

The PICKENHAMS'

Community Newsletter for North and South Pickenhams

MAY 2025

In print and on-line this month

What's on at the Hub: May 2025

MONDAY:

Fitness in later life - exercise class (reece@fill.fit) 12.30-1.30

Table Tennis (Gwyn on 07873 730291) 2.00-4.00

Gardening Club (Hayley on 07775 332560) 6.00-7.00

TUESDAY: Table Tennis (Gwyn on 07873 730291) 2.00-4.00

WEDNESDAY: Knitting and Stitching Club 2.00-4.00

Carpet Bowls (Keith on 07771 936686) 2.00-4.00

THURSDAY: Table Tennis (Gwyn on 07873 730291) 6.00-8.00

FRIDAY:

Pickenham Hub Café 10.00-2.00

Legless Saxon Bar 7.00 'til late

SATURDAY:

Pickenham Hub Café 10.00-2.00

Kids Play Area 10.30 - 1.30

SUNDAY: Dog Training (barkingbasicdogtraining@outlook.com) 10.00 - 12.30

+ + + PLUS + + +

FRIDAY 2 May: Cash Bingo Night 7 for 7.30pm. Over 18s only.

FRIDAY 9 May: CHRIS'S QUIZ: 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

£10 per person including a fish and chips supper or ploughman's (advance orders only).

Up to 7 per team. Bar open from 7. Booking essential as numbers limited..

Register your team with Melanie on 07840 814417 or via pickenhamcommunityhub@gmail.com.

**TUESDAY 13 May: *by the book* and Neil's Cakes and Bakes present
"One of Our Airmen is Missing".**

A 1940's Murder Mystery with High Tea from 6 pm. Advance booking essential as places are limited.

Tickets £23. Contact *by the book* on 01485 522349 or email adrian@buyanotherbook.com.

FRIDAY 20 June: SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION.

From 7 pm. Free entry. Bar, BBQ and Bonfire.

Large meeting space available for hire - full time, part time or one-off hire options
for classes, groups events and parties. Contact us on pickenhamcommunityhub@gmail.com

The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025



Veterans Central is a facility for Military and Emergency Services veterans, serving personnel and families, as well as associated charities, organizations and veterans to support activities, wellbeing and engagement. Open all year Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 10 to 3.

Facebook: West Raynham SHQ Veterans Central

Web: <https://veteranscentral.co.uk>. Contact us at: info@veteranscentral.co.uk

SHQ, 5 Blenheim Way, West Raynham Business Park, Fakenham, NR21 7PL

DOG OWNERS/WALKERS



Do your bit to help keep North and South Pickenhams safe, clean and healthy by making sure you pick up your dog's mess. It can be disposed of in the various bins provided. There's a bright red bin for dog waste at Johnson's Playing Field, North Pickenham.

Please don't put dog waste in the black bin in the children's play area near the picnic tables, nor in the bin in the Bus Shelter.

Also, it's best not to let your dog approach another person unless it's someone you know likes dogs! Please keep your dog under close control at all times and do not let it wander unattended particularly on the playing field.

Residents who have direct access to the playing field, please keep your gates shut at all times so that your pets cannot gain unsupervised access to the playing field.

Many thanks!

The Pickenhams' Newsletter is produced by volunteers.
It's delivered to all homes in North Pickenham and South Pickenham and is on-line at:

<https://nthpickenhamparish.wixsite.com/nthpickenhampc>
and

<http://southpickenhampc.wixsite.com/southpickenhampc>

We can also send it direct to your email in-box.
Just send your email address to pickenhamsperiodical@gmail.com

The Pickenhams' Newsletter welcomes adverts, which we publish in good faith but recommend that potential customers/clients should check on claims to qualifications and certification made in any advertisement.

Please email pickenhamsperiodical@gmail.com for rates etc.

Copy needed by the 15th of the month.



The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025

South Pickenham Estate FIREWOOD SUPPLIES

Barn stored seasoned split hardwood



**Free delivery in the Swaffham area
All of our firewood is from well managed woodland
and is fully sustainable
2m³ or 2.5m³ loads**

**Contact
The Estate Office
Tel 01760 756376
www.southpickenham.co.uk
info@specoffice.co.uk**

THE PICKENHAMS' QUIZ

National dishes from around the World

1 – Pad Thai is a popular stir-fried rice noodle dish served with chicken, prawn or tofu, topped with peanuts – it is from which country? 2 – Goulash, a beef stew with potatoes, onions and paprika comes from which European country? 3 – Bulgogi is thinly sliced marinated beef cooked on a grill – in a restaurant it is usually cooked at your table, by your waiter – in which far eastern country? 4 – In which European country would you expect to eat Paella – a rice dish with saffron, seafood and chicken? 5 – Wiener Schnitzel, also European, is a breaded and fried thin slice of veal, or sometimes other meat – but from which country? 6 – Tacos al Pastor is a popular street food, consisting of marinated pork, in which country? 7 – Ackee and Saltfish is a staple breakfast dish in which Caribbean country? 8 – In which country would you eat Moussaka – layers of ground meat, beef or lamb, sandwiched between thinly sliced aubergine, topped with a Bechamel sauce? 9 – Traditionally which country is home to the Fondue – meat, bread or vegetables dipped in a pot of hot gooey cheese? 10 – The Meat Pie is the national favourite of which country – they are available everywhere, including petrol stations and general stores, the most popular is venison and plum.

