

THE ICKLINGHAM VILLAGER

WINTER 2025

ST. JAMES PCC WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CUT THE GRASS & HELPED KEEP THE CHURCHYARD LOOKING LOVELY IN 2025
THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH

POSTAL VOTES REMINDER

Villagers who applied for their postal vote on or before 31 January 2024 & wish to continue with this arrangement will need to reapply for their postal vote before 31 January 2026.

The implementation of Elections Act 2022 means that a postal vote can only be held for a maximum of three years. Some residents will have already been contacted digitally via the Gov.Uk notify service and those that have not re-applied will be invited to re-apply again. For those residents that we do not hold email addresses for or who have not re-applied will be sent a written notice to their registered address inviting them to re-apply.

Any electors that do not re-apply for their postal vote, will have their postal vote removed on 31 January 2026.

Residents can reapply for their postal vote by visiting: [Apply for a postal vote - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk),

WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

TREECYCLING 2026
7th - 12th January
BOOK YOUR COLLECTION NOW!

Scan to book!



PROJECT ST JAMES WOULD LIKE THANK EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WHO HAS SUPPORTED ST JAMES CHURCH EVENTS, THE 100 CLUB & THE COFFEE MORNINGS
WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS & LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2026

Dear Villagers

We are delighted to announce that to make recycling easier and more accessible, we have launched a new recycling initiative to encourage residents and visitors to recycle their small electricals.

There are 18 new small electrical recycling points across the district, installed at existing mini recycling centres in high foot-fall areas. See page 3 for nearest location.

The new collection points can be filled with small electricals including mobile phones, tablets, cables, kettles, toasters and kids toys, anything smaller than a standard sized microwave.

This exciting initiative aligns with West Suffolk Council's on going commitment to environmental resilience and sustainable growth, whilst encouraging positive behavioural change.

This recycling initiative was funded by Material Focus, an independent not-for-profit organisation, who provided £34,822 to support this project.

The items placed in the bins will be collected by Wiser Recycling, with regular updates to West Suffolk Council to measure the impact and effectiveness of the new bins, and with the hope to secure additional funding to encourage a further roll out across the district.

Cllr David Taylor - WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

NEWS FROM ELVEDEN ESTATE

Hopefully, everyone will have noticed that we have new residents in Church Farmhouse at the western end of the village. Its renovation completed as part of Elveden Estate's property upgrade programme brings this old house back to life. In addition, work has started at numbers 1, 6 and 20 The Street and doesn't the new thatch at the Old Forge look very smart? There is still a long way to go, but good progress is being made on these empty houses to bring them back into use as soon as is practically possible.

As well as work on the Elveden houses you may have noticed activity on the banks of the River Lark, where a new pump house has been built and equipped. This massively important infrastructure project will, when the river flow increases (fingers crossed) allow many millions of litres of water to be pumped into the recently constructed Summerpit Reservoir some 9km away. This capturing of high flow winter water to irrigate Elveden Farms crops next summer makes complete sense and not only ensures that great quality local food continues to be produced but also assists with our national food security.

Allotments are still available opposite Church Farmhouse. Best Wishes, Andrew Blenkiron

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 999 Suffolk Police (non-urgent)
101
NHS 111
Crime Stoppers UK 0800 555 111
GAS EMERGENCY 0800 111 999
Electricity Emergency 105 (including Powercuts)
ANGLIAN WATER EMERGENCY 0800 771 881
Dental Emergency 111

West Suffolk Councillor Susan Glossop
07473041394
West Suffolk council 01284 763233

St James Church Wardens Dorothy Handford
01638 712439 & Sue Marston 01638 713801
All Saints CCT 0845 303 2760 Jane Hatton

Market Cross Surgery 01638 713109
Guildhall & Barrow Surgery 01284 812510
Milk Delivery Plumbs Dairy 01223 893033
Window Cleaner Rise & Shine 0771 055 7898



LIBRARY VAN DATES

The Mobile Library will visit
Dec 6th, Jan 3rd & 31st,
Feb 28th & Mar 28th
calling at West Street at 1.30pm,
The Hall Close at 1.50pm
The Village Green at 2.10pm

The mobile Manager is Tony



Icklingham Parish Council

www.icklingham.onesuffolk.net

Clerk - Justin Hook

email: clerk@icklinghamparish.gov.uk

Any parishioners wishing to raise an issue or add an item to the agenda, should contact the Parish Clerk via email.

