

# PAXTON POST

A P R I L 2 0 2 5

No. 47



# SPRING

*is here!*



Your free community magazine for Great Paxton and surrounding area

# PAXTON POST



*Hello Community*

I would firstly like to send an enormous 'Thank you' to Chris Hall. This edition wouldn't have been possible without him. He has worked tirelessly to edit submissions and organise the layout, as well as getting the Post printed and delivered to the wonderful volunteers, ready for door-to-door distribution.

The next 3 months look set to bring our village into all its gloriousness, so with that in mind, please do ensure that we don't let unnecessary waste spoil that! I've been approached by non-dog owners who are regularly collecting as many as 20+ dog waste bags that have been discarded.

Our village is an extension of our homes, let us remember that.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took the time to give feedback on the first edition of 2025. It has been an enormous help to know what worked well, what didn't and how to proceed in the future.

If you would like to get in touch, ask me a question or share tips and tricks please do ! For anything parish related, contact the Parish Clerk.

I look forward to hearing from those who wish to get in touch.

Paxton Post Online

Remember that you can see the magazine online via the Community tab on the Parish Council website at <https://greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk/>

*Amanda*

## CONTACT DETAILS

Editor's email: [thepaxtonpost@yahoo.com](mailto:thepaxtonpost@yahoo.com)

Phone number: 07772 122559

Produced by Chris Hall: [55chrishall@gmail.com](mailto:55chrishall@gmail.com)

Provided by Great Paxton Parish Council

Parish clerk: [clerk@greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk)

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All adverts full colour



# PAGE 3 TIPS

*Year round gardening tips*



**APRIL** – Look out for weeds and remove them sooner rather than later. Weeds are always early risers in the spring and are much easier to remove while small. It's a good time to spread a mulch on the bare soil between plants to help keep the weeds down.

Protect young shoots from slugs and snails, scatter pellets / slug pubs or whatever, particularly around clematis and herbaceous plants. As soon as there are shoots to eat, slugs and snails will appear from nowhere.



Watch out for signs of aphids, another early riser. If you can spot and control aphids in the spring, then life gets an awful lot easier later on in the year. Check on the newly emerging shoots of their favourite plants.

March is the main sowing time for many plants, hardy or half-hardy, both flowers and vegetables. If you've never tried growing anything from seed, then this is a good time to start.

Lift and divide summer flowering perennials. Pull them apart gently but firmly so that the plant divides at its weakest point/s, don't cut.

If you've any rotted garden compost that's ready to use, this is a good time to place it around the more mature garden plants and trees as a thick mulch, it soon gets mixed in by the worms and continues to rot and improve the soil. The effect is not immediate, but within a year or two. Just be careful not to bury small plants with it.

**MAY** – As the flowers of spring flowering shrubs fade, they can be pruned back to get a good display next year. Almost anything that flowers in spring can be pruned immediately after flowering to keep them vigorous and flowering well. Ideally each year you should cut out one in three or one in four of the oldest branches down to ground level. This way the plant always has plenty of growth left and no branch is allowed to get old and past its prime.

Mow the lawn regularly now, little and often is the best way to get a really good lawn.

Give your lawn a feed of fertiliser, buy a proprietary lawn feed and follow the instructions carefully.

Weed, weed and thrice weed. They're coming up thick and vigorously now.



Push support stakes into the ground around emerging tall perennials.

Plant up containers and hanging baskets with tender summer bedding plants towards the end of the month, don't put them out until all risk of frost has passed. Trim quick growing hedges. They're starting to sprout well now and it helps keep them in shape before they get too unruly.

The daffodils have all been over for some time. The leaves don't need any cutting off. Remove faded flowers so that they don't put their energy into making seeds and give them a feed of double strength liquid plant food.

**JUNE** – Stake tall growing perennials such as Delphiniums and Lupins.

Water containers regularly and check daily, particularly if there's a drying wind. To keep them looking good, water, feed and dead-head regularly for the best show.

Dead-head perennials and shrubs such as roses. This keeps them producing more flowers. Look for and remove "suckers" on roses or grafted trees. These are shoots of the wild-type rootstock that the ornamental foliage is grafted onto. If left, then the rootstock being more vigorous (hence its use as rootstock) will take over the ornamental part of the plant.

*Paul the gardener*



# TIGER

## On Demand

### What is Tiger On Demand?

TIGER on Demand is a new, flexible concept for delivering public transport services. Rather than being restricted to travelling along specific routes and at specific times, you can book a journey to and from anywhere within the TIGER on Demand travel zones using any of the virtual bus stops.