Last month's answers: The Largest, Smallest, Longest, Tallest.

1 – The Nile; 2 – Vatican City; 3 – Ostrich; 4 – Tokyo; 5 – Stick Insect (Chinese);
6 – South America (The Andes, 5500 miles long); 7 – Giraffe; 8 – Mercury; 9 – Australia; and 10 – Sweden (221,800).

Well done if you got the right answers!

MUSIC IN NORFOLK

Gooderstone Swan: 1st Tuesday Every Month - Jam Night; 3rd Tuesday Every Month - Folk Night

Dereham The Cock: Every Sunday Afternoon - Live Music

**Festivals in Norfolk: 21st June Fakenham Rugby Club. - Fitzroy Festival; 3 - 6th July - Castle Acre - Folk In The Field;
9 - 13th July - Dereham Blues Festival - 50 Bands - 20 Venues; 1 - 3rd August - West Acre - Harlequinn Fayre**

St. Marys Church, Houghton - On - The – Hill, Summer Of Music.

**Saturday 3rd May 4pm - Serendipity - Woodwind Trio; Saturday 17th May 4pm - - The Elmore String Quartet;
Saturday 7th June 4pm - Harpist Benjamin Creighton Griffiths; Saturday 28th June 4pm - Blue Sky Jazz; Saturday
19th July 3pm - Joanne McGahon The London Soprano.**

St Mary's Church, Houghton-on-the-Hill



Summer Opening: Last weekend in March to last weekend in October - every day: 2pm to 4pm

See above for our Summer of Music Concerts!



**SUPPLY & INSTALLATION
OF WOODBURNERS**

**NORFOLK
WOODBURNERS** Norfolk's agent for Aga, Hunter & Parkray Stoves

 **AGA**
CAST IRON STOVES

**Hunter**
STOVES

**PARKRAY**

01328 700161

www.norfolkwoodburners.co.uk

DIT'S FISH AND CHIPS

Your weekly treat

- tasty fish, chips, sausages, burgers etc.

For a locally based, friendly and reliable service, we
are at North Pickenham (opposite the Bus Stop)
on Saturdays, from approx 6.15pm to 6.45pm

Telephone Dit on: 07780 000278

Karen's Cuts.

Hairdressing for all the family.

Look Good and Feel Good!

Riverside House, Meadow Lane, North Pickenham.

Tel: 01760 440027.

Email: k.farnsworth@btinternet.com.

Appointments only.



— GREEN MAN —
WOODLANDS

FOR ALL OF YOUR TREE SURGERY AND HEDGING NEEDS.

Call or email Matt and Jo to arrange a free, no
obligation quote

TEL 01760755760/07879614092

info@greenmanwoodlands.co.uk

www.greenmanwoodlands.co.uk



City &
Guilds
NPTC
Qualified



The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025



THE PICKENHAMS' WI: May 2025 Update



On Tuesday, 8th April we met at The George Hotel, Swaffham to celebrate our WI's 75th Birthday! We had a short meeting around the tables, including an update on forthcoming events. One of our members had baked, iced and decorated a fantastic WI 75th Birthday cake, of which we were all given a slice at the end of our meal to take home. We were served a delicious meal and it was an extremely enjoyable event. One of our members had decorated a large Easter egg and had also created a beautiful flower arrangement; the room looked extremely festive as a result. The competition was 'A homemade birthday bonnet' and this was won by Didge.

During the month several of our members went to Pentney for a WI lunch. Our WI walk has become a very popular feature of the month and several of us went for a WI walk on 16th April, this time meeting at Waitrose as our starting point. Members also met for coffee at Margaret's Tea Room in Swaffham.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 13th May at 2pm at St Andrew's Church, North Pickenham, when our speaker will be Chris Hollick, a local artist, talking about his change in career from engineer to artist. Chris will bring his sketch books and samples of work, some for sale. The competition will be: any handcrafted art work of your own.

We welcome all visitors to our meetings.

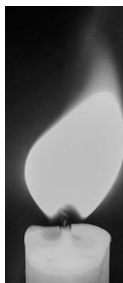
*If you would like more information, please contact
our President, Carol Richards on 07873 744971,
or our Secretary, Melanie Cousins on 07840 814417.*

Every Monday morning (except Bank Holidays) is COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING TIME!

