Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Monday 20th July 2026 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 21st September 2026 - 7.30 pm
- Monday 16th November 2026 - 7.30 pm

The agenda is displayed on village noticeboards and published on TPC's website <https://topcroft-pc.gov.uk> three days prior to the meeting. Planning meetings are scheduled as needed, and additional meetings may be arranged if necessary.

~ Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings ~

*For further details contact the Clerk email:
clerk@topcroft-pc.gov.uk or Tel: 07774 734411*



Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during these difficult times.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS: Longlife Milk, Longlife Fruit Juice, Instant Mash, Jars of cooking Sauce, Instant Noodles, Tea and Tinned Meat

Donating Food: Items for the food bank can be left at the back of St Margaret's Church, Hempnall, at the Group Office, Hempnall or in the porch at St Peter's Church, Brooke.

Donating Money: Regular giving is a great way to support the Food Bank
For further details please check out this website: <https://waveney.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Woodton Parish Council

Spring 2026 Newsletter



Village Hall – There are considerable changes and improvements taking place at the Village Hall - and who has spotted the amazing new notice boards and signs?! These include refurbishment of the flooring, redecoration of the interior, installation of Wi-fi, replacement of the roof over the side room, new smart window blinds and stage curtain – and much more is in the pipeline as and when funds become available. This is an opportunity to thank all those who are involved with this ongoing work, but none of this comes without a huge amount of investment. If anyone hears of possible grants or funds that are available, please would they contact any member of the Parish Council. We would love to hear from you! But meanwhile, please keep using this wonderful village asset that is available for a variety of uses, parties and events. Contact Janet Ridden on 07354 397622 for details.

Planning – The number of planning applications currently being considered is significant and come with major concerns and comments. They are:-

- **Sunnyside/Chapel Hill** – 2025/2954 – 1 detached dwellings
- **Hempnall Road** – 2025/3930 – 3 self-build dwellings
- **Land North of Church Road** – 2026/0270 – 8 dwellings

Although these may not be immediately close to your homes, they affect everyone with impacts on the increasing number of houses in the village, the risk of potential flooding and the pressures on our road system.

Meanwhile the building of the 50 houses on Church Road continues, but this has not been without considerable inconvenience to those living on that road.



Easter in the Community Wood – There will be an exciting and inventive Easter Trail in the wood as in previous years over the Easter weekend (Friday 3rd – Monday 6th April). So come and join in and see what awaits you at the end of the trail! More information about this will be on the Community page.



We were hoping NOT to have to mention this yet again, but some of the paths are in a terrible state due to dog waste. This is nothing short of DISGUSTING and totally inconsiderate to non-dog walkers and those who do pick up after their dogs. Dog faeces are dangerous and can be seriously harmful to both humans and animals. So this is a plea to PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE pick up after your dogs, use the dog bins provided and think of others. Thank you.



Woodton Parish Council

Spring 2026 Newsletter



East Pye Solar Project – The concerns for this project continue as the impact on the local community and countryside will be far reaching. We, as a council, support solar energy and appropriate projects in principle, but feel that a scheme of this size is not acceptable or sustainable. We are keeping a very close eye on the application as it proceeds through the planning process.



Litter Pick – There will be a Village Litter Pick sometime in April or May – date to be confirmed and we will be looking for volunteers nearer the time to help. Please keep your eye on the Community page and Parish Council website for more details.



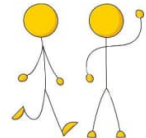
Speed Camera Vandalism – Again we have to report vandalism of one of our speed cameras, this time on Church Road. We are unable to pinpoint the exact time of the incident but everyone needs to be aware of this ongoing problem. Each time we have a claim of this nature, the insurance excess has to be paid from Parish Council funds, which ultimately reflects on the annual precept – and your pockets!



Church News across the Hempnall Group & Brooke Benefice – It is great that we now have a full team of clergy serving both us within the Hempnall Group and the Brooke Benefice as a whole. Suzannah Gunner was welcomed into the group in January and shortly Austin Uzoigwe will be joining us, both of whom will be resident in Hempnall and Brooke respectively. Please do come to any of the services as listed in the Village News and the websites.