### When can I travel?

Monday to Saturday from 06:30 – 19:00. There is no service on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

### How do I book?

The quickest and easiest way to book is by downloading the Tiger on Demand app, available on Google Play and App Store. Booking can be made up to 48 hours in advance of the journey.



# TIGER

## On Demand

Alternatively you can book by visiting [www.tigerondemand.co.uk](http://www.tigerondemand.co.uk)

If you prefer to book over the phone, you can call 01480 595 440. The call centre is open Monday to Saturday from 06:00 – 19:30.

### How much does it cost?

The costs per journey are as follows:

- Adults £2 per journey – Please choose the 'Adult' fare option when booking.
- Under 5s travel for FREE – Please choose the 'Infant' fare option when booking.
- Children aged 5-16 £1 per journey – Please choose the 'Youth' fare option when booking.
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### How do I pay?

You can pay using your debit or credit card when booking over the phone. Drivers are not able to accept cash or card payments.

### Where can I travel?

TIGER On Demand is available in West Huntingdonshire, Fenland, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire. Visit the website to see which areas TIGER covers.



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## Shop Opening Times & Community Reminder

### Your Local Shop – Here for You, Run by You!

Your village shop is open 7 days a week, providing essentials, friendly service, and a vital hub for the community. Every visit and purchase helps keep it thriving!

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**      **10- 2 PM & 3-5 PM**

**SATURDAY**              **9-5 PM**

**SUNDAY**                **10-12 PM**

## Three Ways You Can Help



### Spend Just £5

Every £5 spent each week on essentials like milk, bread, and eggs – or even a little treat – helps keep us busy, well-stocked, and working towards longer opening hours. Small purchases make a big difference!



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✉ [greatpaxtoncommunityshop@gmail.com](mailto:greatpaxtoncommunityshop@gmail.com)



### Support in Any Way You Can

- **Spread the word** – Help share our social media campaigns.
- **Creative support** – Lend your skills in design, video, or photography.
- **Donate or contribute** – Products, time, or expertise all make a difference.
- **Invest in the future** – Buy a share and be part of something bigger.
- **Pitch in** – From maintenance to marketing, every effort helps.
- **Volunteer** – Whether it's an hour or a regular shift, we always welcome extra hands.

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# ART IN THE VILLAGE

There are many people in the village producing great art. This issue we are featuring Chris Monaghan who specialises in mosaic art.

Chris lives on the edge of the High Street. He's the one whose fence is always blowing over. Whilst Chris may not be great at building fences he creates great mosaics including mirrors, wall hangings, ornaments and even furniture.

He uses recycled tiles, crockery and glass in his work producing truly "green" pieces of art in a true return to the Arts and Crafts ethos.

His pieces range in size from 6" to in excess of 4 feet. The reflections and refraction of light produced in the mosaics are wonderful even in low light environments.



Chris has a wide selection of his art for sale and is more than happy to undertake commissions working with you to create your perfect individual piece.

If you would like to know more about mosaics or discuss a purchase please contact Chris on 07724659740



Would you like to share your art?

Get in touch with us.

# GREAT PAXTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

## Our featured friend .....

Welsh Wizard Felicity came to live in Great Paxton in 1982 so she thinks she is settled and accepted here now and we think so too.

Born in Aberdare her father had been in the military until family came along, but in truth he was less happy in Civvy Street and re-enlisted, which meant Felicity's early life was spent on postings in Africa. However when her father was posted to Berlin where part of his duties was guarding Rudolf Hess in Spandau Prison, Felicity was enrolled full time in a private boarding school in Swansea, earning her the Club nickname Posh Connor. Life there was generally ok but the food terrible - remember school dinners? Later her parents came back to live in Wales so Felicity was able to go home for weekends and gorge on "proper grub". She began Nurse training on her 18th birthday and spent three years as a ward sister in Cardiff, but then retrained as a midwife and claims to have delivered hundreds of little Welsh babies.

However after a while she found her life's vocation as a Health Visitor finishing as Health Visitor Manager all over Cambridgeshire.

She married in 1972 and was with John until his sad death about five years ago.

In accordance with his wishes she scattered his ashes in Tenerife, their favourite holiday destination. She continues to be the caring person she always has been through work and that shines through. So if you cut your finger in the kitchen and can't get to your GP, pop round to Nurse Felicity.



