

# Birdbrook Parish News

## Christmas in Birdbrook

Join us in the Community House  
for  
The Christmas Fayre 11am Sunday 15th December

At the Warm Hub every Friday morning, 10 - 12  
and Christmas Coffee Friday morning 20th December

At Birdbrook Church for the Carol Service  
Sunday 15th December 6pm

Christmas Holy Communion 10.30am Wednesday  
25th December

## Weight Restriction on the B1092 ?

Suffolk Highways is consulting on a potential westbound  
HGV weight restriction (7.5t) on the A1092.

Representations in response must be made by  
9<sup>th</sup> December.

*For full details see back page.*



The poster features a central circular wreath of red and white snowflakes with a large red bow at the top. The text is arranged around and below the wreath. At the top, two small house-shaped logos for Birdbrook Community House are present. The main text is in red and black, with 'CHRISTMAS FAIR & GROTTTO' in large red letters. The date and time are in red, and the location and contact information are in black.

Birdbrook Community House  
The social heart of the parish

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The social heart of the parish

JOIN US FOR OUR  
ANNUAL

**CHRISTMAS  
FAIR &  
GROTTTO**

**15TH DECEMBER, 2024**  
11AM UNTIL 3PM

BIRDBROOK COMMUNITY HOUSE CO9 4BN  
TRADING TABLE £10 GROTTTO ARRIVE ON THE DAY  
35UT £2 (INCLUDING GIFT) EMAIL TO BOOK  
KATIEGENTRY@BIRDBROOK.ORG.UK

December 2024



## St Augustine, Birdbrook

### All I want for Christmas is.... a Dalek

Christmas trees, presents, wrapping paper, candles, tinsel, carols, bells, snowmen, reindeer, stockings, turkey, mistletoe, mince pies, and wise men—this season is filled with tradition and history.

However, no Christmas would be complete without a novelty song.

If Aled Jones singing "Walking in the Air" isn't your style, perhaps Slade's "Merry Christmas Everybody" is more to your taste. Or, if you prefer the



sounds of the 1970s, Boney M's "Mary's Boy Child" might be the one to get you into the Christmas spirit.

In the winter of 1964, the Go-Go's released an extraordinary novelty record that opened with these words:

I'm gonna spend my Christmas with a Dalek  
And hug it underneath the mistletoe  
And if he's very nice  
I'll feed him sugar spice  
And hang a Christmas stocking from his big left toe.

This text illustrates a troubling lack of knowledge about the anatomy of a Dalek, while also reinforcing the idea that nothing captures the spirit of Christmas quite like the chance to celebrate it with a genetically engineered race of evil machine/mutant hybrids bent on galaxy-wide domination.

The themes found in Christmas carols are much more fitting for the season. Whether focusing on shepherds in a field outside Bethlehem, the journey of the Wise Men, or the voices of angels, the events surrounding the birth of Christ have inspired generations of songwriters.

Of all the carols we sing at Christmas, the one that best reflects the extraordinary gift that God gave the world in the form of His son Jesus, and our response to it, is "In the Bleak Midwinter."

Despite its references to frosty winds and earth as hard as iron—scenarios that seem unlikely given the location of Jesus's birth—we still hear the Good News: the God of heaven came to earth to be among us. There is nothing we can do to ever repay what God has done for us; all we can offer is ourselves.

At this Christmas time, amidst snowmen, mistletoe, and festive songs—sensible or otherwise—giving ourselves to God is a gift worth singing about.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a happy new year,

Jonathan  
vicar@2rivers.faith 01440 731687

## St Augustine, Birdbrook Services:

Sunday 8th December: 10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 15th December: 6:00pm Lessons & Carols

Weds 25th December: 10:30am Christmas Holy Communion

## Karenja Meditation & Holistic Therapies

My name is Jeannette, I'm a Mindful Meditation Teacher and Reiki Master. It brings me joy to facilitate several meditation gatherings in our community, including the delightful opportunity to initiate two at Birdbrook Community House. If a moment of peace and tranquillity resonates with you do join us, all are warmly welcomed! Feel free to send a text or ring me at 07824612177 to secure your spot. Our gatherings are every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 PM, and Thursday at 1 PM. I eagerly await the chance to connect with you.



## Aurora in Birdbrook

On the night of Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> Oct we witnessed a beautiful light show, a rare sight in the skies over Birdbrook and beyond – the northern lights (Aurora Borealis).

Aurora displays can sometimes be seen with the naked eye, on a clear night if conditions are good, no light pollution etc. However, it may only appear as a green/whitish colour or if the aurora activity is strong then pinks and reds may be visible. The sensitivity of our eyes is also a factor, the Rods in our eyes are not as good as a camera sensor when it comes to detecting/collecting light. Taking a long exposure photograph, e.g. a few seconds, means much more light can be detected compared with our own eyes. You can get some lovely aurora photos with mobile phone cameras – a few tips, set it to Night mode and make sure you hold the phone still when taking the photo. I took these photos using a traditional digital camera on a tripod with a remote shutter release – so I didn't shake the camera when pressing the shutter button.

