

# CAFE & OPEN



# MEETING

Sunday 29th March  
10am - Noon

Enjoy a complimentary refreshment plus a piece of cake and talk to our village hall rebuild team. They'll be on hand to answer any questions and give you an update on the project.

Scan the QR codes below to join our Ousden Residents WhatsApp group and to complete our latest survey.



WhatsApp



Survey





## Ousden Village Hall & Playing Fields (registered charity 304932)

Your Village Hall committee have been busy meeting the National Lottery Team, The Wills Charitable Trust and our MP Nick Timothy at the hall as we push ahead on raising funds to rebuild the Ousden Village Hall.

We are running our monthly **cafe on Sunday 29th March**, everyone is invited to join in with this open meeting. Come along to hear about progress on the rebuild project, ask your questions and enjoy a hot drink and cake with your friends and neighbours. All we ask is that you complete our **survey questionnaire** via the QR code on the front cover or at the cafe. We are here to help you with access.

If you can't make it, you can still keep up to date on local developments at your own convenience, visit our website for more information and don't forget to join the village **WhatsApp group** via the QR code - on the front cover, simply download the app and use your mobile camera to focus on the QR code to access the group.

### Future Events

- **Paint and Plonk 17th April - very popular, booking essential**
- **Cafe Stop 26th April**
- **Farm Walk 16th May**
- **Lottery - open for entries to April Draw**

Book via email: [Ousden.vh@gmail.com](mailto:Ousden.vh@gmail.com)  
Details via <https://ousdenvillagehall.org.uk>

Hope to see you all on Sunday 29th March.

**Celia Holt**  
**On behalf of the Ousden Village Hall Playing  
and Fields Committee**



## Lidgate & Ousden Cricket Club

Lidgate & Ousden cricket club has been active during the winter. A successful Christmas dinner in *The Star* in December featured as star guest speaker the former Daily Telegraph cricket correspondent, Head of BBC Sport and renowned writer Mihir Bose. This has been followed by an energised Annual General Meeting on 21 February at which the following Lidgate residents were elected to the positions of: Chairman John Whitefield, Team Manager Greg Dale, Treasurer Leon Halls and Christmas Dinner Organiser Jon Boyle. Also elected were Ousden residents: Vice Chairman Roderick Duncan, Funds Raiser Mike Wright and Officer Without Portfolio Nigel Dudley. In parallel, work on improving the state of the square, outfield and surrounding areas continues, supervised by Roderick Duncan and Mike Wright.

The club has 11 fixtures planned for 2026, the first two being away at Reach and Isleham on 17 and 31 May respectively. The first home matches at Ousden will be on 14 June (Isleham) and 28 June (Barrow). In addition, the club hopes to arrange a "Dynamos" cricket competition for local children from local schools at Ousden on Thursday 2 July. And the Ousden *Let's Play Sports Day* will take place on Sunday 5 July - please put the date in your diary and watch out for further information.

The club continues to encourage new players regardless of standard – please could any interested potential new players contact Roderick Duncan - [roderickneilduncan@icloud.com](mailto:roderickneilduncan@icloud.com) or (for Lidgate residents) speak with Greg Dale.



**£15**, all art materials included, email for payment details and to reserve a space  
[ousden.vh@gmail.com](mailto:ousden.vh@gmail.com)

# PAINT & PLONK

OUSDEN VILLAGE HALL, FRONT STREET  
OUSDEN, SUFFOLK CB8 8TR  
FRIDAY 17TH APRIL - 7.30PM TO 9.30PM

BRING A DRINK AND NIBBLES  
AND HAVE FUN PAINTING YOUR VERY OWN MASTERPIECE



[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/  
support-a-good-cause/  
ousdenvillagehallandplayingfield](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/ousdenvillagehallandplayingfield)

**VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY**  
**A CHANCE TO WIN & HELP FUND THE NEW VILLAGE HALL**

Contact Jessamy Saltmarsh:  
[jessamy.saltmarsh194@btinternet.com](mailto:jessamy.saltmarsh194@btinternet.com) or  
01638500816 for details

You might be lucky!



## St Peter's & St Barnabas

The funeral of Ida Hayes was held at St Barnabas in February. Ida, who along with being a sidesperson and member of the PCC at St Peter's for many years also cared and looked after St Barnabas where she had attended since she was six months old!

Although she had 'retired' from the Church due to ill health, she was still kept abreast of the Ousden and Church News from members of the PCC and friends in the Village.

It was a lovely service in the small Church that she loved so much and she will be very much missed by all.