### **The Friendship Club meets in the Bell pub on the first and third Tuesday each month at 11.00 until 12.30**

Upcoming dates for your diary .... April 1st and 15th,

May 6th and 20th

June 3rd and 17th

July 1st and 15th

£2 secures you a warm welcome, coffee, cake, a (gentle) quiz and a game of dominoes.

Most of us stay on for lunch, too.



## Great Paxton Community Room

At Gt. Paxton School we have a small community room that is available to hire.

The room is self contained with a kitchen and toilets and also has an enclosed garden which makes it an ideal space for children's parties and family celebrations.

For more information contact:

Mrs. Charlotte Clark, School Administrator

[office@greatpaxton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@greatpaxton.cambs.sch.uk)

telephone 01480 472132 (option 4) for the school office



# CHURCH NEWS

Canon Annette Reed has been Vicar of Little Paxton, Great Paxton and Diddington churches since October 2006 and became Rector of Southoe in June 2015. Annette has served these parishes faithfully and diligently as well as being Rural Dean of St Neots from 2007 to 2019.

As you may know, Annette is now due to retire on her 71st birthday at the end of July this year after 38 years serving as an ordained minister in the Church of England.



Annette's final service will be on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am at St. James Church, Little Paxton, followed by cake and refreshments. Everyone will be assured of a warm welcome so do join us if you are able. Annette's official last date as Vicar of our churches will be Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Our four PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) are currently working hard to put together a profile of our four churches to encourage prospective applicants to apply for our wonderful benefice. Unfortunately the process is not quick but be assured our benefice team are working hard behind the scenes to make sure we have some continuity during our vacancy. We are creating a worship team which will be ready to provide guidance and support and keep the current pattern of Sunday services running as they do at present, as much as possible.

I will be responsible for coordinating all the administration during the vacancy and if anyone has any queries they are very welcome to contact me directly. My details are below. Our churchwardens in all of our four churches are also available to contact. Once we have any further news, we will be communicating that as soon as possible.

Best wishes and thank you for your continued support as we move into this time of change.

**Nicci Jones, Benefice Administrator 01480 877215 [admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org](mailto:admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org)**

## **Forthcoming events organised by Great Paxton PCC and friends.**

Mothering Sunday service – March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am

End of term school service – April 4<sup>th</sup> 9.15am in church.

April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Day 11.00am – All Age Holy Communion.

Vicar's Curious Quiz Night April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in school.

Open Gardens at Paxton Hill House : May 11<sup>th</sup> – 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> Countryside afternoon in Great Paxton Churchyard with stalls and refreshments 12pm – 4.00pm.

Concert June 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm with Cambridge Voices.

Concert with Singers of Note 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in Church.

## **Regular Services at Great Paxton Church.**

We hold a variety of Christian worship and you will always find a very warm welcome.

Here is our regular service pattern.

1st Sunday 9.00am Prayer Book Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 11.00am All Age Worship

3rd Sunday 11.00am Common Worship Holy Communion

4th Sunday 11.00am Morning Prayer

# OPEN GARDENS

**Sunday May 11th 2025**

Paxton Hill House Gardens  
PE19 6RA

By kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Sanders.



With plant and cake stalls  
and delicious refreshments.

£3.00 entrance for adults and children  
free.

Sorry no dogs on site please.

Safe parking for cars in the grounds as  
directed.

All proceeds to Great Paxton Church.

## The Churchyard

Thank you to Sarah Gray and helpers who keep our churchyard neat and tidy throughout the year.

We pay for a regular grass cutter for most of the growing season for some of the churchyard areas, but Sarah does other cuts when required.

We welcome visitors and it is a peaceful place to sit and have some quiet time.

Some memorial stones have been identified as being unstable.

Where we can trace a relative, we are asking if they will take action to repair them.

A notice will be put on unstable memorial stones for relatives who visit to make contact with Sarah.

Wherever it is possible, we do appreciate those who have a relative buried in the churchyard tidying away dead flowers and wreaths or worn vases etc.

Glass vases are not permitted as if they break it can cause problems mowing.

## CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Canon Annette Reed

Tel: 01480 211048

canonannettereed@gmail.com

### Church Wardens:

Mr. Bob Hacking

1 Mint Lane

Great Paxton

01480 219846

Mrs Andrea Goodyer

7a Church Lane

Great Paxton

andrea.goodyer@clinicallyconnected.com

### Church Treasurer:

Mrs Jacqueline Jackson

jnmunro@btinternet.com

### Tower Captain:

Mrs. Mary Parnham

01480 394727

maryP2707@hotmail.com



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Sunday June 29th

5pm to 7pm

featuring the wonderful

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Please join us to celebrate the retirement, after 19 years service, of our vicar

**The Reverend Annette Reed**

Enjoy an evening of music, strawberries and shortcake and a glass of sparkling wine or elderflower served during the interval.

**Tickets from: [diane.james42@outlook.com](mailto:diane.james42@outlook.com) or call 07522 449535**

Adults £10 Inc refreshments

Under 14's free but £2 for refreshments

We hope that many people from Great Paxton, The Benefice and beyond will come to help Annette enjoy her special evening at

**The Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, Great Paxton PE19 6RJ**

Some parking is available opposite the church path or in Manor Farm just beyond the church (with kind permission from Ursula and Jeff).

## Recreation Ground AGM

APRIL 28TH 7:30 PM

THE BELL PUB

All welcome



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# GREAT PAXTON

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## P A R I S H C O U N C I L

### REPORT FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL: SPRING 2025

Your Parish Council has met twice since the first Edition of the new 'Paxton Post'.

Main headlines from the January meeting:

#### **The Parish Council has agreed to:**

- Contribute 30% or £6750 of the total cost of a scheme to provide a 'single priority narrowing' build out feature and 'Buffer Zone' at the north end of the High Street. The scheme is subject to approval by the County Council later in the year;
- Undertake a comprehensive review of Streetlighting in the Parish and appointed a small Working Group to get the project underway;
- Re-appoint MAM Garden Maintenance as its Grounds Maintenance Contractor (Grass Cutting) for the remainder of the contract until 31st March 2026
- Confirmed that the 'Paxton Post' will be issued quarterly in future and asked that the new production team should continue to seek best value for the print job. The new editor will also give regular feedback to the council.
- Given the comprehensive nature of the Scoping Report produced for the East West Rail Project, decided not to make any additional comments on the content of the Environment Statement which adequately covered all the potential impacts and significant effects of the proposed development on the local environment.

Since the January meeting, the Parish Council has met County Council Officers in the village and were informed that all potholes would be dealt with as soon as the weather improved.

We were also told that the white markings on the footpath on Towgood Way indicated that it was the County Council's intention to resurface the pavement at some point in the future.

Properties with shrubs overhanging the pavement would be asked by the County Council to do some trimming.

In March, Councillors noted that the Parish Council's application for a 20mph zone on the High Street, Mount Pleasant and Towgood Way had been refreshed and improved by the addition of new speed data for submission to the County Council by the end of the month.

Repairs to the Play Space within Saxon Green had been completed in line with recommendations after a RoSPA inspection and agreed to renew the Council's membership of the Great Ouse Valley Trust and CPRE.

A Working Group has now met to consider how to approach its review of street lighting in the village. It is keen to hear, given the cost, whether there is support from residents for extra streetlighting and where that might be located. It is possible that the Annual Parish Meeting on May 19th might be used for this discussion so please keep your eyes peeled for further publicity on this. The Parish Council want to encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

**Annual Parish Meeting 19th May 7pm**

**All welcome**

**To include presentation and discussion focusing on street lighting  
Do we need more? Where is lighting needed?**

*Christine*

**Parish Clerk**

# **GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **VACANCY – PARISH CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**Salary:** In accordance with National Scales dependent upon qualifications and experience. Plus Working At Home Allowance.

**Hours:** 9 hours a week. Holiday entitlement pro rata to number of hours worked.

**Location:** Home based but meetings take place in Great Paxton.

**How To Apply:** By letter & CV to Parish Clerk [clerk@greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatpaxton-pc.gov.uk)

**Closing Date:** 21st April 2025.

Great Paxton is a small but ambitious parish with nine Councillors and a population of just over 1000 residents. The Council's key objective is to enhance the quality of life within the Parish and to work in the interests of all residents.

### **Summary of Duties & Responsibilities**

- As Proper Officer, to advise the Parish Council on procedural matters in accordance with the legal framework in which it operates.
- To prepare agenda, minutes (seven meetings a year plus other occasional day time meetings) and reports to the 'Paxton Post'.
- To maintain Council policies, the 'Parish Plan' and the Website;
- As Responsible Financial Officer, to manage Council finances including budget monitoring, financial accounts, payment & issue of invoices, annual internal & external audit, VAT and AGAR preparation.
- To give general administrative support to Councillors and be the primary contact for residents & other agencies;
- To act as the Parish Council's representative as required.