Aurorae are created by interactions between the solar winds, which stream out from our sun, and Earth's protective magnetic field. They occur around the north & south magnetic poles. Our sun is ejecting charged particles from its corona all the time, creating the solar wind and when this wind hits into Earth's atmosphere, aurorae can appear. Some of the charged particles are deflected towards our poles by our planet's magnetic field and they interact with gases (nitrogen and oxygen) in our atmosphere - this interaction generates the red, green, violet etc colours of aurorae. As the incoming particles collide with atoms and molecules of oxygen and nitrogen in the Earth's atmosphere, they excite them to produce light – the light of the aurora.

The amount of charged particles ejected from the sun goes through an approximate 11year cycle i.e.



Photos above, opposite and front page by Martina McGovern

sometimes there is a small amount released, other times there are massive outbursts (sunspots, e.g. Coronal massive ejections). A Solar maximum is the name given to a time when the sunspots are the most in frequency and intensity terms. Typically, it is 11 years from one Solar maximum to the next. Currently we are approaching Solar maximum, it is predicted sometime between now and late 2025.

The closer you are to the poles the more likely you are to see the display but during periods of heightened Solar activity, like now, means the aurora can be seen as far south as Birdbrook and beyond. On May the 10th this year Aurorae were witnessed as far south as the northern coast of Africa.

Martina McGovern

## Birdbrook Parish News brought to you by Birdbrook Parish Council

<https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookparishcouncil/>

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Latest and previous editions:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookparishcouncil/birdbrook-parish-news/>

Next edition:

News and adverts by 15 February for the March 2025 BPN

Editors Val and Katie: [birdbrook2021@gmail.com](mailto:birdbrook2021@gmail.com)



## Part 6 from our Bird Ringing Expert in Birdbrook

Some of you will have read (and hopefully enjoyed ) the recent articles regarding my bird-ringing adventures in various countries around the world. Sadly my travelling has ceased for the time being but that does of course give me more time to concentrate on the birds a little closer to home.

Looking back over some of my previous articles I don't think I've ever explained exactly what bird ringing entails, ie how I catch the birds and what I do with them once they're caught. So in this issue I thought I'd show you in words (and pictures) how I go about ringing a few of the common birds that you all see in your gardens in Birdbrook.

I ring several hundred birds each year in my garden in Daw Street, made up mainly of Blue tits, Goldfinches and Starlings but occasionally I can also catch good numbers of Greenfinches and Blackbirds. I also catch other species of tits, and finches, the more common summer visitors such as Chiffchaff, Willow warbler, Swallow and at this time of the year I hope to catch some of our winter visitors such as Redwings, Fieldfare, Bramblings, Siskins and Redpoll. I continue to feed the birds all year round and I find sunflower hearts to be the favoured food for all the finches. I also feed suet pellets and dried mealworms and I find these an excellent bait for my traps when I am targeting Starlings and Blackbirds. The majority of the birds I ring are caught in mist nets which are very fine nets between 20-60 feet in length supported at each end by long poles. The nets are tensioned in such a way that the net hangs quiet loosely, forming pockets into which a bird will fall when it hits the net. (See photo below left).

Some birds can get quite badly entangled in the nets (see photo top right), especially if they are left in there too long and this is where experience and training comes in. I can normally extract even the trickiest bird within a minute or so but on very rare occasions a strand of netting may need to be cut to release the bird as the safety of the bird is of course paramount. Blue tits can be a nightmare (especially on a frosty morning when your



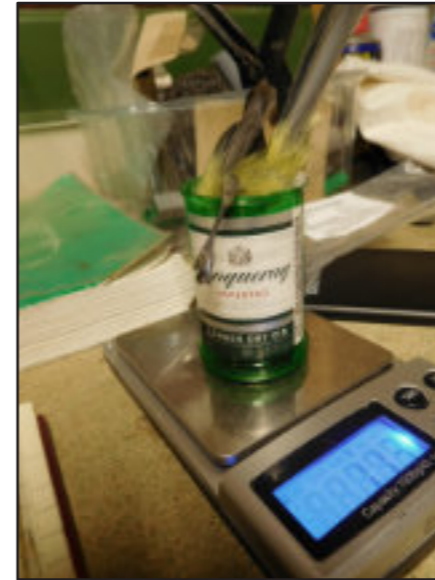
Top: Where do you start?  
Below: Ring fitted and ready for processing

fingers are numb) but the worst birds to extract by far will always be Wrens. They seem to have the ability to wriggle half way through the net, free their wings and then try and fly off, causing themselves to spin into a tight ball!!!

