

HANDY LOCAL NUMBERS

All Saints' Primary School 01284 828223
Little Saplings Pre-school hello@lawshalllittlesaplings.co.uk 01284 652 344
All Saints' Church - Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845 (Long Melford)
Catholic Church 01284 754358 * Free Church, Paul Mitchell 01284 828694
Village Hall Lottery Co-ordinator: Leanne Hornby 01284 830895
Lawshall Archives: Elizabeth Clarke 07813 430985 elizlawshall@btinternet.com
Local History Recorder: Valerie Monk 07961 816605
Willows Residential Care Home 01284 830665
Green Light Trust Office 01284 830829 *
Lawshall Community Woodlands - Forest For Our Children -
Hana Jones 07813 984970

The Swan Public House 01284 828477
Newspaper delivery - Sicklesmere Stores Ltd 01284 386303

Excelan Chauffeur Services 01284 789503 / 07816 663 542
A1 Cars 24 hr Taxi 01284 766777 Greenline Travel 07754 298690
Traveline 0871 200 22 33

Anglian Water emergencies / enquiries 0845 7145145
UK Power Networks Emergency number: 0800 31 63 105
EDF Electricity emergencies 0800 7838838
Babergh District Council Helpline 0300 123 4000
Suffolk County Council 0345 606 6067

Police: Bury Police Station 701284 74100
Crime Stoppers 0800 555111
Police HQ main switchboard (non-emergency) 01473 613500
contact baberghwest.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk Tel 101 or 999 for emergency
Suffolk Fire Service 01473 260588 e-mail: fire.admin@suffolk.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau 01284 753675
Samaritans 116123 (Freephone)
Bury Train Station Customer Service 0845 600 7245
BBC Radio Suffolk 0800 1412121
Tourist Information 01284 764667
Bury Leisure Centre 01284 753496
Bury Library 01284 732255

Local Doctors: Glensford Practice 01787 280484
Long Melford Practice 01787 378226
Mount Farm Surgery, Moreton Hall, Bury 01284 769643
NHS Direct 111 for urgent (non-emergency) medical help
West Suffolk Hospital switchboard 01284 713000, A&E 01284 713333
St Nicholas' Hospice 01284 766133. Patients' Line 01284 725700

Local Vets: Swayne & Partners (BSE) 01284 701444, (Melford) 01787 370773
Eastgate Vet Group (BSE) 01284 753961
Moreton Hall (BSE) Vets 01284 747000

[illegible]

www.lawshallvillagehall.co.uk

This magazine is published by

Lawshall Village Hall Management Committee.

We reserve the right to edit, shorten or refuse any item submitted for publication and cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of any claims made by advertisers.

**Copy deadline for the April 2025 magazine
6pm Saturday 15th March - earlier welcome!**

**Copy should be emailed to the editor, Julia Keys at
editorofranda@gmail.com mobile 07799373454**

To place an **advertisement** in this magazine
please contact **Leanne Hornby** at leanneandpeter2@gmail.com
Telephone 01284 830895 or at Hills Farm, Bury Road, IP29 4PJ

Black and White Adverts: price per issue:

Quarter page (9x6cm) £6	Half page (9x12.5cm) £10
Full page (18x12.5cm) £20	Back cover £30 per issue

Wanted / For Sale - £2 per entry; Lost or Found items - Free of charge

Welcome to the Village, Births, Marriages, Deaths - free of charge, just let the editor know.

Check out our **website** at <http://www.lawshallvillagehall.co.uk>

To discuss anything about the website
please contact Jenna Kitchen on 01284 830022

The proceeds from this magazine will go towards the upkeep and improvement of Lawshall Village Hall, registered charity number 304911

VILLAGE HALL HIRE CHARGES

Lawshall residents... £15 per hour Other users..... £17 per hour
Groups regularly using the hall on a weekly or monthly basis... £12 per hour
Groups that are not regular users... £17 per hour
Children's parties £47 for four hours, to include setting up and clearing away.
Booking Secretary: Leanne Hornby 01284 830895 leanneandpeter2@gmail.com

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Village Hall Management Committee

Chairman: Peter Ward 07931 898326

Secretary: Rosemary Riches. 01284 830757 richesrosemary32@gmail.com

Treasurer and Booking Secretary: Leanne Hornby 01284 830895
leanneandpeter2@gmail.com