10.30am to noon at St. Andrew's Church, North Pickenham.

Coffee/tea; cakes and savouries. Only £2!

See you there! All ages welcome.



WWII 80th Anniversary of VE Day
St Andrew's Church, North Pickenham
Invitation to light a candle,
Monday 5th, May, 10.30am to 12.00am



The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025

Eileen Connelly's V.E. DAY MEMORIES:

I was 5 when the war ended. We lived in the poorest part of Sheffield, in the middle of all the steel works. My mother, her two brothers and my grandfather all worked there making parts for aircraft, shells, and sheet steel for tanks and ships. My mother drove a crane on a gantry over the top of the workshop transporting heavy steel products from one part of the workshop to another, several tons at a time. My grandfather was on the furnaces making the steel and my two uncles worked in the rolling mills producing sheet steel. I had very little idea of what war was as I had known nothing else all my life, having been born in March 1940. I knew what the sirens meant, as we had to go to a shelter or, in our case dive under the "table" which was in fact, the indoor shelter which we used as the table by covering it with a tablecloth. My grandfather used to point out the British planes as they flew over but I don't think I really understood what that meant. There was an Anderson shelter in my grandparents' garden which I was allowed to play in. At school, which again was in the middle of the works area I was almost totally unaware of anything happening outside as we worked as usual unless the sirens went. I was in a creche from 6 months old until I reached 5 as my mother was a crane driver in the steel works. On VE day I was allowed to stay up late, the neighbours and many other residents on our street made a huge bonfire with old furniture, vegetable boxes and bits of wood from who knew where, an old piano was dragged out and there was singing and dancing by the firelight. Someone had made effigies of Hitler and Mussolini and hung them on the lampposts. I sat on a wall with some other children and watched all this. We had potatoes baked in the ashes, I thought they were so delicious. As the night went on so did the merriment. Then, to crown the night, the identical twin sons of a Mrs Sylvester, who were in the army, somewhere in Europe, appeared home on leave, safe and sound, to everyone's joy and relief, especially their mother who cried into her apron. As the bonfire died down we had fireworks, or so I thought - they were, in fact very lights, mother told me later. Someone had managed to acquire, a very pistol and some signalling lights and had let them all off over the street, it was so exciting!!!!!! I have never forgotten that evening. It was the end of fear for everyone, especially for the steel workers and those who lived near, in bomb alley. Lord Haw Haw used to brag every so often that the Nazi planes had got the 7 chimneys which were nicknamed the Seven Sisters. The irony was that they never did. They never stopped steel production, they never stopped children going to school, and they never quelled the defiance against Hitler and his Nazis by the steel workers, their families, the people of Sheffield, and, of course, the whole country.

Save the Date...

Saturday 9th August 2025



Village celebration at the Pickenham Hub

**Please contact us if you would like to be part of
the planning committee for this event
pickenhamcommunityhub@gmail.com**

Victory over Japan Day signifies the end of World War II marking the moment Japan surrendered to the Allied forces on 15th August 1945. Remembering the sacrifices made, honouring those who gave their lives and celebrating the restoration of peace.

Recipe of the Month

BACON, MUSHROOM AND PASTA CASSEROLE for 2

1 large saucepan; 1 large frying pan; and 1 casserole dish

Bake 30 minutes or air fryer 20 minutes. Fan oven 160, oven 180, gas 4, F oven 350, air fryer 160.

1 tin Campbells condensed mushroom soup; 5 oz Fuselli pasta or your choice; ¼ teaspoon salt; Fill ¾ of the soup tin with milk; 3 oz grated strong cheddar cheese; 6 slices of back bacon diced; 1 dessertspoon rapeseed oil + 1 dash for the pasta saucepan; 5 oz chestnut mushrooms sliced; 1 large shallot diced; 2 oz frozen peas; ½ teaspoon black pepper; ¼ teaspoon dried mixed herbs; 2 oz Panko breadcrumbs; and salt to your taste.

In the saucepan bring to the boil ¾ pan water with ¼ teaspoon salt and a dash of olive oil. Add the pasta and boil uncovered for about 12 minutes, drain, remove, set aside and cover. Pour the spoonful of oil in your frying pan and add the shallot on medium heat. Fry the shallot until translucent, remove and set aside. Add the bacon to the pan and fry until crispy, remove and set aside. Retain the bacon fat and add the mushrooms to it. Fry until soft on medium heat. Lower the heat and in the pasta saucepan pour the soup, milk and cheese, then add the peas, shallots, bacon, black pepper, mixed herbs and mushrooms. Gently heat through until the cheese has melted then add the pasta and stir to combine. Pour into your casserole dish sprinkle with the breadcrumbs then bake in your pre-heated oven.