Once the bird is removed from the net it is placed in a cotton bag and taken to the ringing station for processing; when I'm ringing at home this is my garden shed! This is where the bird will be identified and whilst usually I'll know what the bird is, occasionally (especially outside the UK) I would need to check various identification guides to confirm the species. Most ringers have an unwritten rule - "IF YOU CANT IDENTIFY IT, YOU CANT RING IT!! Once identified, I'll select the right size ring for the bird and close it around its leg with a pair of specially designed pliers. (See above). There are about 15 different sizes of rings covering all species of British birds. Each ring has a unique alpha numeric code so any ringed bird can be individually identified. On some species I may also add



A mist net with Blue tits awaiting extraction



Cut down in-flight gin bottles make excellent weighing pots

has helped me to age and sex the bird and I also record whether the bird is breeding.

- 2) Wing length – measured in millimetres
- 3) Weight – measured in grams (see photo above )

This data is recorded in a note book but later will be entered into the BTO Demon database which carries details of all birds ringed in the UK. This means that if I were to catch a bird that carries a ring that has not been allocated to me I can very quickly find out when and where it was ringed.

Once all the necessary data is collected the bird is free to go and I will usually just check the ring is fitted OK and the bird is fit to release. See photo top right.

And that in very simple terms is how I ring birds . I have probably ringed over 4,000 birds of 48 species in the nine years that I've lived in Birdbrook. I have ringed some fantastic birds, a Redstart, several Siskins, Green woodpeckers, several Sparrowhawks and ringing nestling Barn owls at Cornish Hall End and Hadstock is always a great thrill. Bird ringing has governed my life on and off for the last 50 plus years and hopefully I've still got a few more years before I have to hang up my pliers! There's plenty of interesting birds in the Birdbrook area and although I love ringing exotic species in far away places there's something special about ringing quality birds on your local patch. As I was putting pen to paper for this article I was fortunate enough to ring 18 Redwing at a farm in Eggshell Lane in late October. This was the earliest I have ever ringed Redwings in Essex and it prompted me to find out whether winter had come early or whether the berry crops had failed in northern Europe. In the UK both species can be found in parks and gardens during the winter months feeding on Rowan, Cotoneaster, Blackthorn, Ivy and any other berry bearing trees or shrubs but the early arrival of these birds is usually due to the failure of the berry crop or an early cold snap in Scandinavia. Fortunately my next door neighbour, Martin Gilbert, has some friends in Sweden and I asked

a coded colour ring which may be read in the field; I currently fit orange plastic rings to Jackdaws and some of these colour ringed birds have been re-sighted in Moynes Park and Stambourne Green.

I will also collect and record the data required by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the administrators of the UK ringing scheme. These are:-

- 1) Age and sex of the bird and these are usually determined by studying the plumage colour or wear, feather moult, eye colour and occasionally size. I may also record additional information regarding specific feathers which



Ringed, processed and ready for release.

him to give them a call and find out what the situation is like over there. They confirmed that the weather there is mild and there's plenty of fruit and berries on the trees! I was also fortunate to ring some Fieldfare in early November in Rushbrooke near Bury St Edmunds; they are just spectacular birds and again I would normally only catch them when the ground is frozen and they come into our gardens to feed on windfall apples. Perhaps they can sense that bad weather is on its way....or perhaps they just fancied a change of scenery!!!

And to close, there was great excitement in Birdbrook in late October when a rare bird turned up in Finkle Green. A Hoopoe, usually found in southern Europe spent a few days in Julie and Paul Trinder's garden giving excellent views for the delighted local birders. This was my second sighting of a Hoopoe in the area as I had seen one in Stambourne Green last July. So perhaps you don't need to travel too far to see exotic birds; they could be just outside your kitchen window!!

Happy Xmas all and good birding!!

Barry Williams



## From Birdbrook Parish Council

Next Meeting Dates  
7pm in Birdbrook Community House

7<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### The Local Plan

Local plans are a government requirement produced by District Councils following local consultation.

For more information from Braintree see p8.

### Concerns?

If Parishioners have comments or concerns they should address them to appointed Cllr's or to Debbie, our Parish Clerk. Alternatively you have the opportunity to address the Cllr's at their meetings (dates above) which are open to the public.

Cllr Steve Rhenius: [chair@birdbrook.org.uk](mailto:chair@birdbrook.org.uk)

Debbie, Parish Clerk:  
[parishclerk@birdbrook.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@birdbrook.org.uk)

The Birdbrook Parish News welcomes pieces on general topics of interest to readers: please send to Val / Katie: [birdbrook2021@gmail.co.uk](mailto:birdbrook2021@gmail.co.uk)

## Pamper Evening

Katie & I would like to say a big thank you to all who came & supported the first pamper evening at the CH in October. The evening was well attended for a new idea, by those in Birdbrook & also from surrounding villages & Haverhill.