Caretaker: Sharon Marshall 01284 830182 07943 215537

Committee Members: Ian Carrington 01284 830497, Julian Delefortrie 07976 313137
Wendy Harris 01284 830449, Julia Keys 07799 373454, Jenna Kitchen 01284 830022

Lawshall Parish Council www.lawshall.suffolk.gov.uk/

Chairman: Mark Anson 07990 773469

Vice-Chair: Catherine Baynton 07799 364147

Parish Clerk: Louisa Mower 07761 737649 lawshallpcclerk@outlook.com

Councillors: Juliet Frost 07790 231136 Andrew Irish 01284 827500 Melvin Coe 07850 445890 and Robert Staveley 07717 197137

District Cllrs: Stephen Plumb. email: Stephen.Plumb@babergh.gov.uk and

Michael Holt. email: Michael.Holt@babergh.gov.uk

County Cllr: Richard Kemp 01787 378149 Richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk

Village Clubs and Organisations - held in the Village Hall

Lawshall Carpet Bowls: every 1st and 3rd Mon 2-4pm ; contact 07976 313 137

Lawshall Ladies : meetings once per month, days vary, 7pm for contact see p29

Table Tennis Wednesdays 7.30pm, Contact Julian on 07976 313 137

Not in VH: Coldham Hall FC / Cricket - Contact Chris Toole; loftytoole@yahoo.co.uk or Ben Atkinson on 07921 837296 www.hartestandcoldhamcc.blogspot.co.uk

Lawshall Postal Collections

All six postboxes are now collected at the same times Mon - Fri 9am; Sat 7am

Coldham, The Glebe, Lambs Lane/Rectory Corner, Lawshall Green

Donkey Lane, School/The Street. NO Sunday collections.

Chambers Bus Times route 375 ~ Lawshall to Bury: every Wednesday

From Sudbury bus Stn 09.15, Lawshall School 9.57, arriving BSE Bus Stn 10.24
Return from Bury Bus Stn 13.00, arr Lawshall school 13.27, Sudbury bus Stn 14.10

Felix Sudbury Bus Timetable (Thursday only)

Leaving The Street at 9.40am & return trip leaving Sudbury bus station at 12.45pm.

Library Vans Email: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk Tel 01473 351249

Route 7: Thursdays, 6 March, 3 April- Free Church 9.50-10.20am, Swanfields 10.25am-10.40am & Village Hall car park 10.45am-11.25am.

Route 10: Tuesdays, 11 March, 8 April Melons Green, 12.50-1.05pm

Refuse Collection

Early every Monday or Friday morning alternating weekly with blue bin & black bin (Tuesday/Saturday morning collection in week following a bank holiday).

THE TELL-TALE SIGNS THAT IT'S TIME FOR A NEW WEBSITE

- It's slow
- It looks outdated
- It doesn't sell your products
- It's difficult to maintain
- Your website isn't being found in search engine rankings



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The Swan Inn



Our next quiz will be 23rd March, all welcome. Please call to book in a team.

We are now taking bookings for Mother's Day on 30th March.

Don't forget! Our pub favourites are available for takeaways Wednesday through to Sunday. We offer wood-fired pizzas on Thursdays and Saturdays and Roasts on Sundays.

Call 01284 828 477 for all bookings.

Laura and Lawrence

www.swaninnlawshall.com

email: theswanlawshall@gmail.com

COCKFIELD COMMUNITY CINEMA PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)



Friday 28th March
Cockfield Village Hall
Doors Open 7pm
Film starts 7:30pm
Tickets on the door
Adults: £4.50
Under 16s: £3.00

Raffle, Refreshments & Licensed Bar available from 7pm

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Lawshall Village Hall Draw Results February 2025 Draw

1st Prize £50	I Copping	149
2nd Prize £20	R Riches	104
3rd Prize £10	M Jones	323
4th Prize £10	J Edgar	430
5th Prize £10	P Branch	21

If **you** would like to support your Village Hall lottery download an application form from the village hall website at

<http://lawshallvillagehall.co.uk/lottery-2/>

Or contact: **Leanne Hornby on 01284 830895**

Thank you to Ian Carrington who co-ordinates the collectors.