Serve with either garlic flat bread, focaccia, ciabatta or baguettes, salad or a green vegetable

Iris Saxon

POET's CORNER

June Melbourn's Visit To Sutton Hoo

It was a warm day in March, and we fancied going somewhere new,
Through the beautiful Suffolk countryside, and on towards Sutton Hoo.

We stopped at the River Deben, and walked to HMS Vale,
Through a boat yard and a marina, where there were teas and coffees for sale.

We sat on the bank of the river, there were many dog walkers going by,
Enjoyed hot cups of coffee, under a bright blue sky.

Then drove on to Sutton Hoo, an Anglo Saxon burial mound,
The grounds were very beautiful, with daffodils all around.

We walked for miles and miles, enjoyed a picnic too,
Saw the White House once owned by Edith Pretty, then we sat and admired the view.

We quickly looked round the gift shop, and the history -something to learn,
We had had such an interesting day, and one day we hope to return.

JOE SISTO

TV, Video, DVD and Satellite
Sales, Set-up & Repairs

- *Free Estimates
- *30 Years Experience
- *All Makes & Models
- *Work Guaranteed
- *Qualified Engineer
- *Discount for OAPs

Sales, Repairs, Installation &
Tuning Services

07785 746682

01760 722168

White Cottage, School Road,
Necton (opp. Rectory)

WORZELS ROOFING

ROOF TILER / SLATER NEW WORK and REPAIRS

Leadwork; Roof Ventilation;
Fascias, Soffits and Guttering;
Loft insulation; Timber Treatment.

NVQ Level 2.

Over 20 years experience.

No job too small – free estimates.

01760 755024 / 07990 972381

www.Worzelsroofing.com

Computers@home

**Sales, Service and Repairs. Computers Supplied.
Internet and Software Problems. Virus Removal. Laptops
Repaired. Web design. Data Transfer to New Computer.**

Daytime, Evenings and Weekends.

Telephone: 01362 698872/01362 851872.

Mobile: 07768 086272.

Email: nijel@clara.net

The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025

Mobile Library – 2025 TIMETABLE UP TO NOVEMBER

NORTH PICKENHAM; 14:50 to 15:00 HOUGHTON LANE; 15:05 to 15:25 BLUE LION; 15:30 to 15:45 WHITE OAKS
on WEDNESDAYS: 7 May 2025; 4 June 2025; 2 July 2025; 30 July 2025; 27 August 2025;

24 September 2025; 22 October 2025; and 19 November 2025.

SOUTH PICKENHAM: 12:15 noon to 12:25pm at SOUTH LODGE

on TUESDAYS: 27 May 2025; 24 June 2025; 22 July 2025; 19 August 2025;

16 September 2025; 14 October 2025; and 11 November 2025.

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment on a permanent or temporary basis.

For all enquiries about these routes please call 01603 222303.

MOBILE POST OFFICE

visits North Pickenham every Tuesday from 10:10 to 10:30 stopping opposite Latimer Way.

GET IN THE SWIM OF THINGS

Swaffham and District Swimming Club meets 12 noon **every Tuesday** at Dereham Pool.

Travel there and back by hired Eagles' coach.

Picks up opposite the North Pickenham Bus Shelter at 1120, leaves Dereham Pool to return at 1330.

ONLY £8 for the travel and swim.

ALL WELCOME!

Further information is available from:

Marion in Necton on 01760 724477 or Geraldine on 07584 177295.

All ages (retired, working, parent with babies/toddlers) welcome.

Swaffham & District u3a: May update

Before the meeting in April, the Wine Appreciation Group displayed information showing members about this activity to promote interest in viticulture – or at least the end result.

The speaker this month was Gary Powell who gave a talk on 'London Squares'. Gary was a member of the Police Force in London for many years and he gave a very interesting talk on crimes connected to various London Squares. This proved to be very entertaining and despite some of the horrific crimes mentioned, it was delivered with humour.

We have our AGM on 1st May, which will be followed by a talk by Adam Woolcott who will be reminiscing on 'Our Chelsea Flower Show Memories'. As usual, we will meet in The Pavilion at Holme Hale. Doors open at 9.45am for socialising and the meeting starts promptly at 10.30am finishing by 12 noon.

Swaffham & District u3a offers monthly meetings, over 20 special interest groups and trips out. Further details on the activities covered by Swaffham & District u3a are available on our website: www.swaffhamu3a.org

South Pickenham Parish Council

Minutes of South Pickenham Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting and AGM

Wednesday 09 April 2025 at 6.00pm in the Home Farm Hospitality Suite

Present: Cllrs John Blackburne (Chair), Sue Bloomfield, Carole Chalkley, Stephen Chalkley and Simon Kroon. In Attendance: Fabian Eagle (NCC/BDC Councillor), Melanie Cousins (Parish Clerk) plus one member of the public.