People on Probation – The quarterly visits from this team are proving a huge asset to the village and many jobs have now been undertaken. Apart from the ongoing task of bark spreading in the Community Wood, plans are in place for all the white railings to be re-painted – and the list goes on!



Harry Clarke's Legacy - After much thought we have commissioned a wood carving of an owl which will sit in the Community Wood, a place that Harry loved so much. Any remaining funds will be put towards events that take place in the village and wood. Look out for the new arrival!



Newsletter Sponsors – This year we have been lucky enough to receive sufficient funding from several local businesses to pay for the printing of the twice yearly Newsletter. Our special thanks go to Caroline Wells Consultancy, Old Hall Farm, Stephen Thornton, H.W Webb (Engineers) Ltd and WG Contracting for their generosity.

Please Come to Meetings – Both the Parish Councillors and the two District Councillors work hard for the benefit of the village. Please do come to the regular meetings which are always held on a Tuesday evening at Woodton Village Hall. That way you will be able to raise any issues you may have and also be updated on the latest developments locally. Details are on our website www.woodtonparishcouncil.gov.uk you will always be very welcome!



Hempnall Cinema

@ Hempnall Village Hall

Friday the 10th April

Doors open @ 7pm film starts @ 7.30

To book your ticket please email
hempnall.cinema@gmail.com

£5 cash on the door



Refreshments: Tea Coffee Beer and Wine

Advanced notice:

Once again St Margaret's Church, Hempnall will be holding a Christmas Craft Fair in Hempnall Village Hall on Saturday 14th November 2026 from 10am -1pm

This is a popular event and all are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served and there will be a grand Raffle. Offers of cakes or Raffle prizes would be much appreciated.

Contact either Jill Turner 01508 499344 or Yvonne Davy 01508499405
ydavy01@gmail.com



Mobile Library Timetable

Village	Stop Name	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Postcode
Hempnall	Old Market Way (Bainard Rise)	14:10	14:30	NR15 2LZ
Hempnall Green	Three Horseshoes	14:35	14:55	MR15 2NN
Topcroft	The Old Chapel	15:00	15:15	NR35 2BL
Topcroft	Church Road	15:20	15:35	NR35 2BH
Hempnall	Road Green Farm	15:40	15:55	NR15 2NQ
Hempnall	Millfields	16:00	16:15	NR15 2NE
Hempnall	Roland Drive	16:20	16:35	NR15 2RB
Fritton	Village Green (post box and bench)	16:40	17:05	NR15 2QS

• **13 April 2026**

• **11 May 2026**

• **08 June 2026**

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquires about this route please call 01603 222303

Tote Bags for sale...

As we continue our close collaboration between the Hempnall Group (HG) and the Brooke Benefice (BB) and move forward in 2026 with a new clergy team, we're pleased to mark this by having these lovely tote bags for sale. The attractive design – representing the 'HG' and the 'BB' 'pulling together' - is by Jackie Leggett: special thanks to her and to Jill Turner for arranging the production of these.



The cost of a bag is £5.00. To buy one (or more!), please contact Jill Turner (jillemturner@yahoo.co.uk , 01508 499344), Jackie Leggett (jacqueline.leggett@btinternet.com, 01508 482267) or, in the Brooke Benefice, John Ash (johnrvash@gmail.com, 01508 550116).

Hardwick and Shelton

Easter Cafe Morning

Thursday 2nd April

10-12

At Hardwick Village Hall



Tea/Coffee and cake £2 Bring and Buy table
Proceeds to village hall

Hardwick and Shelton

Cafe Morning

Wednesday 6th May

10-12

At Hardwick Village Hall



Note change of date due to elections

Village Lunch Club

Every Thursday
The Mill, Hempnall

2 course seasonal meal with
coffee and biscuits in the Mill.
£10 for Hempnall residents and
£12.50 for non Hempnall residents.