The **Suffolk Advice and Support Line** is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Call **0800 068 3131** if you are worrying about your bills, your job or your home as a result of the cost of living crisis.



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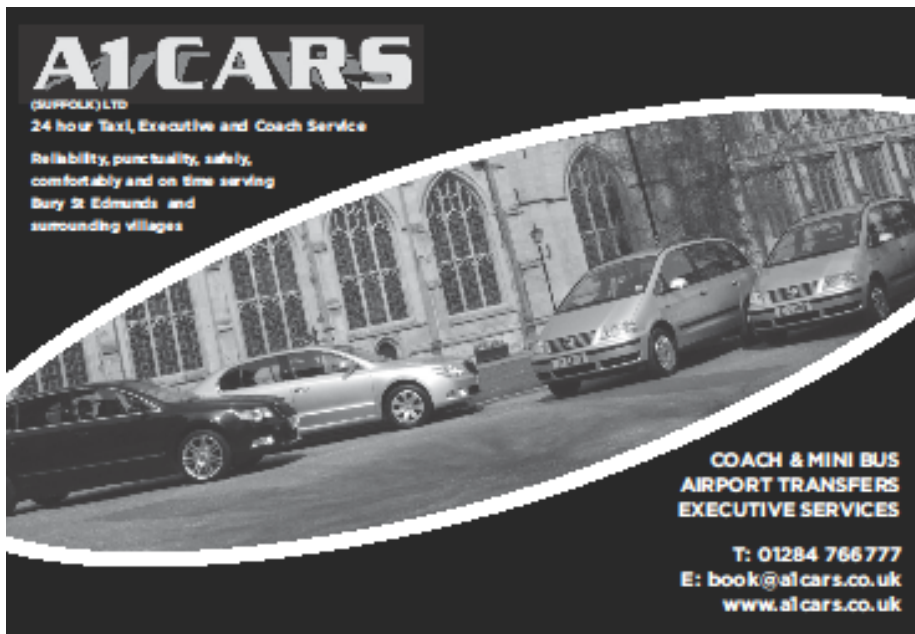
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What's On in Lawshall in March 2025

Coming up...

Tuesday 11th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall	p9
Thursday 13th 7pm	Lawshall Ladies - Japanese Bookbinding	p19
Wednesday 19th 10.30am - 12.30pm	Community Café in the Village Hall	p6
Friday 21st 7 - 9pm	Bingo in the Village Hall	
Sunday 23rd	Team Quiz at the Swan	p4
Friday 28th 2-4pm	Community Friday at the Village Hall	p21
Sunday 30th 9.30-12.30	Lawshall Community Woodland trimming willow fedge and maze	p25

Regular events...

Monday 2pm	Carpet Bowls, February 3rd and 17th in the Village Hall	
Tuesday 10 - 12.15am	Pilates in the Village Hall	p19
Wednesday - fortnightly	Knit, Knot & Natter at the Swan	p6
Wednesday 5.30 - 6.40pm	Fish & Chips in the Village Hall car park	
Wednesday 7.30pm	Table Tennis in the Village Hall	p8
Thursday 5-8pm	Mexican Food Van in the Village Hall Carpark	p16
Friday 3-4pm	Fresh Fish Van - John Skelly visits Lawshall - Please note change of day	

Dates for your diary...

Wednesday 16th April	Community Café in the Village Hall
Friday 18th April	Bingo at the Village Hall
Friday 25th April	Community Friday at the Village Hall
Sunday 27th April	Community Woodland



LAWSHALL VILLAGE HALL – for you to use and enjoy

www.lawshallvillagehall.co.uk

View or download a colour copy of R&A from the website.



Village Hall Booking

Newly painted bright hall 14.2m by 9m, (47ft by 30ft) with good sized stage 4.8m by 2.6m, (16ft by 8.5ft) – walls newly painted and floor sealed. Additional smaller Jubilee room for

meetings, classes, gatherings and performances, with serving hatch to kitchen.

- * Sound system
- * WiFi with Bluetooth
- * Bar service can be arranged
- * Kitchen with dishwasher
- * Projector available on request
- * Wedding package available

Please contact Leanne Hornby 01284 830895 leanneandpeter2@gmail.com

See inside front cover for prices

Community Café

Join us on

Wednesday 19th March

10.30 – 12.30, Lawshall Village Hall

Delicious cakes, fresh coffee,
good company!