### **Requirements**

- Experience in similar administrative role (CiCLA qualified desirable).
- Able to work independently with strong organisational skills.
- Ability to prioritise tasks & meet deadlines.
- Good communication skills and ability to liaise effectively with a range of stakeholders.
- Knowledge of regulatory, legislative and governance procedures.
- Proficiency in use of email, word, excel and software applications to manage the website, scribe accounts & Basic PAYE tools.

# GREAT PAXTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HEADTEACHER'S SCHOOL REPORT

### Christmas Tree Festival

After hearing the amazing news that the school won the Christmas Tree Competition, the children have been busy discussing and debating which charity they would like to donate the prize money to. The choices were narrowed down to Cancer Research and MAGPAS.

Y6 children then championed their chosen charity and presented to the whole school the reasons they believed their charity should be chosen. It was a very close vote but the children decided the money should be donated to MAGPAS.

As a school, we have decided that since the vote was very close, the children will hold a fundraising event for Cancer Research.

### Lego Club

Children from Y2-Y5 have continued to enjoy our Lego Club at school. We are currently ranked 27 out of 390 schools in the National competition. Here are some of the creations our children have made.

Can you identify the following Lego creations?

Rickshaw, Gnome, Supercar, Wizard, Gondola, Bicycle.



### School Kitchen

Having taken on the running of the school kitchen ourselves this year, we needed a name for the kitchen! Again, Y6 children have been heavily involved in narrowing down a massive list of suggestions from the whole school. They then presented the two most popular suggestions to the whole school and I am delighted to announce that our school kitchen will now be named 'The Pink Apron' – our amazing cook always wears a pink apron and on the occasions where I have been required to cook or help in the kitchen, I have worn one also. A sophisticated name that represents our amazing cook Mrs Smith!

### School Football Tournament

Well done to all the children who competed in the school football tournament in the Spring Term. It was a very tight tournament in which any of the competing schools could have won. We lost our first two games (2-1 and 1-0), despite having most of the possession and chances – hitting the bar, the post and having shots cleared off the line! Our final game was a 0-0 draw. Congratulations to Eynesbury School who won and now go through to the final.

### Footballs Quarter Finals

Both the school football team and the girl's school football team were involved in challenging quarter final matches this term, against much bigger schools! Both teams played exceptionally well and every player gave 100%. Unfortunately, both our cup runs came to an end, but to get as far as the quarter finals of the cups as a small school was a major achievement. Well-done to all the players!

### Y4/5 Football Match

A group of our Y4/5 children took part in the Walters Cup competition for children in year 5 or below. We played Hemmingford Grey at their school. It was an extremely close game. Hemmingford took the lead in the first half and it remained that way for most of the game.



Great Paxton were pushing for the equaliser but conceded right at the end, making the final score 2-0 to Hemmingford.

Well done to all the team, the first time this group have played together!

## School term and holiday dates for 2024/2025

### Spring Term Dates

Monday 6th January Training Day

Tuesday 7th January - term opens for children

Half Term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April

Easter Holidays

### Summer Term Dates

Tuesday 22nd April Training Day

Wednesday 23rd April - term opens for children

Half Term: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

Monday 2nd June to Tuesday 22nd July

Wednesday 23rd July Training Day

Summer Holiday

Best wishes

*Lee Frost*

Headteacher

## *Retirement or Revival?*

For 25 years, she has been the face of the school. The conduit between education and exasperation (in some cases).

Julie Edwards, school admin extraordinaire announced in January that she would be retiring (cue distressed sighs) so she could spend time with her husband Clive, their children and grandchildren.

Moving to Great Paxton in 1982, Julie and Clive went about married life, children and working. Julie secured a spot in the village-based transport company before moving on to be an HR consultant and then dipping her toes in the education pond, working at St Peters and Little Paxton before finding her "forever" job at Great Paxton school in 1999.

The school, pretty new at this point, having moved sites in 1992 from the old building on the High Street to the current, purpose-built school, welcomed Julie with open arms.

During her 25 year "sentence", there have been 5 headteachers (including Lee Frost current head) who Julie has whipped into shape, bought up to speed, nurtured and kept calm. Why you might ask, isn't that her job? Nope! The nurturing is all her!

I have come across many schools in 20+ parenting years and never have I met anyone like Julie. The moment you meet her, she envelopes you in warmth, understanding, reassurance and care. That's just in her "hello".