Apologies for absence – None. 1. The meeting opened at 6.00pm. 2. The Chairman welcomed everyone present. The Council Clerk asked for nominations for Chair of the Parish Council for the next year. John Blackburne was unanimously elected. 3. **Minutes of the last Meeting** – The minutes of the meeting held on 05 February 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman. 4. **Matters Arising** not included on the Agenda – No matters were raised. 5. **Chairman's Report** – South Pickenham Parish Council AGM 9th April 2025

Parish Council Chair's Report: *Welcome to our Annual Public Meeting. Over the last few years your Parish Council has managed to arrange a few improvements for the village, including free bird boxes, 2 bench seats and the avenue of cherry trees, in remembrance of the ending of hostilities in 2nd World War. We are always interested in any new suggestions from you, for any further improvements, in which case please contact any of your Councillors. We are at present waiting for new road safety signs to be painted on the road surface, and are also looking into getting the South Pickenham signs as you enter both ends of the village, repainted. We would like to express our thanks to the South Pickenham Estate, and Fabian Eagle our District Councillor, who have helped us with these improvements. I know that Councillors, the Estate and others help pick up litter, and anything you can do to help keep our village tidy is greatly appreciated. On your behalf, I wish to express our thanks to all your voluntary Councillors, for their work over the last year. John Blackburne*

6. Report from NCC/Breckland Council – a) Cllr Eagle advised that he had come from a meeting where the potholes in Pettyguard and Red Barn were discussed. The road would be re-done, which would result in a road closure for 2-3 days. The potholes would be covered by the local areas budget. Each stretch would be considered, if reported. b) Cllr Eagle said that discussions continued on the future arrangements for central government or local government reform. There would be further updates over the next few months as to whether there would be a single unitary for North and South Norfolk, or whether this would include West Norfolk. c) Cllr Eagle advised that bird flu was still prevalent, with a number of outbreaks, including one at Carlton Coalville (a game farm).

7. The Windmill Inn Pub Sign – Cllr Eagle said that the rates for the Inn are higher than for any other ratepayers in a village area and the signs were not considered to be obtrusive. Following discussion, it was agreed that all members were happy for the sign to remain in place. **8. Annual Reports:** a) The Pickenhams Newsletter – The Editor advised that paper had increased in price; fortunately a local resident had donated sufficient paper for 3 issues and the Editor had reduced the print size to reduce the cost. There were now 20 pages rather than 32 or 36. Also, the photocopier was nearing the end of the contract and was becoming aged, as it had been purchased second hand in 2019. It was noted that some villagers preferred to read the Newsletter on line, whereas others were reliant on it being in hard copy, printed format. The Editor said that as the date for replacement/renewal approached, further consideration would be given to future arrangements. It was noted that local residents do see details of local quizzes, events and updates that they might otherwise be unaware of. A replacement copier might be approximately £3-4k, plus the monthly maintenance cost. It was agreed that a questionnaire or a survey might be followed up in the future. b) The Pickenhams WI – The Parish Clerk summarised the annual report, which included details of the speakers at the monthly meetings and the annual Mystery Tour, always a popular event in the village. The number of members had increased to 33, with members from Swaffham and Necton as well as from the Pickenhams. **9. South Pickenham Village Entrance signs** - The Chairman said that the metal signs at the

The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025

village entrances were looking in need of some paint. He would follow this up. **10. Update on NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2023/24** – The road markings had not yet been applied. This would be followed up with Luke Denny at NCC. **11. Flower boxes and rose bed – Future care/replacement** – Following discussion, it was agreed that the planters would be maintained through the summer. Cllrs would make enquiries with local residents as to whether they might be interested in looking after the rose bed. **12. Update on Street Light Maintenance (Cozens UK)** – The Clerk advised that Cozens had requested that future payment for the street lighting maintenance be paid by Standing Order. It was agreed to sign a cheque for the current invoice (£54.00) and then to set up payment by SO in future. **13. Drain opposite the pond at Lower Farm** – The Chairman advised that work on the drain had now been completed. **14. PKF Littlejohn** – The Clerk advised that the External Audit of the Annual Accounts 2024/25 would need to be completed, approved and returned by 1st June 2025. It was agreed that approval would take place prior to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee. **15. Zurich Town & Parish Partnership Scheme 2024/25** – The policy would require renewal by 1st June 2025. It was agreed that approval of this could be done prior to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee. **16. Correspondence** – **a) Data Protection Renewal (ICO) 2025/26** – The Clerk advised that this was set up to pay £40.00 on an annual basis. **b) NPTS Annual Subscription 2025/26** – The Clerk advised that the NPTS subscription of £57.50 was due for payment and that the advice received from the NPTS was extremely useful. **c) James Gulliver (Netmatters Ltd)** – Work had taken place to put passing places along Hilborough Road. This was noted by Cllrs. **d) Litter Pick on Saturday, 26th April 2025** – The Clerk advised that a Litter Pick would be carried out in North Pickenham in the morning and it had been agreed that the Clerk could bring the equipment to South Pickenham for use in the afternoon. The equipment would be brought to Home Farm. **17. Approval of Accounts/Cheques issued** – **a) Street Lighting (Cozens UK)** - discussed earlier in the meeting – cheque for £54.00; **b) Clerk's wages** – 5 hrs per month (Jan/Feb/Mar 2025) = £120.00 + Work from home allowance (£5.00) = £135.00; **c) Payments to npower** – DD to npower 18 December 2024 = £27.46; DD on 20 January 2025 = £29.14; DD on 19 Feb to npower = £31.09. Accounts for South Pickenham – Bank Balance as at 28 Feb 2025 = £532.75. **18. Resignation Received from Cllr Simon Kroon** – Cllr Kroon advised that he had resigned from SPE and would be leaving the Estate on 27th April. The Chairman and the Cllrs all thanked Cllr Kroon for all the work he had put into the Estate and the Committee over the past few years. Cllr Kroon said that he would follow up with the Estate for someone to join the Committee in his place.