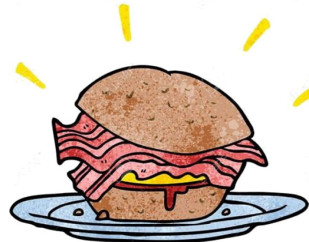
Or

1 course seasonal meal delivered
to your door in Hempnall for £7.50

To book your place please email
hempnalltrust@gmail.com
or call [07504 699534](tel:07504699534)

Supported and run by the Hempnall Trust

BACON BUTTIES AGAIN!



At The Chequers, Mill Road, Hempnall

On Friday 15th May 9:30am to 12:00 noon
Eat in or take away—Vegetarian option available

Also: cakes, produce, plants, books and raffle

Orders can be made in advance by phoning

Jill Turner on 01508 499344

All proceeds to St Margaret's Church, Hempnall



Spring 2026 Newsletter

Himalayan Balsam – your help please



Pretty yes, but Himalayan Balsam is a widespread invasive species in Britain and Hempnall. This plant is often associated with riparian habitats, where waterways can provide corridors along which they can spread. Himalayan Balsam is very damaging, causing erosion to riverbanks, and forming dense stands that increase the likelihood of flooding and reduce or suppress native plants, as well as negatively impacting other biodiversity.

You must not allow it to spread into the wild or onto neighbouring properties, which is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Act NOW - If you live in a property alongside the river or drain bank, please ensure you up-root any Himalayan Balsam on your property before it seeds/flowers in May/June.

This will prevent seeds from being distributed downstream infecting other areas in the village.

Hand-pulling must be undertaken so that the whole plant is uprooted and is normally best done by pulling from low down the plant prior to seed formation. Please ensure that waste material is either dried, burnt or carefully composted to avoid spreading the infestation.

Hempnall parish council's precept unchanged for 5 years

For five years running Hempnall parish council has kept its precept at the same level of £18,300 pa. Hopefully, this goes some way to counter the rises we are all seeing in our rates from the County and District Councils and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Councillor/Clerk	Telephone No.	Email address
David Hook – Chairman – Tree Warden	01508 498187	hookd74@yahoo.com
Phil Bates – Footpath Officer, Data Protection Committee	07957 803120	phil.bates@hempnallpc.org
Joan Cann	01508 498743	joan.cann1944cann@btinternet.com
Richard Delf -Vice Chairman - Playing Field Liaison	01508 499788	richard@delfsgarage.co.uk
Hamish Rose	01508 498486	hamishandgeorgina@btinternet.com
Mike Turner- Tree Warden - SAM2 Officer - Highways Liaison	01508 499423	mike.turner45@btinternet.com
Peter Workman - Playing field Liaison	01508 830266	pworkman@hempnallpc.org
Ian Nelson - Clerk	01508 498467	theclerk@hempnallpc.org

HPC now available "virtually" all the time at www.hempnallpc.org

Write to the Clerk at Karinya, Bungay Rd, Hempnall, Norwich, NR15 2NG theclerk@hempnallpc.org

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR PARISHIONERS

The Foundation is keen to support all Hempnall residents (adults and children), regardless of financial circumstances, to take advantage of a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities. Consequently, if you would like to discuss any aspect of a claim you may be planning to make, including how it may be funded, we would be happy to talk with you informally. Please contact Ian (see below).

The next meeting of the Hempnall Town Estate Educational Foundation is during May 2026. Completed applications for grants by 13 May 2026 to Ian Nelson, Clerk to the Trustees, Karinya, Bungay Rd, Hempnall, NR15 2NG. or email to hteef.clerk@gmail.com

Application forms are available online at <https://hempnalltrust.org.uk/https-hempnalltrust-org-uk-town-estate-educational-foundation/> and in Hempnall Village Hall, Hempnall Church, The Mill Centre, Hempnall Surgery or by email.

Any queries or requests for forms to Ian Nelson - hteef.clerk@gmail.com Tel: 01508 498467.

PLEASE NOTE - WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS BY EMAIL. VALID RECEIPTS/PROOF OF PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED. INVOICES ALONE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS PROOF OF PAYMENT MADE.

Welcome to Woodton Village Hall!