The evening included craft items to purchase from Kellikin Crafts, Gypsy card reading from Chantal, guided meditation with Heather, manicures by Matilda Rose, beauty treatments by Siobhan, the ladies from Steeple Bumpstead (Bounce) & Reflexology treatments by Head to Toe Holistic (Coco).

There was a raffle, the bar was open & refreshments provided courtesy of Birdbrook Community House were well received & appreciated.

Feedback received has been positive & people enjoyed something different to attend, many have also said that they felt the taster aspect of the treatments, readings etc was perfect as they had time to try a few new things without having to commit to a full blown appointment for something they're perhaps unsure of. It was a good opportunity and pleasurable experience to treat themselves in the village without the need to travel.

The evening went well & we hope to put on more pamper evenings a couple of times a year. If you have any suggestions in keeping with well-being for future evenings, do let us know.

Coco and Katie  
[headtotoeholistic@yahoo.com](mailto:headtotoeholistic@yahoo.com) [Katie\\_owner@hotmail.com](mailto:Katie_owner@hotmail.com)



## Haverhill Banking Hub open!

A new shared Banking Hub is now open at 1, The Chauntry Centre, High Street, Haverhill, CB9 8AA

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

The Hub has a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions every day.

### Counter services:

- Withdraw cash
- Deposit cash
- Deposit cheques
- Pay utility bills
- Check account balance
- Collect change (registered business customers)

You will also be able to talk to your own bank about more complicated issues.

Community Bankers will work on rotation with a different bank available on each day of the week:

Mon HSBC  
Tue NatWest  
Wed Lloyds (from Dec 2024)  
Thu Santander  
Fri Barclays

Please note that our community bankers may be unavailable during lunchtime as they take a well-deserved break.

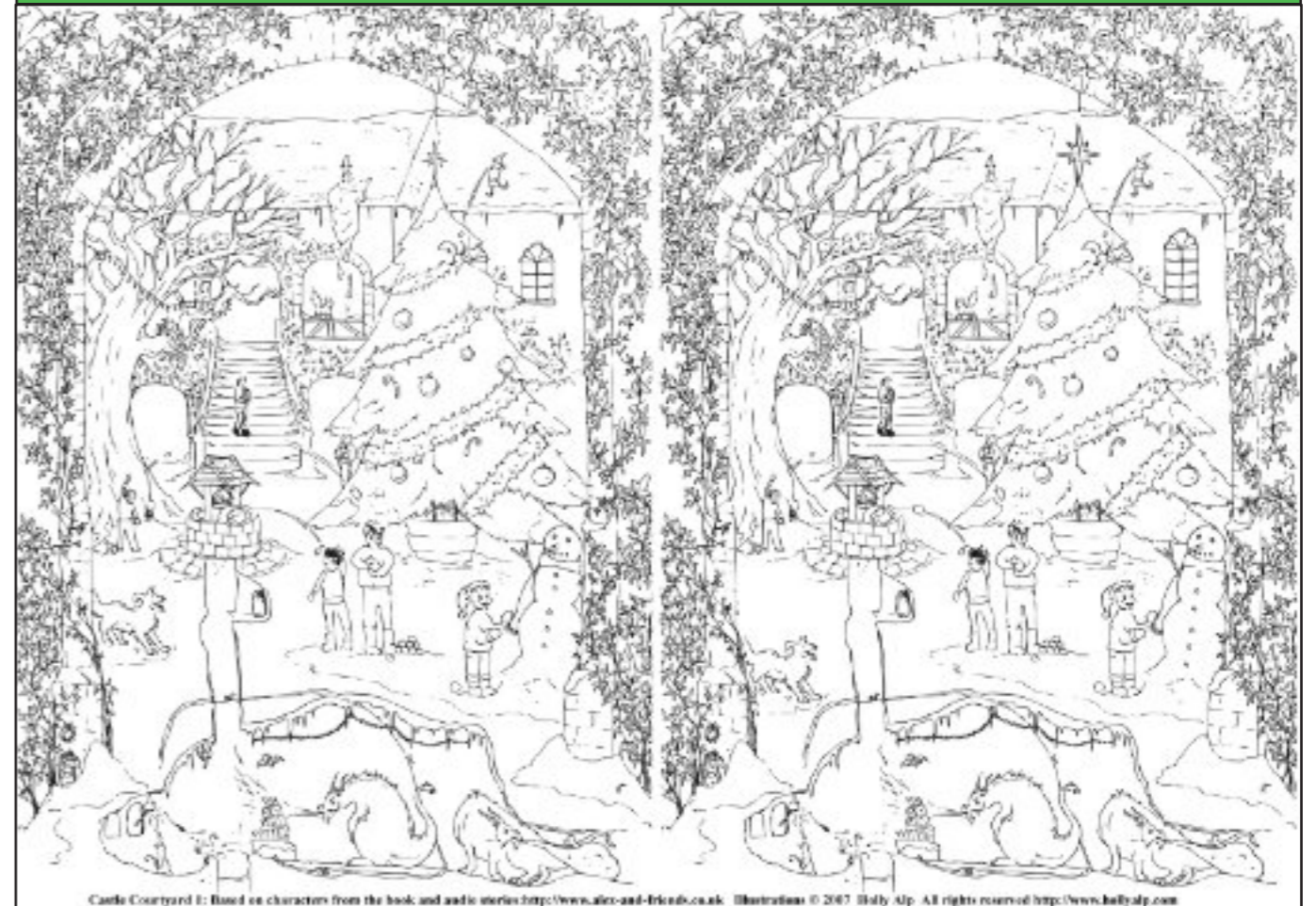
Please note the Banking Hub is not a Post Office so you can't send parcels or buy stamps