*Parish Council Meetings are held on the third Monday bi-monthly (19th January & 16th March 2026) in the Old School, The Street Icklingham.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Councillors 2025-2026

Darren Baugh - Chairman

Veronica Halford

Karrie Baugh

Joe Fisher

Mollie Gray

There are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors, if you are interested & want to get more involved in your village please contact the clerk by email clerk@icklinghamparish.gov.uk or come along to the next meeting!



Christmas Church Services at St James
Traditional Carol Service at 4.00pm 21st December
Christmas Eve Service 10.00pm
Church Wardens
Dorothy Handford 01638 712439
& Sue Marston 01638 713801
ALL WELCOME

Message from Colin Noble.

As the nation gathered once again on Sunday, 9th November, for Remembrance Sunday 2025, communities across Suffolk paused to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom. This year's commemorations carried an especially poignant weight, as 2025 marks the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day. These twin moments brought the Second World War to its end in Europe and the Pacific.

Wreaths were laid across Row Heath at our War Memorials, and the traditional silence was observed. These acts of Remembrance remind us not only of the immense cost of war but also of the enduring strength of our communities - values that continue to define Suffolk today.

While we look back with gratitude, Suffolk is also looking forward. The county's councils - One Suffolk, and the district councils' Three Suffolk proposals have been submitted to the Government, who will determine the future shape of local Government in our county. These submissions set out differing visions for how local services might be delivered more effectively, efficiently, and closer to the people they serve. There is a new consultation open by the Government where you can have your say [https://www.gov.uk/government/consuoposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consuoposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk)

The Secretary of State's forthcoming decision on the way forward will be one of the most significant for Suffolk in decades. Not forgetting the Norfolk and Suffolk mayoral elections in May 2026. Whatever the outcome, the debate highlights the shared ambition across our councils to make Suffolk stronger, more sustainable, and better equipped for the challenges ahead.

In January, there is an important deadline for applications to secure a primary school place, including infant and junior schools, which is **Thursday, 15 January 2026**.

All applications received by the relevant closing date are processed at the same time using the school's oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received over 14,700 on-time applications from pupils wishing to start at a primary or infant school, transfer to a junior school, or enter Year 7 at a secondary school from September 2025.

94% of applicants received offers for their first-choice school, and 98.4% received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

As Christmas approaches, please do think about your elderly neighbours and how, at this special time of year, a card or a chat over a cup of tea might be especially welcome. It's a wonderful time of year, but it can be lonely for some as they remember times past and loved ones sadly gone.

This just leaves me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.
Colin Noble

Looking for Change

The Looking for Change campaign was originally launched in Bury St Edmunds in 2018 with support from the council, Bury St Edmunds Town Council, Our Bury St Edmunds BID, Suffolk Constabulary and The Bury Free Press.

At the time we had many more rough sleepers than we do currently. When the council established its Rough Sleeper Support Service also in 2018, we had 36 people rough sleeping in West Suffolk.

Bury Drop In works to support homeless and vulnerable people including rough sleepers, people sofa surfing at friends' houses, people in hostels and people who West Suffolk Council is supporting in temporary accommodation. The Drop In provides a meeting place twice a week where people can get a hot meal and access support.

The Drop In's Looking for Change encourages people not to give money directly to people they see on the streets. This is because in some cases the people are already accommodated and receiving support for drug or alcohol addiction. Public donations of money to rough sleepers sometimes feeds that addiction and can result in people losing, leaving or refusing accommodation, jeopardising efforts to help them.

Bury Drop In asks people to instead donate online. The money people give to the Drop In is then used to help people who have been rough sleeping, who have been accommodated, have received any relevant support for addiction or mental health issues and are ready to move on into their own home. Donations have been used to help former rough sleepers with furniture for their new home and to help them rebuild their lives with equipment to study or train for a new career.