Our newly refurbished main hall is open for hire — perfect for parties, wedding receptions, private celebrations, community events, regular classes, workshops, and club meetings. The space comfortably seats up to 100 guests and offers everything you need for a smooth, enjoyable event, including:

- A raised stage for performances, speeches, or presentations
- A generous dance floor
- A fully equipped kitchen for catering
- An accessible toilet
- On-site car parking



Whether you're planning a one-off celebration or looking for a welcoming venue for regular activities, the hall provides a bright, flexible space at excellent value.

Get in touch to check availability or make a booking:

Phone: 07354 397622

Email: villagehallwoodton@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.woodtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-village-hall>



- Door to door dial-a-ride service
- Weekly members outings throughout the year
- Group hires for not-for-profit organisations

Borderhoppa Outings for April 2026

Thu 2nd Peter Beales Roses - £15.00

Thu 9th Thorpeness and Aldeburgh - £20.00

Mon 13th Mississippi Paddle Steamer & Wroxham - £30.00
(includes boat ticket)

Thu 16th Tea & Cakes at Dutch Barn Nursery, Blo Norton – Dial-a-Ride

Mon 20th Southwold - £20.00

Mon 27th The Four Horseshoes, Thornham – Dial-a-Ride

*To book or for more information please call 01379 854800
or visit our website www.borderhoppa.org*

April and May 2026...

April 2026

Wednesday 01 April 2026

Hempnall WI

7:30PM

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Thursday 02 April 2026

Hardwick & Shelton

Easter Café Morning

10:00am-12:00pm

Hardwick Village Hall, NR15 2AB

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 03 April 2026

Killer Darts

From 7:30pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Food Truck

Wild Thing Gourmet Burgers

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Monday 06 April 2026

Community Coffee Stop

9:30-12:00

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Wednesday 08 April 2026

Topcroft Spring Bingo

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Topcroft Social Club, NR35 2BL

Thursday 09 April 2026

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 10 April 2026

Food Truck

D-Lish Curries

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 10 April 2026 (cont.)

Hempnall Cinema

'The Choral'

Doors Open 7:00pm

Film Starts 7:30pm

Hempnall Village Hall, NR15 2NG

Monday 13 April 2026

Mobile Library

(see page 9)

Community Coffee Stop

9:30am-12:00pm

The Mill @ Hempnall, NR15 2LP

Thursday 16 April 2026

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 17 April 2026

Food Truck

Wok Truck Chinese

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Tuesday 21 April 2026

Bedingham Parish AGM Meeting

7:00pm

Woodton Village Hall, NR35 2NG

Thursday 23 April 2026

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 24 April 2026

Food Truck

Wafflelicious Loaded Waffles

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Sunday 26 April 2026

April Group Walk

2:00pm

Barsham Church

Thursday 30 April 2026

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

May 2026

Friday 01 May 2026

Killer Darts

From 7:30pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Food Truck

JP's Street Food Loaded Roast

Potatoes

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Monday 04 May 2026

Community Coffee Stop

9:30-12:00

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Thursday 06 May 2026

Hardwick & Shelton Café Morning

10:00am-12:00pm

Hardwick Village Hall, NR15 2AB

Thursday 07 May 2026

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 08 May 2026

Food Truck

Peaky Pizza

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Monday 11 May 2026

Mobile Library

(see page 9)

Community Coffee Stop

9:30am-12:00pm

The Mill @ Hempnall, NR15 2LP

Tuesday 12 May 2026

Woodton Annual Parish Council Meeting

7:30pm

Woodton Village Hall, NR35 2NG

Thursday 14 May 2026

May Group Walk

10:00am

Sheringham Park, NR26 8TB

Thursday 14 May 2026 (cont.)

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 15 May 2026

Bacon Butties Again!

9:30am-12:00pm

The Chequers, Hempnall, NR25 2LP

Food Truck

TFI Vegan Burgers & Donuts

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Monday 18 May 2026

Topcroft Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Sports Pavilion, NR35 2BL

Wednesday 20 to Saturday 23 May 2026

The Saxlingham Players Present 'Gaslight'

7:30pm

Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, NR15 1AJ

Thursday 21 May 2026

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 22 May 2026

Food Truck

Churros & Chorizo Burgers

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Sunday 24 May & Monday 25 May 2026

Topcroft Open Gardens

11:00am-5:00pm

Thursday 28 May 2026

Village Lunch Club

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Friday 29 May 2026

Food Truck

Jason's Fish & Chips

From 6:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP

Become a Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Champion

Young people are facing increasing challenges to their wellbeing — and those around them play a vital role in supporting them.