It is hard to think about school life without her, however, I am assured that the new school admin, Charlotte is lovely. Words of advice from Julie to Charlotte "remain calm, and all the best"

What next for our (almost) longest serving staff member in the last 50 years?

Julie tells me "I'm looking forward to the next chapter of new challenges" when she will be spending time with family, friends, holidaying, and seeing what life has to offer. Clive is retiring at the same time, so after all their years together, they will be able to enjoy their time.

Would she do it all again? "In a heartbeat! I've loved working at the school, they're my 2nd family"

*On behalf of parents past and present,  
Thank you Julie for being you!*

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**Carrie's Pet Services**



# Little Paxton Gardening Club

Where gardening and friendships blossom

May is our last monthly club meeting before we break for our Summer Club Visits Programme, so join us as usual at Little Paxton Village Hall at 8pm with:

## Wednesday 7th May 2025

### Nigel Start - Getting to Grips with Pruning

Nigel is a self-employed garden designer and lecturer and tonight talks to us about pruning techniques for fruit and other garden trees; the correct tools and blades to use and when, how and where to prune your trees.

## Saturday 17th May 2025 10 - 2pm

### Gardening Club Spring Plant Sale Grove Road, Little Paxton

Come and pick up your young vegetable and summer flowering plants, at bargain prices in our very popular annual fund raising event.  
See posters for further details.

## Wednesday 4th June 2025

### Summer Club Visit - The Windmill, Impington

Club members only. Must be booked in advance.

## Wednesday 2nd July 2025

### Summer Club Visit The Manor House Fenstanton

Club members only. Must be booked in advance.

## Saturday 12th July 2025 12 - 5pm

### Annual Fund Raising Event

Plant Sale at Paxfest QE11 Playing Fields

Come to buy a variety of plants at bargain prices and find out more about our Club.  
See posters for further details

Visitors are always very welcome - £4 per meeting (£1 for members) which includes light refreshments.



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or call us on  
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March heralds the Annual General Meeting for The Offords WI. This is when we elect the Committee, with some serving members deciding that they need a change or a rest, and others deciding they would like to step forward and give it a try. It can be a great opportunity to help steer the future direction of our WI group and it is definitely a way to get to know more people.

We do have some long serving members but always welcome new people because without them we

could not continue. Current members will shortly receive the new exciting programme of events for the coming year.

If you aren't a member yet, please look out for future news in this Newsletter or in the shop. We hold talks, craft events, outings and much more. If you think you might be interested, please just come to one of our monthly meetings, just as a visitor. We offer a friendly welcome to all including Great Paxton residents!



When the formal part of the meeting was over, the fun began when we were entertained by Alison Cooper, an award-winning Milliner and WI Member. We were all given the opportunity to decorate a headband with all manner of accoutrements that Alison had provided. This was lovely way to round off the evening and we all went home with a big smile on our faces as you can see from the pictures. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 in The Village Hall Offord Cluny.

Our next meeting includes a talk from Dianne James, of Great Paxton, who is going to tell us about her time with the RSPB at Sandy.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 in The Village Hall Offord Cluny.

Enquiries: Helen Ellis. President. Tel: 01480 811974

### **LET'S CLEAN UP OUR ACT**

**The purpose of this ditty  
Is to say - it's such a pity  
We let litter and poo bags despoil our ground.**

**It takes but a moment  
To care for our environment  
And transfer both safely to containers that abound.**

**We live in a lovely village  
And each uncollected spillage  
Can easily be remedied one step at a time.**

**The birds will salute you  
And creatures will thank you  
And all can walk safely ... without stepping in poo.**

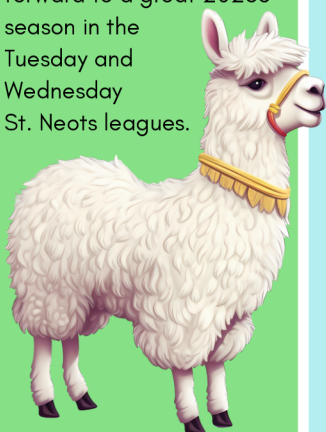


# BELL NEWS

## PETANQUE



The new petanque season is almost here and local interest is stronger than ever. We have four teams entered this year which is more than any other pub. Pre season practice has started and we are looking forward to a great 2025 season in the Tuesday and Wednesday St. Neots leagues.