Visit [www.cashaccess.co.uk](http://www.cashaccess.co.uk) to find out more.



## Can you spot 12 Differences between the pictures?



## Birdbrook Village Pond

In September, Will and Tiffy Rook reported that they carried out a thorough tidy-up of the pond surround (owned by them but for the use of all village and community) including the removal of branches, pond weed, tree stumps, and other debris. This effort significantly improved the appearance and they hope it enhances the village and its use for the community in general.

However to maintain the pond and surrounding space, they would appreciate help from the Parish to assist with its ongoing maintenance, as although they will try to do their bit as often as possible, it would be fabulous to have this more regularly kept, as outside the community house for example.

Regarding the issue of the collapsed wall in the front roadside of the pond, this is the responsibility of, has been raised with, and action is awaited by Birdbrook Parish Council (BPC) from Essex CC Highways Dept.

Although the water in the pond is in need of dredging to restore its clarity and health, BPC does not have funds available. However it could apply for grants (if applicable) for such schemes but one barrier to this is the lack of documentary evidence regarding the assertion that the village (or BPC) owns the water but not the land. If anyone has, or can find any documents relating to this, or is willing to assist with maintenance of the area, please contact Debbie, our parish clerk: [parishclerk@birdbrook.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@birdbrook.org.uk)



Birdbrook village pond, opposite the Community House. Photo by Jane Garnham

## 1ST KEDINGTON SCOUTING UNITS TOY DRIVE

Donation points & Times

Beavers at the KCA between 5pm-6.15PM

Cubs at the KCA either at 6.25pm or 8pm

Scouts at Kedington Scout at 7pm

- The only things we can not accept are electrical toys
- Soft toys must have a CE safety mark please

11th December 2024



## Hello from your District Councillor

### Design Code Consultation – Please complete a short questionnaire

BDC are creating a new Design Code, a planning policy document that aims to set out clear expectations of good quality design principles for the District. The code would be used when determining planning applications to help direct the look and feel of a development and how it should interact with the surrounding area. **The consultation will close at 5pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.** BDC are initially seeking the views of local people, communities and stakeholders to help shape the Design Code. This is to understand what is important to residents when it comes to the design of new developments. Please complete the short questionnaire to answer some questions and express your interest in being involved in future engagement.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/design-code>

### Planning

I have received concerns about the potential development sites which were submitted to BDC. Around 319 sites were submitted in total and these are currently being assessed. This Government has been clear that it wants to forge ahead with building 5000 new social and affordable homes, also new towns being implemented by their New Towns Taskforce. It would seem that the South East has higher housing targets than elsewhere. The density is currently assumed to be around 25 dwellings per hectare. The Local Plan Sub-Committee will debate at forthcoming meetings: 17/12/24, 12/02/25, 01/05/25, 19/06/25, 31/07/25, 24/09/25, 30/10/25 (*subject to change*).

Meetings are webcast: <https://www.youtube.com/@braintreedcwebcasts>

### Process for Requesting Verge Safety Cuts

Where a need is justified, anyone can request a safety cut to verges to maintain clear sight at junctions road splays and roundabouts, etc. Safety cuts can be requested either by an online form at [www.braintree.gov.uk/contact](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/contact) or by contacting Customer Services: Email: [csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@braintree.gov.uk) Tel: 01376 552525. Following receipt of a request, a site inspection will be made to verify the need for a cut and this will be added to BDC's work programme as required. The person reporting the request is notified of BDC's decision.

### News From Cambridge

**East West Rail: The Government has announced a consultation on the next steps that is due to run between 14 November and 24 January. They have outlined that they want the line to connect Oxford, Milton Keynes, and Cambridge, with the first**



**trains to depart from Bedford to Oxford by 2030 via the acceleration of the Marston Vale Line.**

**£10m will be provided to the Cambridge Growth Company to develop a plan for housing, transport, water, and wider infrastructure including East West Rail.**

### Rail Fares

Regulated train fares in England are to increase by 4.6% next year, while the price of most railcards will rise by £5, the government has announced. The increases were not mentioned by the chancellor in her Budget speech but it was instead noted in the Treasury's budget document. The changes will come into force on 2 March 2025.