Choose Refills: refill your empty bottles with eco-friendly toiletries and cleaning products, plus 'dry goods' – nuts, seeds, fruits, cereals, teas, herbs.

♻️ As an additional service to café patrons, we now collect small recyclable items such as batteries, printer cartridges, light bulbs, tetra-pak cartons and plastic bags.

All proceeds to Lawshall Village Hall



CANCER RESEARCH UK Together we are beating cancer

Come and join us for a

BIG BREAKFAST

At LAWSHALL VILLAGE HALL

On Sunday 13th April 2025

9.00-12.00

To book a table contact

Jacqui-annward@hotmail.com

Buffet breakfast will include:

Cereal, croissants, jams, yoghurt, fresh fruit, selection of cheeses, cold meats, fruit juice, tea/coffee

Hot food cooked to order including:

Sausage, bacon, egg, mushrooms, baked beans, hash brown

Lawshall Evangelical Free Church

Hanningfield Green,

Lawshall,

Ip29 4qd



Just a Thought....

John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University made this interesting statement in relation to creation, "There are not many options - essentially just two. Either human intelligence ultimately owes its origin to mindless matter; or there is a creator. It is strange that some people claim that it is their intelligence that leads them to prefer the first option rather than the second."

It's interesting to note that throughout the whole Bible, there's never an argument for the existence of God. In fact, one of the few verses that address the issue states that it is 'the fool who says in his heart, there is no God' Psalm 14 verse 1. But it reveals one fundamental truth about the atheistic worldview - it's definitely mistaken. The atheistic worldview tells us that billions of years ago, a random chance event happened where matter came into existence. And through an innumerable series of other random events, over billions of years, inanimate matter evolved into the life we have today - nothing creating something - which does appear foolish.

But God has declared that, "Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made..., so that we are without excuse" Romans 1 v 20; that is, no excuse for thinking He doesn't exist and that we're not accountable to Him. Whether we choose to believe it or not, 'each of us shall give account of ourselves to God' Romans 14 v 12, and be judged accordingly. However, although unable to settle the account ourselves because 'the redemption of our souls is costly..., that we should continue to live eternally and not see the Pit' Psalm 49 v 8-9, the good news is that God, in His great love for us, provided that redemption when Jesus died on the cross; He satisfied His justice by 'laying on Him (Jesus) the sin (and it's penalty) of us all' Isaiah 53 v 6 – that is, all who come to Him in repentance and willingly submit their lives to Him.

We invite you to our Sunday morning services which are from 11.00 to 12.00 to find out more about the Lord Jesus Christ and why He came to earth. We also run a "Little Treasures" parent and toddler group on a Thursday morning 10.00 to 12.00 during school term.

Richard Kemp

County Councillor

01787 378149

Richard.Kemp@suffolk.gov.uk

Adam Kemp BA Hons
DipPFS Cert.CII (MP&ER)
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NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

I am pleased to report that following a successful trend over the last couple of years, the hall finances are now in a stable position following a period of struggling to make ends meet. This is due, in no small way, to your continued patronage of the hall and its facilities and the outstanding contribution of our many volunteers.

Over the last couple of years, we have had a very active Events sub-committee, and their commitment and hard work has been exceptional. Thanks to those who have and continue to contribute, Wendy Harris, Rosemary Riches, Margie Bartholomew, Ingrid Grant, Jacqui Ward, Mark Jones, and Rob Sands. Jon and Sarah Warboys also organised an excellent quiz last year. Thanks also to Lawshall Ladies for the transfer of the Community Cafe to the hall.

There are many other volunteers who always seem to readily offer help and assistance when required. This has all helped greatly with the hall finances.

We have also benefited from grants issued from our own Parish Council and from Suffolk Council, both towards security measures.

From a position of financial stability, we can manage maintenance and repairs efficiently as well as carrying out some major replacements, such as the oven, fridge freezer, microwave, and gates. 2025 is already looking very promising.

Please keep an eye on the R&A for up-and-coming events as well as for information on regular groups and activities. Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Ward

Well done to the Village Hall committee for organising the Valentines Dance. Rollercoaster the band were excellent and everyone was up dancing (especially my husband!). A special thanks to the ladies for preparing the lovely supper. Thanks again to everyone involved for the hard work to trying to make these events a success. Looking forward to the next one.