This one Youth MHFA course, with experienced trainer Mike Crossley, is an internationally recognised programme designed for anyone who teaches, works with, lives with, or cares for young people aged 8–18.

This course gives you the knowledge, confidence and practical tools to recognise when a young person may be struggling and how to support them.

You'll learn how to:

- ✓Spot the signs of emotional distress or poor mental health
- ✓Start supportive conversations with confidence
- ✓Safeguard and signpost to the right support
- ✓Promote positive mental wellbeing

By becoming a Youth Mental Health First Aider, you can help reduce stigma, encourage early intervention, and create environments where young people feel safe to talk.

If you **teach, work with or simply spend time with** young people and wish to have a better understanding of the signs and symptoms of poor mental health and importantly, how to promote positive mental health or are you perhaps **a parent who currently feels they lack the confidence, knowledge and skills to approach and start a conversation surrounding mental health with your child** this course will be a great benefit

This one day, 8 hour course is running as a **face to face event at The Mill, Hempnall (NR15 2LP) on 16 June 2026**

As an experienced retired school Headteacher and subsequent lead in the field of mental health, I have trained over 600 teachers, sports staff, wellbeing leads and parents in my role as an MHFA Instructor.

Please contact me mike.a.crossley@gmail.com on for further details.

The capacity is for 16 delegates. The cost for the course is £200 per person which includes the course materials comprising a **Youth MHFA One Day** bundle (comprehensive manual, workbook, action card) and in addition, **all delegates receive a Youth MHFA certification** from the national organisation **MHFA**.



Topcroft Spring Bingo

Great prizes and lots of fun at
Topcroft Spring Bingo

on

Wednesday 8th April

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

at

Topcroft Social Club

Bring all the family!

HUMANS OF SOUTH NORFOLK

Don't bin them, recycle your old electricals

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled and turned into something new.

Bag up your small electricals and batteries and book the new kerbside recycling service. Search **South Norfolk Small Electrical Recycling** to book your collection.

Search '**recycle your electricals**' to find all your local, repair, donation or recycling points for items not accepted as part of this service.

recycle your electricals

Together with South Norfolk

FOOD TRUCKS CONFIRMED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2026

- 09 JAN - PEAKY PIZZA
- 16 JAN - TFI VEGAN - BURGERS & DONUTS
- 23 JAN - JASON'S FISH & CHIPS
- 30 JAN - CHIM CHIM THAI
- 06 FEB - JP'S STREET FOOD
- 13 FEB - MOODY COW
- 20 FEB - PEAKY PIZZA
- 27 FEB - JASON'S FISH & CHIPS
- 06 MAR - PEAKY PIZZA
- 13 MAR - JP'S STREET FOOD
- 20 MAR - CHIM CHIM THAI
- 27 MAR - CHURROS & CHORIZO
- 03 APR - WILD THING
- 10 APR - RAHELA'S ROLLING KITCHEN
- 17 APR - WOK TRUCK
- 24 APR - PATRON PAELLA
- 01 MAY - JP'S STREET FOOD
- 08 MAY - PEAKY PIZZA
- 15 MAY - TFI VEGAN - BURGERS & DONUTS
- 22 MAY - CHURROS & CHORIZO
- 29 MAY - JASON'S FISH & CHIPS
- 05 JUN - WILD THING
- 12 JUN - PEAKY PIZZA
- 19 JUN - WOK TRUCK
- 26 JUN - RAHELA'S ROLLING KITCHEN

BEER FESTIVAL CONFIRMED FOR 3/4 JULY WITH 6 FOOD TRUCKS ACROSS THE 2 DAYS

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS



THE MILL BAR HEMPNALL - FRIDAYS FROM 6PM

COME JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY FOR A DIFFERENT FOOD TRUCK EACH WEEK

PLUS 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - KILLER DARTS

KEEP AN EYE OUT ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ONE OFF WEEKEND EVENTS THROUGH OUT THE YEAR



The Hempnall Trust

The Hempnall Trust is a charity that was set up to help Hempnall residents who are in need, hardship or distress and to support the community of Hempnall.