### Disposal of Sharps (e.g. medical needles)

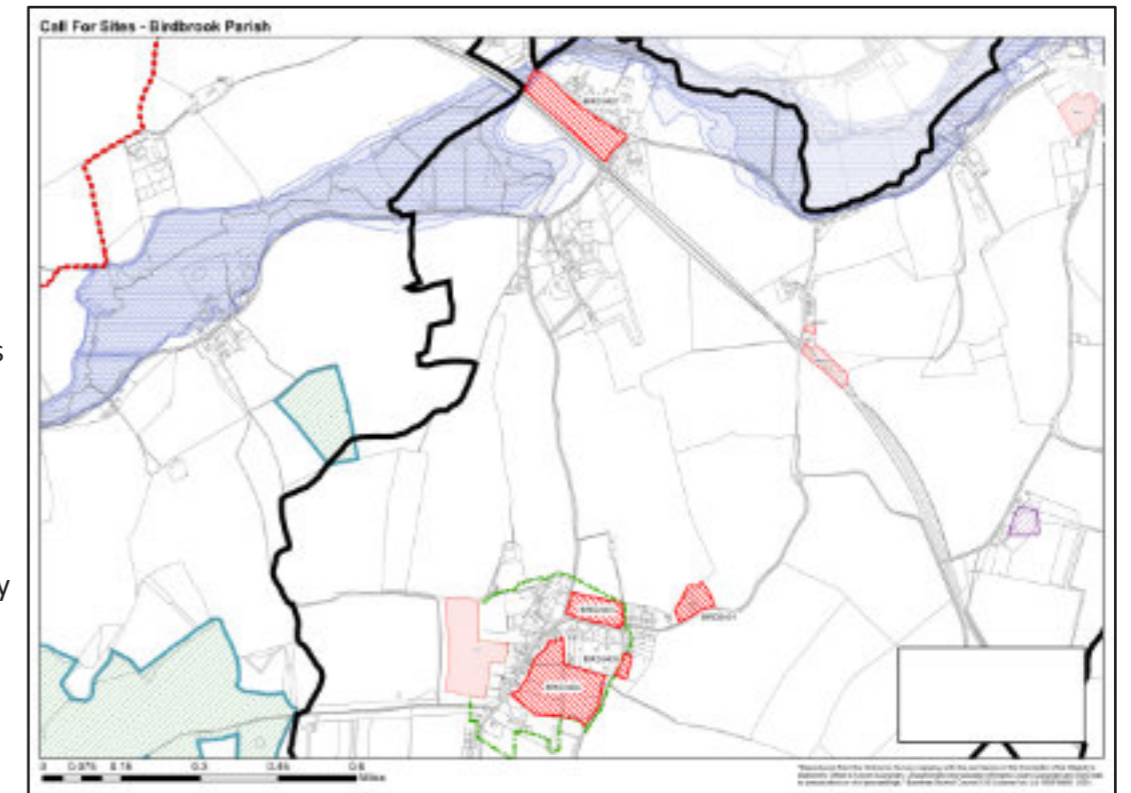
Concerns have been raised with me about the lack of places to dispose of Sharps in the locality. Some pharmacies in Haverhill, which residents in the Bumpstead Ward normally use, are no longer providing this service. Sharps are classified as

Hazardous Waste and must be disposed of responsibly. They must not be disposed of in household waste. Your GP surgery will supply a Sharps Box and you can arrange collection of the box by contacting GB Holdings – Tel: 01245 464214.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/dispose-clinical-waste>

### Development Sites

Braintree District Council has received additional proposals for potential development sites within Birdbrook. These sites will now be subject to assessment by officers who will consider suitability for future development. Sites will then be considered by the Local Plan Sub Committee in spring 2025, followed by formal public consultation on the sites.



Ref	Proposed Use	Site Address
BIRD2401	Housing	Ricmar, Moat Road, Birdbrook, Halstead
BIRD2402	Housing/Employment/Specialist housing and care home/Mixed use/Affordable Housing	Sturmer Road, New England
BIRD2403	Housing	Land East of Birdbrook Hall Farm
BIRD2404	Housing & Community	Daw Street, Birdbrook
BIRD2405	Housing	Land East of Daw Street, Birdbrook

*With best wishes to all,*

**Cllr. Diana Garrod**

Braintree District Councillor for the Bumpstead Ward

### Wishing Everyone a Happy, Healthy 2025







## Birdbrook Ladies Group

### September

We met in Stoke by Clare at the home of our member, Mary Ann, whose neighbour gave a floral demonstration. Jenna Walker gave us the history of how she started out and now grows all her own flowers. She does the arrangements for weddings and is very much into using seasonal flowers and not imported ones. Jenna is an advocate of sustainable flower growing and the use of British flowers, making the most of their scents. Flowers are natural and imperfections are to be expected. She gave us tips on when to pick our flowers and how to condition them overnight to prolong their life. Whilst talking to the group, Jenna produced a beautiful arrangement with flowers, greenery and grasses from her garden. Jenna is a member of the Flowers from the Farm Association who champion artisan growers of seasonal UK grown cut flowers. The evening was further enhanced by the refreshments provided by Mary Ann.