**The Paxton Post is looking for a pub games reporter to give a quarterly round up of the progress of our teams. If you can you help, get in touch.**

We are into my first quarter of running the pub and its been absolutely amazing, the support and help I have been getting is nothing short of amazing!

We have been busy and the marquee is fully booked till September this year.

So as we approach the Easter period we are open all Easter weekend, so get booked in for Easter Sunday Roasts.

Our monthly Quiz hosted by Danny are fully booked so far!! Everyone keeps coming back! Our bingo nights also continue to be a success, especially with my bizarre bingo calling!!!!

We have theme nights coming and we shall try and do something once per month. Our breakfast menu has also taken off! Keeping the Chef and myself super busy!!!

As the weather hopefully begins to improve and I can get out in the garden, the play park can be utilised and families can enjoy the large space!

I have a bit of work I want to do in the garden, including tidying the petanque area and I have some new Rose Bushes planted by the very kind Clive and Jan Gosling. I want the garden to be full of colour, not daffodils, I hate a daffodil!!!

Im not the keenest of gardener, so anyone who ever sees a weed or wants to chop something, please do!!!

We may hopefully see in May, a Premiership Party here at The Bell, if my beloved Liverpool win the league, so any Liverpool supporters in the village, keep your eyes peeled!!

I have a team for the annual Fire Engine Pull on May 4th and a number are from the village if anyone wishes to support them and sponsor them. We pull the fire engine on 4th May.

Its been great having Perky Beans here on a Tuesday and Thursday, its nice to be able to support another village business! Mel has really put her heart and soul into Perky Beans and is well loved. Also the shop is situated on site, and they do really need your support. Please if and when you can support them. Both two great assets of our lovely village. Follow my Facebook page, my website, or call me to know what's going on.

Thank you all for your support to. We wouldn't be where we are without you.

*Ragi & The Team*



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Village Shop





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Great Paxton History Society presents

## **'GODMANCHESTER AT WAR'**

A talk by Roger Leivers

**MONDAY 9th JUNE**

7pm for 7.30pm start

£3.50

**The Marquee at The Bell Pub  
Great Paxton**

A talk covering wartime life in this small but significant town. Hear the stories of some of our fallen, children and evacuee stories, the ARP & Dads Army, the V1 attack, Farm Hall and its Spies, German Nuclear Scientists, the rivalry between Godmanchester and Huntingdon and so much more. (Much of this traffic would have gone up and down our local road, passing or hopefully stopping at the pubs and shop.)

Copies of Roger's books will also be on sale



## **Great Paxton Reading Group**



Last month we read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. I had wanted to read it for a while as a TV series had been made of the four books – the Neapolitan novels – and had good reviews. The series is not available any more. This is the first book and it is about two school age female friends growing up in Naples after the second world war. I found it very hard going and I do want to read the next book but not in a I cannot put it down way!



We also read *The Amazing Grace Adams* by Fran Littlewood. This book was inspired by the 1993 movie – *Falling Down*. Again, I read it but would not recommend it as a good read. It was about a menopausal mother's rage at a critical part of her life.

The Reading Group meet once a month on a Thursday.

*Amanda*

# THE RETIREMENT REVOLUTION

It has now been 9 years since the Government made major changes to the regulations regarding how and when we can access our pension funds.

Prior to this, we had very little choice concerning our own pension money when retiring. It was a general perception that we could not be trusted to make 'the right decision'.

The changes raised concerns that we would access and spend our pension funds on items such as cars, holidays or home improvements and many of us would then face a long retirement with only the state pension to support us. In reality, the evidence suggests that most of these funds have been used in more practical ways, such as repaying debts, topping up savings or meeting increased living expenses.

To many of us our pension represents the largest single asset we own next to our home. Few of us, however, give as much time and care to looking after our pension as we do our home. These far-reaching changes mean that every person will have decisions to make regarding their retirement provisions. Whilst the Government has set up a guidance service to assist, they are not able to offer specific advice.

Few of us work for one employer for our whole career anymore and this means that many have 'lost' pensions that would well be a welcome windfall.

The recent increases in the cost of living and interest rates have led to many experiencing a sharp rise in mortgage costs. Utilising pension cash may be an attractive way to reduce or clear borrowing and free up much needed income.

Whilst the changes are undoubtedly welcome, I urge everyone to take time to review their situation and seek Independent Advice before taking irreversible action that could also lead to unnecessary tax bills.