TO DONATE go to www.burydropin.org/donate where you can choose how much and how often that you want to donate.

Electrical recycling bins near Icklingham !

Bury St Edmunds

Moreton Hall Community Centre Car Park, IP32 7EE
Ram Meadow Car park, Cotton Lane, IP33 1XP
Parkway Surface Car Park, Parkway North, IP33 3BA

Vinery Road Car Park, Vinery Road, IP33 2JP

Mildenhall

Jubilee Centre Car Park, Recreation Way, IP28 7HG
St Johns Close Car Park, IP28 7NX

CHRISTMAS EVENTS COMING UP !

The Mildenhall Library : Dec. 11th - Ed Lewis talk - WW1 1914 Christmas Truce.

Bury St Edmunds Ice Rink: A synthetic ice rink in Charter Square will be open daily from late December until early January, closing only on Christmas Day.

New Year's Day Cathedral Tour (January 1, 2026), & several candlelight concerts at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral, such as "The Music of Ed Sheeran" (January 16, 2026)

"80s Anthems" (January 17, 2026).

Silver Clay Jewellery : Taster Workshop on January 18 & 25, 2026.

Panto Performances: The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds will be staging Rapunzel, which runs until January 18th.

Stonham Barns Christmas Market: A Christmas Craft and Artisan Market will be held at Stonham Barns Park, offering a range of gifts and local produce.

Easton Farm Park: The park hosts its "Father Christmas on the Farm" event, which typically includes a Winter Wonderland Walk, Santa's Stables, and craft activities. This event may run into the holiday period, so check their specific dates.

Lavenham Craft Market: Lavenham host a two-day Winter Craft Market, with one day inside the Village Hall and the second day running alongside the award-winning Farmers' Market.

Helmingham Hall Illuminated Garden Trail: An outdoor light trail through the gardens.

Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Santa Specials: A festive train ride to see Santa.

Christmas at Ickworth Estate: Features "November Nostalgia: A 1930s Christmas," a Christmas Voices Tour & costumed interpretation.

Jump In Adventure Park (Ipswich): A popular indoor adventure park.

Africa Alive!: A zoo and animal park in Kessingland.

Baylham House Farm: A farm with various animals and activities.

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COFFEE MORNINGS

WILL RESTART ON 28TH FEBRUARY

at St. James Church

Come & join us

ALL WELCOME

Cake Stall & Raffle

(NON-RELIGIOUS)



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West Suffolk
 Council

Christmas and New Year bin collection days

Usual collection	Revised collection
Thursday 25 December	Saturday 27 December
Friday 26 December	Monday 29 December
Monday 29 December	Tuesday 30 December
Tuesday 30 December	Wednesday 31 December
Wednesday 31 December	Friday 2 January
Thursday 1 January	Saturday 3 January
Friday 2 January	Monday 5 January
Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January
Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January
Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January
Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
Friday 9 January	Saturday 10 January



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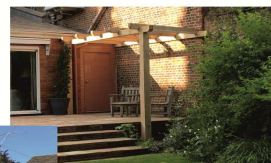
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LAST BUT NOT LEAST have you a special person you want to thank, wish Good Luck, Happy Birthday, Getting Married, say Get Well Soon or a new arrival? Well this is the space for you – just email bac@talk21.com or Whatsapp 07748998164 & let me know your special message & it will appear here free of charge!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE LADIES WHO BRAVE THE WEATHER TO DELIVER YOUR NEWSLETTER, THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS. A BIG THANK YOU TO MAUREEN DOYLE, RONNIE HALFORD, KAREN NOLAN & JEAN PADMORE. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO THANK ALL THE ADVERTISERS, THE PARISH COUNCIL & ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS NEWSLETTER, NOT FORGETTING KEITH AT RIVERSIDE PRINTING WHO DOES A GREAT JOB FOR US.

Thanks for reading, wishing you all a very Happy Christmas,
Beverley Curtis, Editor.

PS Your next newsletter will arrive in March 2026



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Icklingham
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£50 half day – £90 full day.

Contact David on
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david.a.fisher@btinternet.com