### October

Vicky Scrase, a specialist nurse, from Addenbrookes Hospital gave a very informative and interesting talk to the group. She arrived in her green "scrubs" and told us about her 12 year career in nursing, her different roles and the units she worked on. Vicky told us she had enjoyed working on lots of units but particularly liked orthopaedics because you could see the results of the recovery. She also informed us about the challenges faced, particularly during COVID. Vicky brought along the PPE that had to be worn and to demonstrate how difficult and uncomfortable it was, I put it on and it was! She was happy to answer any questions and also gave the group a reminder of some first aid tips.



### November

This was our usual Christmas crafting meeting. Laura Walker, one of our talented members, demonstrated, and assisted those who needed it, how to make a French knot wreath. This entailed using an embroidery hoop, material and a variety of threads. I think there was some degree of success, with most of us being pleasantly surprised at what we had achieved. We also made our choices for our Christmas meal, and mulled wine and mince pies were provided, just to get us in the festive mood.



**Next event: 5th December - Xmas Meal, Three Horseshoes, HB**

**We're a very friendly group, new members and visitors are always welcome.**

**Annual Membership: £25.00**



## Are you over State Pension age, or know someone who is?

**Pension Credit** tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs.

If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim **Pension Credit**, even if you own your home or have savings. People who claim **Pension Credit** may also be able to get:

- The **Winter Fuel Payment** and other help with heating costs
- Help with rent and Council Tax
- A free TV Licence for those aged 75 or over
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments

You could be eligible for **Pension Credit** if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner who lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances.

**Don't miss out.**

Check your eligibility at [gov.uk/pension-credit](https://gov.uk/pension-credit) or by calling **0800 99 1234**

Eligibility criteria apply for the equivalent in Scotland.



## Birdbrook Bowls Club

We must thank Keith Choat who stepped up to take on the role of Green Keeper at the start of the season, for which the club are eternally grateful. Along with his great team they have maintained the green all season to a very good standard bringing many accolades from visiting teams, well done one & all.

At the end of the season the green has to be prepared for the winter. Scarifying, top dressing & seeding, was carried out with many members supporting Keith. Breakfast of bacon rolls with a cuppa went down very well, with the tasks in hand being completed earlier than expected, great for team building.

I am delighted to report that BBC acquitted themselves extremely well this season, achieving promotion in two leagues, North Essex & Steeple Bumpstead: next season we will be bowling in the their second divisions. A great achievement for a small club.

All credit must go to the captains & players who bowled extremely well. A special mention goes to Clive Brazier who captained our teams who bowled in the North Essex league, winning promotion, entering the competition this season after a two year absence.

On the 16th November the club held its end of season celebration dinner and annual prize giving. Among the many prize winners were: Singles, Doubles and Triples Champions (Clive Brazier; Kieren Macnamara; Richard Figgins - Kieren Macnamara, Paul Sutton) and for the Paul Pearce Memorial Trophy (David Skuce - Leslie Woodward). League Captains chose their Players of the Season: Arthur Spackman: David Miller; NEBF: Colin Allen and Steeple Bumpstead: Alan Cook.

Our president Yvonne Lawrence had the pleasure of choosing the new player of the year (newly joined in 2024), this year awarded jointly to Michael Claydon and Jack Jones; and her champion this year: Keith Choat.

Congratulations goes to all this seasons prize winners.

So here we are at the end of another successful season in the history of BBC. The green is now prepared for the winter, bowling still continues in the form of indoor bowls held in the Community House on a Friday evening once a fortnight (6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December). All are welcome to come along to share in the fun & enjoy some friendly hospitality as well as from our well stocked bar.

If you would like to have a go at bowling either outdoors (Wednesday evenings in the summer) or indoors (every other Friday evening) then do please come along on one of our indoor bowls sessions, it really will be good to see you.

Alan Cook

**To find out more contact Ben Allen: 07778 225272**  
[birdbrookbowlsclub2024@gmail.com](mailto:birdbrookbowlsclub2024@gmail.com)



*Clive Brazier, one of the many outstanding 2024 prize winners - and the L plates are for ?*

**Bowls Club Open Day**  
**Sunday 13 April 2025**  
**All welcome!**



**Chapel Community Care**, formerly Stambourne Chapel Care, has been running for nearly 4 years.

We are currently in the process of registering as an independent charity, hence the change of name.