Date of next PC meeting – Wed 16-July-2025 at 6.00pm at the Home Farm Hospitality Suite.

See: <http://southpickenhampc.wixsite.com/southpickenhampc>

South Pickenham Parish Council Contacts

John Blackburne (Chair)	01760 756219
Sue Bloomfield	01760 756204
Stephen Chalkley	4 West View
Carole Chalkley	4 West View
Melanie Cousins - Parish Clerk	07840 814417 or email sthpickenhamparishclerk@gmail.com
Breckland Councillor: Fabian Eagle	01760 440284
Norfolk CC Councillor: Fabian Eagle	01760 440284

North Pickenham Parish Council

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7 May 2025.

See: the Parish Council website at

<https://nthpickenhamparish.wixsite.com/nthpickenhampc>

North Pickenham PC and other Council Contact Numbers

Parish Clerk: Laurie Shepherd	07597 561478 or email nthpickenhamparishclerk@gmail.com
Tom Ryan (Chair)	07879 214651
Melanie Cousins	07840 814417
Ric Parsonson	07940 797666
Trevor Goodwin	07788 885702
Steve Haley	07900 517 401
Dave Barrington	07802 912823
Mark Saxon	07843 313577
Breckland Councillor and Norfolk County Councillor: Fabian Eagle	01760 440284
To contact Breckland Council	01362 656870 / http://www.breckland.gov.uk/
To contact Norfolk County Council	0344 800 8020 / https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/

North Pickenham PARISH COUNCIL NOTICES

Posters etc: The Parish Council asks that posters for events etc are not attached to lamp posts, telegraph poles or street furniture. If you would like to put a notice in the notice boards in the village please contact Melanie Cousins on 440456.

Faulty street lights in North Pickenham? If you see a street light is not working please contact: the Parish Clerk on 07597 561478 or email nthpickenhamparishclerk@gmail.com

Report it: Below are occurrences that you may need to report to Breckland Council on 01362 656870 or at <http://www.breckland.gov.uk/>

Abandoned Vehicles; Benefit Fraud; Damaged Wheeled Bin; Change Of Address; Change Of Circumstances; Compliments; Complaints; Comments; Dog Fouling; Empty Dwelling; Fly Tipping; Full Public Dog Bin; Full Public Litter Bin; Full Recycling Bank; Highway Problem; Litter and Dog Mess; Missing Wheeled Bin; Noise or Nuisance; Street Name Plate Issue.

The Parish Council asks that dog mess is not disposed of in the black bin near the play equipment. Please use the red dog mess bin near the entry gate of the playing field. Many thanks.



for all your building and maintenance needs

Brick Work | Paving | Patios | Fencing |
Repairs | Decorative Panelling | General Carpentry



07876 045225 warner.builds@outlook.com

Pristine Jade - The Greener Cleaner

Professional, Friendly Female Cleaner

Fully Insured & DBS Checked - Free No Obligation Quotations

Domestic & Commercial Cleaning – Eco Friendly Non-Toxic Chemicals

Jade Ives-Keeler 07468 480696

jadeiveskeeler7@gmail.com

Fb@Jadethegreenercleaner

Specialising in management of short term holiday lets, commercial and domestic cleaning services. A collect and drop off ironing service too!



ROTARY CLUB OF SWAFFHAM

I'm sure that you've driven past it many times as I have, but when an invitation to see what lies on the other side of that rather forbidding fence I couldn't resist. After security checks and with a pass in my pocket I found myself inside RAF Lakenheath.