Karen Whordley

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Lawshall Community Woodlands

Forest for Our Children

. SEED TO TREE NEEDS PLACES TO PLANT!!

Seed to Tree is a valuable connection between our primary school and Lawshall Community Woodlands that has been running for more than twenty five years.

A group of woodland volunteers runs sessions with the school children to link them to Golden Wood and encourage them to experience the joys of the outdoors, planting, nature, wildlife and practical woodland management.

Until this year, the planting session we run with the Year 4 class (eight and nine year olds) has involved planting trees and hedges in Golden Wood. But we have run out of space!

We are interested in hearing from anyone who perhaps has a patch of land big or small which could be planted with trees or shrubs to enrich it. It would need to be within a safe walkable distance from the school. We plan to take on the planting with the children in February 2026, so there is plenty of time to have a think and make a plan.

Please get in touch if you think you could help in any way.

Alice Page (alicepage@outlook.com)



District Councillors for Chadacre Ward:

Stephen Plumb stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk and

Michael Holt Michael.Holt@babergh.gov.uk

Dcllr **Stephen Plumb** holds a Ward Surgery in **Glemsford** every 3rd Friday and everyone is welcome to attend with any queries or questions.





Willows

Residential Care Home



The Willows is a friendly residential care home for elderly ladies and gentlemen and is part of the Extrafriend group of care homes.

We are situated in the village of Lawshall which is about 6 miles south of Bury-St-Edmunds, Suffolk. Set in 2 large tranquil landscaped gardens and surrounded by countryside, The Willows (Originally a farmhouse) has been sympathetically and tastefully extended and refurbished and is now home to 25 residents.

Care Manager, Mrs Teresa Strudwick says that: "All clients are treated as individuals with dignity and respect and where client comfort and safety come first".

If you would like further information on admission arrangements and fees, please contact our Care Home Manager on 01284-830665 who will be pleased to answer any questions and arrange a tour of our Home.

We look forward to welcoming you to the

Willows Residential Home

Corders Farm, Bury Road, Lawshall, Suffolk IP29 4PJ

Telephone: 01284 830665

Web: www.willowshome.co.uk

Email: willows-manager@extrafriend.co.uk

LAWSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Turtle Dove Project Update

On the *Designated County Wildlife Site (CWS)* at Lawshall Green, the expansion and deepening of two ponds has been completed. This work has been funded by Suffolk Wildlife Trust.



The aim is to attract back the Turtle Doves that used to inhabit The Green until only a few years ago. These beautiful, but now rare doves, whose 'gentle purring' used to be one of our treasured sounds of summer, need a mix of water, meadow and thicket. We have re-created the perfect habitat for them.

So here's hoping...

Nigel and Ric, on behalf of Lawshall Parish Council

Great British Spring Clean

Lawshall Parish Council hope to organise an event between the 21st of March and the 6th of April. More information to follow on Facebook (Lawshall Neighbourhood Group) and the Parish Calendar.

Public forum

If possible, please email the clerk by the end of the month with matters for consideration at parish council meetings so these can be included in the agenda and discussions.

Useful Online Reporting Tools

Many issues can be reported online by residents at <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online> including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly tipping. Floods can be reported at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk>. Local road closure information can be found at <https://suffolk.roadworks.org/>.

Details of and contacts for Sudbury Rural North, our local policing team can be found at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk> or <https://www.police.uk/your-area/suffolk-constabulary/sudbury-rural-north/?yourlocalpolicingteam=about-us>. A monthly local crime map can be viewed at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/area/your-area/suffolk/sudbury-and-haverhill/sudbury-rural-north/about-us/crime-map>.



Michael Edwards

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Email: kevinseggie@yahoo.com

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Weekends and Bank Holidays 9am – 12 noon

Post Office is closed every Sunday and Bank Holiday



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All Saints' Church

March services at All Saints' Lawshall:

- Sunday 9th March Café Church on the theme of hope
- Sunday 30th March at 6.30pm - Evening Communion



Please keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for details of services at other churches in the Benefice.