We have recently welcomed 3 new volunteers and 4 new service users. We continue to offer befriending and transport as well as liaising with professionals on behalf of some or our service users. If you, or someone you know would like to join our outings group, would like a befriender, or have few hours to spare, please get in touch.

Jill Holmes  
Tel:07883423528  
[stambournechapelcare@gmail.com](mailto:stambournechapelcare@gmail.com)



## B1092 Consultation

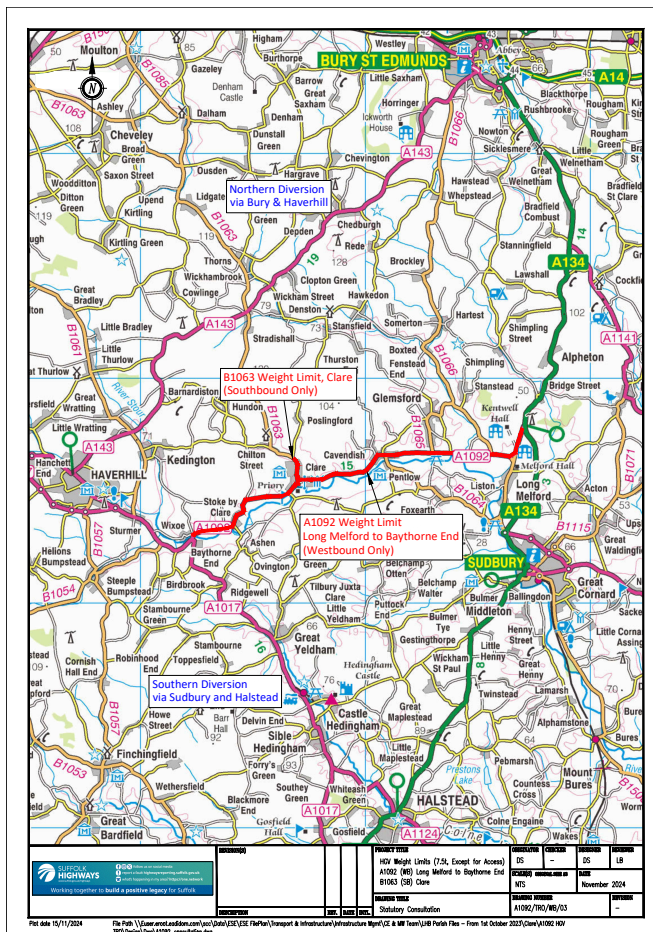
Following concerns raised by the communities along the A1092, Suffolk Highways is consulting on a potential westbound HGV weight restriction (7.5t) on the A1092. There is a history of issues along the A1092, in particular, HGVs trying to negotiate the blind bend at The Bell Hotel in Clare. The proposed HGV restriction will extend from A134 Long Melford bypass to the Essex boundary at Baythorne End, please refer to the plan attached.

If a traffic regulation order is introduced, HGVs travelling north on the A134 will be diverted via Bury St. Edmunds, A143 Haverhill, and A1017 Sturmer. HGVs travelling south on the A134 will be diverted via A131 Sudbury, A1124 Halstead, and A1017 Sible Hedingham. HGVs approaching the A1092 from side roads will be diverted westbound along the A1092 towards A134 Long Melford.

To compliment the westbound A1092 restriction, a southbound HGV weight restriction (7.5t) will commence at the B1063 junction with C676 Poslingford Corner, Clare. Advanced signs will be erected on the A143 Stradishall to warn HGV drivers of the restriction within Clare.

For both proposals, there will be exemptions for deliveries, buses, refuge collections and agricultural vehicles. A further consultation will be undertaken with local businesses and haulage companies, pending the outcome of this consultation.

Formal representations, specifying the grounds on which they are made, must be sent to [LHB@suffolkhighways.org](mailto:LHB@suffolkhighways.org) or by post to: LHB and Minor Works Team, Suffolk Highways, Phoenix House, Goddard Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 5NP by Monday. Representations must be made by 9<sup>th</sup> December.



**Councillor Diana Garrod**  
Member for the Bumpstead Ward  
Deputy Cabinet and Lead Member for Climate Change & Sustainability

### **Birdbrook Christmas Fair & Grotto**

*Our annual Christmas Craft fair has the new addition of a Grotto. A community grant from Braintree District Council has enabled the Community House Trustees to set up the grotto for this year. Our fantastic Santa and his volunteers from both the Community House Trustees and Birdbrook Parish Council can not wait to meet you all on the day. Prebooking is advised but not essential to see Santa. All children visiting will receive a gift from Santa. Please email Santa's little helper to prebook or join us to trade on the day (for just £10 per table). [Katiegentry@birdbrook.org.uk](mailto:Katiegentry@birdbrook.org.uk)*