Dates for your Diary:

In conjunction with the Village Hall, we are holding a Farm Walk on Ousden Estate hosted by Graham Flux on Saturday 16th May followed by refreshments at the Village Hall.

We are holding a fundraising meeting in April to put together a list of forthcoming events which we will advertise soon!

Trevor Harris & Nicola Nunn  
Churchwardens, St Peter's & St Barnabas

### Bansfield Benefice Easter Services



#### Good Friday 3rd April

10.00am - Wickhambrook -  
Walk of Witness  
(starting at the Methodist Church)



2.30pm - Lidgate—Stations of the Cross  
(meeting at Lidgate Church)

#### Easter Day 5th April

10.00am - Stansfield

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# Did you know the annual cost of running both St Peter's & St Barnabas is approximately £11,000 per year

If you would like to make a donation  
towards keeping these beautiful &  
historic buildings open and enjoyed by  
all. The QR code below can be used to  
make a donation which will be used to  
carry out necessary repairs and  
running costs.



Thank you



### Bansfield Benefice Services

(10.00am - Holy Communion unless otherwise stated)

#### April

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wickhambrook	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lidgate
5 <sup>th</sup>	Stansfield		
12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OUSDEN</b>		
19 <sup>th</sup>	Wickhambrook		
26 <sup>th</sup>	Stradishall		

Please note these are subject to change,  
always check the website for up to date  
details or use the QR code for the services  
website.

[www.bansfieldbenefice.org.uk/services](http://www.bansfieldbenefice.org.uk/services)



## Ousden Parish Council News

A meeting of Ousden Parish Council took place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026. District Councillor Mike Chester also attended the meeting along with one member of the public.

Ousden Parish Council discussed financial information for the internal audit of their accounts including a review of the budget. Draft minutes of the meeting and documents relating to the meeting are available on the Parish Council website at <https://ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

### County Council update

County Councillor Bobby Bennett was unable to attend the meeting. This would have been her last meeting as Suffolk County Council elections will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and county council boundaries will be changing. Ousden will no longer be part of Clare division and instead will be part of a new Barrow and Thingoe division.

### District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Mike Chester presented his report. Key points included:

- The budget for 2026/27. A budget amendment was approved in relation to increasing footfall in towns, particularly in Haverhill.
- West Suffolk Council has been a leader in renewable energy.
- There will be more free parking in Bury St Edmunds.
- Cultural facilities such as the Apex which are very popular and increase footfall in Bury St Edmunds.
- Policing in Suffolk is underfunded compared to other counties and the Police and Crime Commissioner has sent a letter to the Government about this.

### Annual Parish Meeting

Ousden's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in Ousden Village Hall. This is a village meeting, not a parish council meeting and residents of Ousden and are warmly invited to attend.

Why not come along and find out more about what is happening in Ousden and meet your local councillors and representatives from other village organisations?

There will also be an open discussion about any issues raised by members of the public.

### Blocked ditches

Ditches are watercourses typically found along the borders of land or property to assist in the drainage of surface water. From time to time these ditches will become blocked or overgrown, and in particularly bad cases they may even cause a flood.

It is usually the responsibility of the landowner of the property adjoining the ditch to ensure that the

ditch remains clear and does not cause a nuisance to the public. Information about maintenance of ditches and who is responsible (known as riparian rights) is available on the Suffolk County Council website at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/maintenance-of-ditches-and-other-watercourses/riparian-ownership-in-suffolk>

If you find a blocked ditch, if possible, inform the landowner as they often are unaware that there is any issue.

### Do you find yourself struggling to decide what to eat for dinner each evening?

Feel Good Suffolk has partnered with the online meal planning service Five Dinners which was created by celebrity chef TV chef Theo Michaels.

Every household in West Suffolk can become a premium member of Five Dinners for 2026 at no cost to them. They won't be asked for any bank details which means they won't be charged for using the service. Once registered, they will receive a meal plan every week, tailored to their needs and preferences. This can be personalised for low calories, child friendly, low cost, vegetarian, gluten-free, quick and easy and more. Alongside the meal plan, members receive a shopping list for the week ahead which automatically adjusts for the number being cooked for.

You can find out more at <https://feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk/healthy-weight/five-dinners>.

### Better Recycling for Suffolk

From 2026, every council in England will start to collect a core set of materials. This means that more materials will be collected at the kerbside in your household bins, including glass bottles and jars, drinks cartons such as Tetra Pak, plastic bags, wrappings and films. Food waste will also be collected separately. Households will be getting a new wheelie bin to use alongside existing ones. For homes where space is limited, residents may get a smaller box or sack instead. Households will also get a small food caddy to use inside the home and a larger one to store food waste outside.