I have lived in Great Paxton for 26 years and have been providing Independent Financial Advice for over 30 years. If you would like to review your situation, I would be glad to assist.

**Chris Wills DipPFS, Cert CII (MP & ER)**

**Senior Independent Financial Planner Brooks Wealth Management**

**chris@brookswwealth.co.uk E chriswills11@gmail.com**

**T 07512 349325**

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## LOCAL TOWNS & VILLAGES

FIND THE WORDS HIDDEN IN ALL DIRECTIONS

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 O Y Y S E P E S A E O H T U O S Y O  
 N N T E T A A E P S H E I N N H E T  
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 D L H B S S E T W O T W L H T E E A  
 G C O U T E I N A O L T R T X R V P  
 N D N C I E L T T D R O F N O T A E  
 I R I K U T N A L N I T H N R N R L  
 T O T D Y H I A N E I O H I C D G T  
 N F I E O F F O R D D A R C Y E I T  
 U F P N R E H I E Y N E S B U R Y I  
 H O N I T D I D D I N G T O N E H L

BUCKDEN  
 CROXTON  
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 EYNESBURY  
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# GREAT PAXTON HISTORY SOCIETY

**MEET MONTHLY  
ALL WELCOME**



On Monday the 9th June we are pleased to welcome local historian Roger Leivers who has written several books about Godmanchester, the Stirling plane that crashed there, and the 'goings on' at Farm Hall. Roger will present a talk based around his book "Godmanchester at War". The talk starts at 7.30 pm in The Bell marquee. All welcome. £3.50 per person.

We recently enjoyed a presentation from Nick Tracken entitled "Looking at Buildings". Nick gave a very interesting presentation about what we can see if we really look at buildings. Windows, doors, and brickwork can tell us a lot about

the building, but often pose more questions than answers. Many of the pictures were from local buildings with a few added from London and other places. Hidden in plain view are many fascinating places that we wish could tell their stories.

This is Cressener House in Huntingdon Street, St Neots. Behind the Georgian brick frontage there is a 15th century timber framed farmhouse. The clue, apart from the wooden beams if you are lucky enough to go inside, are in the big metal 'S' brackets in between the front windows. They are tie-bars, often used to hold a new brick wall that has been built against an older wooden one. The tie-bars were made by the local blacksmith and so vary in design and size.



This double-fronted, red brick town house on the South side of St Neots Market Square was built about 1700. Made from clays that contain iron, when fired they turn red. Later on from 1890 they used clay which contained chalk, turning them yellow, such as the two newer building on either side.

Brick was used after the Great Fire of London in 1666 to try to avoid the same happening again. Regulations slowly reached the rural towns to stop building in wood, to cover the wooden front with brick and to set the window frames back from the surface, and many other rules.

Graham J found a note in the archives from Bert Goodwin about a tollhouse at the top of Paxton Hill. It was this building that was turned into the pub, known either as The Fox or The Mill. The Towgoods, who had Paxton Hill House built, were members of the Temperance Society, and they bought the pub in order to knock it down as they didn't like seeing their workers drinking. Some of the bricks from this building were used to clad one in the High Street, now demolished.

All our meetings are open to everyone. We don't charge any fees although occasionally we will have a topic, with a speaker, for which there may be a small charge.

It's a chance to talk about all things historical, local and national as well as teasing out memories from the older residents, and looking at interesting items brought along.



Our next meeting at The Bell will be June 9th for the "Godmanchester at War" talk followed by a meeting in September and then monthly ongoing for the winter period.

If you are interested in the history of Great Paxton visit our website:

<https://greatpaxtonhistory.weebly.com/>

We are always looking for more pictures and stories from Great Paxton. Contact us on [greatpaxtonh@yahoo.com](mailto:greatpaxtonh@yahoo.com)

And finally, this is a photograph of the entire Great Paxton School in 1966. Recognise anyone?



## BOOZE & BRUSHES

### COOKIES & CANVAS

We've had some amazing paintings at Booze and Brushes, the Highland Cow has visited again, this time in slightly more muted tones. March's offering will be a cheeky spring sheep and April a gorgeous landscape. If you'd like to come along you would be very welcome. Cost is £15 a session, step by step acrylic painting bookable at [www.greatpaxtonboozeandbrushes.co.uk](http://www.greatpaxtonboozeandbrushes.co.uk) or message me on 07903 571774.

Children's painting, Cookies and Canvas, is on once a month in the school hall, also bookable under "painting in Great Paxton" on the website. Happy painting 💎💎







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