We can provide financial grants to those who need them. The Trust owns The Mill and Bar both of which are used to support the local community through our monthly Coffee Mornings, weekly lunch club, events and room hire, in a listed building.

If you would like to find out more about any area of The Hempnall Trust please look at our website www.hempnalltrust.org.uk or email hempnalltrust@gmail.com

Events hosted by The Mill are updated on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/themillbarhempnall and there is a regular What's On email.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list of events, please email hempnallmillbar@gmail.com

If you'd like to get involved with The Trust, Bar or run your own events please get in touch.

All Profits go back into The Trust to benefit Hempnall residents.

Get paid to help The Hempnall Trust when you switch your electricity to Octopus

If you would like to get a great deal on your energy bill and help The Hempnall Trust out in the process, you can switch to Octopus using this link <https://octopus.energy/quote/?affiliate=thehempnalltrust> which will give you £50 credit on your account when you switch and will give £50 to The Hempnall Trust too!



octopusenergy



Community Coffee Stop

Everyone welcome for coffee, cakes and more.

At The Mill@ Hempnall
9:30am-12:00pm

1st Monday of the month

April 13th, May 11th, June 1st

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The bowl above is from Japan. It's an example of *kintsugi*, a Japanese art form which works with broken pottery. A lacquer mixed with powdered gold fuses the fragments together, drawing attention to both the break and the repair, a bright thread holding the broken parts together, restoring and recreating. Something new and beautiful comes into being.

Holy Week (beginning this year on 29 March) takes us closer, day by day, to the brokenness of the cross. On Good Friday, our focus is a human body broken by torture. But broken too are the dreams of Jesus' first disciples as they mourn the one they *had* hoped would transform the brokenness of their 1st century world.

(Continued on next page)

Two days later, however, the unthinkable happens. Some women report seeing and speaking with the one they'd all seen crucified to death. On Easter Day, Christians celebrate Jesus' empty tomb and make the extraordinary claim that his love was - and still is - stronger even than death itself. One thing this means is that *nothing* is beyond repair for the risen Christ. *Nothing* is beyond his transformational love. That might be hard to believe when our world is as broken as it is right now. But like a golden stream of liquid lacquer, he will quietly, mostly unacknowledged, be holding together its broken fragments, at work in the long, painful, holy, process of restoration and recreation.

May he slip alongside *any* who are broken-hearted and mend them with the bright thread of his love, this Easter and beyond...

Have a very Happy Easter!

Susanra

Clergy News.....

We hope that many of our readers will by now have met **Revd Canon Susanna Gunner**, who joined us in January as our part-time House for Duty Associate Priest serving in the Brooke Benefice and in the Hempnall Group. Susanna and her husband Ben are based in the Hempnall Rectory.

Joining us shortly will be, as previously announced, the **Revd Austin Uzoigwe**, as the Priest in Charge of both benefices. Austin will be licensed by Bishop Ian of Thetford in a special service on **Sunday 26th April at 4pm in Hempnall Church** and **all are very welcome to attend**. Austin, his wife Annette and their three children will be living in the Brooke Vicarage.

Let's keep Susanna, Ben, Austin, Annette and their family in prayer as we all look forward to a new phase in the life of both the Hempnall Group and the Brooke Benefice with our new clergy team.



An introduction from Austin...

Dear Friends in the Brooke Benefice and in the Hempnall Group of Parishes

I am very excited about meeting you all when I take up my new role shortly after Easter. Until then, I wanted to send this brief note to introduce myself.

I am truly humbled and delighted to have been appointed as Priest-in-Charge to serve in the wonderful villages that make up the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group of Parishes.

My journey to ministry has been a global one. Born and raised in Aba, Nigeria, I first felt the call to ministry while studying in Ukraine and serving as a Committee Leader for Christian Businessmen International.