Staffed by the US Air Force, you'd think you were in America except for the fact that cars drive on the left within the Base. Swaffham Rotary Club had received an invitation, kindly arranged by our ex-president Ray Burman, to tour the airfield and get an idea of how it operates. We were directed to the Operational Support Squadron premises where we were welcomed by Lt Col Bowen, the boss of the Squadron. Our first stop was the Control Tower where Airman Weyer showed us around. All very 'high-tech' of course, but interesting to see that the comings and goings of the aircraft are still noted with pen and paper, I guess as a backup in case of a computer crash. We next visited the twilight world of the radar room, where large screens show positions and height of every aircraft within 250 miles of the airbase. The weather is always taken into account whenever take-offs and landings are planned, so we also stopped to see the weather office and talked to the staff there. There had been fog in the area before we arrived and they were thankful that the sun had now broken through. The time flew by, and I left impressed by the sense of purpose and commitment shown by all the US Air Force personnel we met, also by their willingness to chat with us while also attending to their duties.

If you are interested in finding out about Rotary or would like to come along to a meeting, do take a look at our website: www.swaffhamrotary.org.uk. *Richard Skinner*



Swaffham and District Lions Club

Our lovely Easter Egg baskets have been raffled around the town in pubs, cafes and businesses, this being one of our big fundraising events of the year. Thanks to all who have supported these raffles. Members of the Branch Club visited Westfields Care Home on a lovely sunny morning to help with activities, and enjoyed assisting residents with the planting of some spring bulbs and seeds.

LIONS DEN

Five different Youth Groups applied for funding from the Lions Den, and the Lions Club approved them all. The recipients gathered to receive their cheques from Lion President David Merchant at the Lions Market Stall, at 12noon on Saturday 29th March in Swaffham Market Place. The five youth organisations receiving funding were: The Nicholas Hamond Academy Duke of Edinburgh Awards Fund - £750; West Acre Youth Theatre - £600; Heartwood Primary School - £350 for Litter Picking equipment; 2nd Swaffham Guides - £500 for camping equipment; and Swaffham Rugby Club Youth Section - £190 for nets and bibs.

????? **PUDDING QUIZ !** Our Lioness Branch Club popular charity "Pudding Quiz" will be held on Monday 12th May, 7.30pm start, at the Catholic Church Meeting room, Station Street, Swaffham. Teams of 4 please. Cost £7 p.p (includes puddings). All proceeds to West Acre Youth Theatre. Call Lionesses on 01760 723377 to book your team.

If anyone would like further information on Lions please contact email swaffhamlions@gmail.com.

Andrew Francis

Local Family Owned Funeral Service

Our Family Serving Yours 24/7

Swaffham: 01760 720200

Watton: 01953 883033

Multi Award Winning Family Business
Direct Cremation, Traditional Funerals
Fully Guaranteed Pre Paid Funeral Plans
www.afrancisfunerals.co.uk

DEFIBRILLATORS

North Pickenham – in the Church Porch.

South Pickenham – on the outside wall of the South Pickenham Estate Office.

Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline:

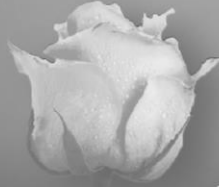
If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone. Calls are free and confidential – **Call us on 0808 801 0688**

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible. Please visit **www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service** to find out more.

The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025

PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS | CHAPELS OF REST | MEMORIALS



Thornalley

FUNERAL SERVICES

Behind every independent business
is a family that cares

www.tfs.co.uk

INCORPORATING CHAPMANS FUNERAL SERVICES
King's Lynn 01553 771399 | Dersingham 01485 598598 | Swaffham 01760 721305



TRANSPORT FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

The **Community Car Scheme** (operated by the WEST NORFOLK COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROJECT) provides transport for shorter or longer distances e.g. Kings Lynn/Norwich/Addenbrookes mainly for medical appointments.

WNCTP also operates a RURAL DIAL-A-BUS SERVICE EVERY WEDNESDAY TO/FROM SWAFFHAM.

For more information or to book transport please call 01553 770310

flexibus+

A fully accessible bus service for Swaffham and the surrounding area!

You can phone 01760 305022 to book your journey!

The flexibus+ service runs from 7am – 7pm Monday to Saturday.

Passengers will need to book their journey in advance which can be done quickly and easily using the flexibus+ app, online or via telephone.

You can take your dog, too!

The flexibus+ is a Norfolk County Council service.

CHURCH UPDATE

Sunday Church Services April 2025

May 4th	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>
Necton	10.00am. Holy Communion (CW)
Holme Hale	11.15am. Morning Worship (CW)
May 11th	<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>
Necton	10.00am. Morning Worship (CW)
North Pickenham	11.15am. Morning Worship (CW)
May 18th	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Necton	10.00am. Morning Worship (CW)
Holy Communion	11.15am. Holy Communion (BCP)
May 25th	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>
Necton	10.00am. Morning Worship (CW)
North Pickenham	11.15am. Holy Communion (CW)

(BCP) denotes a traditional liturgical service according to the 'Book of Common Prayer'.

(CW) denotes a modern liturgical service according to 'Common Worship'.