For information about when the new bins will be delivered, visit <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/better-recycling/>

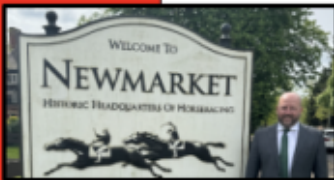
To find out more about Better Recycling visit <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/recycling-composting/better-recycling/whats-changing>

**Joanne Kirk**  
**Clerk to Ousden Parish Council**

**NICK TIMOTHY MP – 'Their threats won't stop me from standing up for West Suffolk'**

**Your support can help SAVE these communities**

**SAY NO  
TO THE  
FOREST  
CITY**



Promoted by Nick Timothy MP all at The Conservative Office, Moulton Road, Newmarket, CB8 8DY

**Sign Nick's PETITION to say NO**

**HELP NICK TIMOTHY MP**

**Use the QR codes below for more information on the proposed new 'City' and to sign the online petition**



**Information on the  
proposed new 'City'**



**Sign the  
Online Petition**

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergency.....999  
Suffolk Police (non urgent).....101  
Crime Stoppers.....0800 555 111  
Electricity Emergency.....08007 838 838  
Anglian Water Emergency.....0800 145 145  
Power Cut .....0800 3163105  
Power Cut From mobile..... 0333 3232105  
West Suffolk Council.....01284 763233  
Suffolk County Council.....0345 6066067  
Wickhambrook Surgery:  
Appointments.....01440 820140  
Repeat Prescriptions.....01440 823801  
Ousden Parish Council  
Clerk—Ms Joanne Kirk.....07880 686069  
clerk@ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk  
www.ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk  
Ousden News Editor..ousdennews@outlook.com  
Church Wardens:  
Nicola Nunn.....01638 500237  
Trevor Harris  
Rev Eve Bell.....07815 441304  
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:  
Helen Gale.....07971 282545  
Wickhambrook Stores.....01440 820220  
Garage.....01638 500080  
Bowls Club.....01638 500438  
Newspaper Deliveries.....01440 820969  
Village Hall  
Bookings...www.ousdenvillagehall.org.uk/bookings  
Email.....ousdenvh@gmail.com  
Website.....www.ousdenvillagehall.org.uk  
The Fox.....01638 500740

### Nearest Defibrillator

Outside The Fox Public House (Postcode: CB8 8TR / What3Words: dandelions.takers.dignify)  
In an emergency, ring 999, the ambulance service will give you an access code if required.

### Ousden Website !

For more information on news and events please visit:  
[www.ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Or look up  
Ousden Village Facebook Page



The Fox Inn  
Ousden 

Quiz Nights  
Bingo  
Coffee Mornings

### Opening Times

Monday – Sunday  
12.00pm – 11.00pm

### Meals Served

Wednesday, Thursday      Sunday Roast  
Friday & Saturday      12.00pm - 3.30pm  
12.00pm—8.00pm

Tel: 01638 500740



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# WHATS ON IN OUSDEN

## ***Dates for your Diary.....***

### **Village Hall**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March  
Café Stop - 10am -12pm

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### **Parish Council Meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Annual Meeting of  
Ousden Parish Council at 6pm  
Followed by  
Ousden's Annual Parish Meeting  
(a village meeting) at 7pm

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### **Mobile Library**

11<sup>th</sup> April / 9<sup>th</sup> May / 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Village Hall – 10.35am-11.05am

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### **The Fox**

#### **OAP Lunch**

16<sup>th</sup> April

21<sup>st</sup> May

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#### **Quiz Night**

22<sup>nd</sup> April

20<sup>th</sup> May

-

#### **Easter Bingo**

5<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Egg Prizes!

#### **Bingo**

19<sup>th</sup> April

3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May



**NP NUNN**  
EQUINE FEED & BEDDING

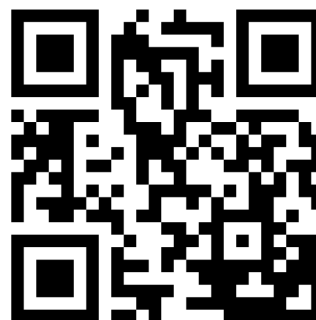
Shavings

Feed

Hay

Straw

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### **VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY**

**A CHANCE TO WIN & HELP FUND THE  
NEW VILLAGE HALL**

Contact Jessamy Saltmarsh:  
[jessamy.saltmarsh194@btinternet.com](mailto:jessamy.saltmarsh194@btinternet.com) or  
01638500816 for details

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