Later, while living in the Netherlands, I worked in international logistics and also ran my own business. My ministerial foundations were further strengthened at Christian Church Amsterdam, where I played a key role in planting a new church in Amsterdam South East.

Since moving to the UK, I completed my theological training at the Queen's Educational Foundation and served my curacy with the Mardyke Team Ministry in South Ockendon, Essex.

In 2019, I joined the Diocese of Norwich as a Team Vicar in the Tas Valley Team Ministry. I serve the churches and communities of Saxlingham, Shotesham, Tasburgh, Tharston, Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe. I also serve on the Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Racial Justice Action Group. As part of this group, I work with others to advocate for a more inclusive and just community for everyone.

I will be moving into the Brooke Vicarage with my wife, Annette, who is a Licensed Lay Minister and a talented organist, and our three children. Outside my church duties, I enjoy being an active part of village life. You may see me running or cycling along our local lanes to keep fit, or chatting about football, as I follow both Arsenal and Norwich City. I also have a passion for multicultural cooking and believe that sharing a meal is one of the best ways to bring people together.

I am eager to begin this new chapter with you following my licensing on 26th April 2026. I look forward to serving our parishes with a deep commitment to pastoral care, prayer, and community building as we walk together in faith. I greatly look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Austin

CHURCH SERVICES APRIL 2026...

Wednesday of Holy Week 1 st April 2026	9:00pm	Compline	Zoom
Maundy Thursday 2 nd April 2026	7:00pm	Holy Communion (Joint Benefices)	Topcroft Church
Good Friday 3 rd April 2026	10:00am to 3:00pm	Brooke Benefice Pilgrimage	Thwaite Church to Brooke Church
	2:00pm	Quiet Service for Good Friday	Hempnall Church
Sunday 5 th April 2026 Easter Day	6:00am	Easter Day Dawn Service	Topcroft Church
	8:00am	Act of Worship for Easter Day and lighting of Easter Candle	Shelton Church
	9:00am		Hardwick Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Hempnall Church
	2:00pm	All Age Praise Easter Celebration	Hempnall Church
Easter Monday 6 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Topcroft Church
Tuesday 7 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Thwaite Church
Thursday 9 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Brooke Church
Sunday 12 th April Easter 2	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Topcroft Church
Monday 13 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Morningthorpe Church
Tuesday 14 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Kirstead Church

Thursday 16 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Brooke Church
Sunday 19th April Easter 3	10:30am	Holy Communion	Kirstead Church
	10:30am	Morning Praise	Morningthorpe Church
	12:45pm	Holy Baptism	Bedingham Church
	6:00pm	Evening Service	Zoom
Monday 20 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Hempnall Church
Tuesday 21 st April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Mundham Church
Thursday 23 rd April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Brooke Church
Sunday 26th April Easter 4	10:30am	Morning Worship	Mundham Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Woodton Church
	4:00pm	Licensing service of Revd Austin Uzoigwe as Priest in Charge of the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group	Hempnall Church
Monday 27 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Shelton Church
Tuesday 28 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Seething Church
Thursday 30 th April	9:00am	Morning Prayer	Brooke Church

Further details of all our church services and events can be found at the Hempnall Group Website <https://hempnallgroup.co.uk/> or the Brooke Benefice Website <https://brooke.churchnet.co/>

Happy Birthday....

Children

🕒 Hector who will be 11

Teenage

🕒 Millie who will be 16

🕒 Matthew who will be 15

🕒 Elliot who will be 13

🕒 Harriet who will be 14

🕒 Leocadia who will be 15

🕒 Betty who will be 14



From the Registers....

Funerals

✝ Tuesday 3rd March 2026, Harry Hall, aged 92 years.
Cremation at Waveney Crematorium.

✝ Tuesday 24th March 2026, Paul Tholen, aged 79
years. Cremation at Earlham Crematorium.



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Contact us...

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**Hempnall Group and
Brooke Benefice Office**

Mon-Thu 9am-12.30pm

hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

Items for the next issue...

Items for the Village News should be
Delivered, Posted or Emailed to:

Group Office, The Rectory,
The Street, Hempnall, NR15 2AD
hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

**BEFORE
15th APRIL 2026**

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