From the Parish Registers: Funerals

We express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr **Andrew Nelson Warner** (aged 63) whose funeral took place at the parish church of St Andrew's North Pickenham on Thursday 17th April 2025. The service was taken by the Revd Canon Stephen Thorp.

May God's special grace, love, peace and compassion be with you all.

Notices: Necton Churchyard

We are sad to report that we have recently suffered a spate of thefts from graves in the Necton churchyard. These have ranged from flowers and ornaments to other miscellaneous items such as solar powered lights and miniature trees over the Christmas period. Understandably this causes a great deal of upset and distress to family members. Please may I ask people to be vigilant and kindly respect the churchyard and other people's property.

May I also make families aware that other than flowers, Churchyard regulations* do not actually permit miscellaneous items to be placed on graves and the PCC has the right to remove all such items from new graves after a period of 13 months. However, we have historically been very lenient about this stipulation but would respectfully ask families to keep their relative's graves neat and tidy - once a grave has been levelled, please keep all ornaments near the headstones so that the centre line can be kept clear for grass cutting. Thank you.

*Churchyard Regulations 2016, paragraph 14.6. Search www.dioceseofnorwich.org, search 'churchyard regulations'.

It's all a bit fishy quiz

Quiz sheet £1.00. First Prize £10. Closing date Monday 9th June 2024

For a quiz sheet please contact Jackie on 07421100601

Or collect from church on Monday's Coffee mornings

All profits for St. Andrew's Church, North Pickenham.

Winner announced at St. Andrew's Church, Open Afternoon" on 14th June 25.

Thank you and good luck!

The PICKENHAMS' - MAY 2025

In a world of fake news, propaganda and spin – how do we recognise the truth?

A day after a massive Russian attack killed 35 people as they headed to church on Palm Sunday, and injured 117 others in Sumy, Ukraine, President Donald Trump, the most powerful man in America, once again blamed President Volodymyr Zelensky for starting the war with Russia. "You don't *start* a war against someone 20 times your size and then hope that people give you missiles.... When you *start* a war, you got to know you can win." The historical context is complex but these statements are at odds with the recorded invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022 and the earlier annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, in violation of international law.

A similar spinning of reality can be seen with the bombing of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City which coincidentally was also on Palm Sunday. This private hospital run by the Anglican Church, was the last functioning hospital in Gaza. The Israeli military said it had hit a 'command and control centre' used by Hamas to plan attacks, but so far they haven't given any evidence to justify their claim.

The problem is that we live in a world of 'relative truth' where it has become fashionable to spin the truth to make it suit our own particular position or point of view. Regardless of the rights and wrongs of these situations, it then becomes hard (if not impossible) to tell what really happened when people constantly tell us a story spun to suit their own particular needs and agendas. Absolute truth can be inconvenient when it doesn't suit us. It is therefore no wonder that we have seen a rise in fact checking organisations such as *BBC Verify*, in modern day journalism, to try and help us see through the fake news and establish the *facts*.

The problem is that bias and spin erodes confidence, faith and trust. How do you know who or what to believe?

"What is truth?", Pontius Pilate had replied when Jesus had said, "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18.37-38). How was Pontius Pilate to know? How could he glean the facts? Who could he trust? In response to his question to Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?", Jesus had replied, "Is that your own idea ... or did others talk to you about me?" and now Pontius Pilate was floundering! Pontius Pilate was a powerful individual, but he was at the mercy of the religious leaders and authorities of his day who had lied and spun him a story to suit their own agendas. He didn't know the facts and he didn't know Jesus – all he could do was judge Jesus by his actions and his character. Those who are familiar with the story will know the intricacies of this encounter, but it soon became clear to Pilate that Jesus was not a mad man, nor a revolutionary, nor a coward pleading for his life – he was a man with a great sense of special divine purpose. "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above", meaning God (John 19.11), Jesus had said.

Today, like Pontius Pilate, we are so often left floundering as we try to discern the truth, but like him we need to try our best to establish the facts and (prayerfully I suggest) discern motive, character and purpose, asking ourselves who gains what and at what cost? Are they purely self-seeking or genuinely seeking the best for others? Are they trustworthy?

With regard to Jesus, Pontius Pilate actually concluded, "I find no basis for a charge against him" (John 19.6). But the political tide led him on a course that was contrary to his instincts. He was so caught up in the political spin of his day that ultimately, he didn't have the courage of his convictions - and in that there is surely a lesson for us all!

Stephen Thorp

"If you hold to my teachingyou will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8.31-32

Open Afternoon with Strawberry Teas

St. Andrew's Church, North Pickenham

Saturday June 14th 2pm – 4pm. Teas served from 2.30pm

Toy stall; plant stall; W.I. Cake stall; Treasure Hunt and Children's Lucky Dip

Jackie 07421100601 / Carolyn 07828 633015