For general enquiries please contact: Revd. Matthew Lawson 01787 310 845 or Jean Clements Churchwarden 01284 828 423. For more information on the services and other events being held by All Saints' Church in Lawshall, please check out:

our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AllSaintsLawshall

or website: www.achurchnearyou.com/all-saints-lawshall

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Applications are outlined during monthly meetings and residents are able to contribute to the Public Forum, but unfortunately Lawshall Parish Council can only submit their own comments. There is an 'Application search, track and comment' tool that members of the public can use at <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/>. Further details about applications can also be found there.

PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED - TELECOMMUNICATIONS -

DC/24/05442 Proposal: Application for prior approval for a proposed: Mast and associated apparatus; The Town & Country Planning Order 2015 (General Permitted Development). Location: Land At Village Hall, Harrow Green, Lawshall, IP29 4PB.

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) APPROVED - DC/23/00384 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for - Conditions 5 (External Materials), Condition 12 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy), 14 (Surface Water), Condition 16 (Electric Vehicle Charging Details), 17 (Cycle Storage Details) and 18 (Bin Storage Details). Location: Land At, Corner Farm, Lawshall Road.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/00002

Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch with open timber canopy. Location: 1 Brands Lane, Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds, IP29 4SF. No objections from Lawshall Parish Council.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/00103

Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of rear/side single storey extension including roof lantern and roof lights to extension and rear of property and erection of front porch. Location: Fieldfare, Shimpling Road, Lawshall, Bury St Edmunds, IP29 4QE. Comments invited by 6th March 2025.



Sheep have been assisting with the hoped for return of turtle doves by grazing on Lawshall Green. See p9 for further details.



Preparing for the Unexpected: Conversations on Life & Legacy

An evening with Nigel Hughes and Matthew Hutton
Introduced by Rachel Sloane

In aid of St Elizabeth's Hospice



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Tuesday 18th March : 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Sizewell Sports & Social Club, Leiston

Green Light Trust

Hello from Green Light Trust, your local environmental wellbeing charity! In the last few weeks, our education provision at Green Light Trust in Frithy Wood has welcomed students back for the new year. Our post-16 education pathway is for those aged 16-25 who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), where our expert tutors offer support in a nature-based setting for young people unable to attend mainstream school.

Alongside literacy and numeracy activities, our participants are also able to get stuck into their natural environment and work on practical projects too.

For example, one participant is completing a project using trail cameras, and has been excited to capture footage of foxes, deer, pheasants and badgers.

We've also just started our 'whimsical woodland' project. Inspired by maps of AA Milne's Hundred Acre Wood, the students are creating mini woodland landmarks to go on an illustrated map, including a woodland library, seesaws, gnomes and fairy doors. There will be more photos to come of this as the project develops!

Do check our social media channels for photos and updates of our work, and feel free to get in touch at info@greenlighttrust.org for any information.

Phoebe Lucas
Marketing & Fundraising Officer
Green Light Trust



"Building Health, Hope
and Happiness through
the Power of Nature"

Community Friday

Join us on the fourth Friday of each month for a friendly get-together



First session - Friday 28th March 2pm-4pm

In Lawshall Village Hall

There will be a £2 charge to cover refreshments.

For further details contact Wendy Harris grandmacoe@yahoo.co.uk



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Lawshall Garden Club

As we welcome March, and look forward to enjoying our gardens, after the cold and wet of the past few months, we must remember to be **patient!** This is a time for preparing the ground for planting, weeding before the weeds get too established and applying a good mulch, to retain as much moisture as possible for the coming season.

If you have daffodils, which have finished flowering, just dead-head them. Don't cut them back until the plant leaves have collapsed as this will feed the bulb ready for flowering again next year. It is also the time to finish the pruning of roses.



Don't be tempted by garden centres, enticing us to buy bedding plants, it is important to resist buying plants that will not withstand harsh frosts, that will still happen this month (unless you have a greenhouse or conservatory to protect them). However, hardy perennials can be safely planted. Just keep them fed, with a good mulch around them and keep them well watered (if the weather doesn't do it for you).

This month is also the time to recommence mowing the lawn if it's not too wet, just remember to set the mower on a high setting. Rake up moss from your grass and sow grass seed, to rejuvenate your lawn.

Other jobs to consider: -

Planting of Lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders.

If you have a greenhouse, you can sow tomatoes, chillies, peppers and aubergines. Make sure that your greenhouse is thoroughly cleaned and keep it ventilated on the warmer days.

Scatter general-purpose fertiliser over flowerbeds and around roses, shrubs and hedges

As always, enjoy your gardens and take pleasure in the start of spring. Our next meeting is at The Swan, on the last Wednesday of the month (26th March) at 7pm, if you would like to come along and meet like-minded gardeners. Membership is only £5 per person per year.

Lawshall Garden Club – jparker.co@btconnect.com for any information.

From the Archives March 2025

Every year as soon as the Sugar Beet harvesting begins I remember my father going out to the fields when the crop begins to grow to single out the beet with a hoe. It was arduous, work, not good for the back. Dad would often come back wet and cold and I remember he had a hessian sack tied round his waist. I am sure he would have agreed with this quote from the internet. "Sugar beet singling has been called the 'worst of jobs'. The word 'singling' is distinct from thinning turnips. It entails not only the removal of all weeds from around the small plants as happens in thinning but it also requires the separation of a number of shoots that emerged from the multigerm sugar beet seed". The crop had first come to this country in the early 20th century



after a group of Dutch investors began offering contracts to Norfolk farmers to grow it to be shipped to Holland for processing. By 1912, they were satisfied the crop could be grown in this country and built the factory at Cantley in Norfolk. However, sugar beet did not become a staple crop in Britain's agricultural economy (*and a must-grow crop for most Norfolk farmers*) until 1936.



The two photos above show the beet harvesting in the early 1970s on Harrow Field, Lawshall. You will all have seen the huge tractors and trailers and lorries going to Bury, but back then all the farm equipment was much smaller. No cabs, so out in the elements all day, and of course, no night time working.

Bird Notes

February this year was mainly so cold, wet, and sometimes very windy, that you could have been forgiven for thinking that the spring weather was never going to arrive. However, during that miserable time, the first migrant birds will have already been on their way here to spend the summer with us - trusting that warmer weather and a supply of fresh insect food will materialise soon.

Among the first of our migrant species to arrive is the chiffchaff, which will be heard and seen in Golden wood by the second week of March according to my records in previous years. Some chiffchaffs do not migrate all the way to Africa nowadays, so there is always the chance of seeing one in the winter, but it will not be singing then.



Another warbler that has begun the trend of not migrating for the winter is the blackcap, both the black headed and the chestnut brown capped female are staying permanently here in larger numbers. They, and the chiffchaffs, have decided that the risks of finding enough food here throughout the winter as our climate gets gradually ever warmer (thus keeping insects alive), is a better option than all the dangers that a full migration involves.

I have not yet managed to see a blackcap here during the winter myself, though I have seen several resident chiffchaffs. Whether this is due to my lack of skill, the numbers of chiffchaffs being relatively higher, or just luck I couldn't say. I just believe that one day I will get one on the garden feeders in the winter.

Cliff Cooper



Knit Knot & Natter

Every other Wednesday at The Swan. New members welcome.
For the date of our next meeting email editorofranda@gmail.com

Lawshall Ladies

Lawshall Ladies meet once a month to take part in a wide range of social activities. For any further information about Lawshall Ladies, please contact: **Sarah Warboys 07885 470385 or Claire Ramsey 07415 195289**

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The factory at Bury St Edmunds started operations in 1924, and has been processing sugar beet grown in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire ever since. In 1972, Silver Spoon was established as British Sugar's retail arm and is the branding that's recognised on supermarket shelves today. During 1973, the Bury Sugar Beet Factory became the largest in Europe when two new silos were built.

The Suffolk Wildlife Trust magazine has just been delivered and contains this information. The SWT is thrilled with the news that the UK Government has upheld the ban on thiamethoxam - a banned "neonic" pesticide highly toxic to bees, pollinators, and river life. For five years, the UK Government had repeatedly approved the "emergency" use of the bee-killing pesticide on sugar beet, at the request of British Sugar and the NFU. However following extensive lobbying and campaigning from The Wildlife Trusts - including a petition with over 300,000 signatures - the government has finally upheld the ban, marking an end to the pesticide's devastating impact on British wildlife. This marks a pivotal moment in tackling the sugar industry's reliance on toxic chemicals that are used heavily across East Anglia in the production of sugar beet, yet pollute our soils and rivers and kill countless bees and pollinators.

Elizabeth Clarke elizlawshall@btinternet.com 07813 430 985



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