



## Ousden Village Hall & Playing Fields (registered charity 304932)

It was good to see some of you at the Christmas Bingo which was held at the beginning of December in our festively decorated hall. Thank you to all who baked cakes and helped to organise the event as well as those who attended, we had a fun time!

Winter Solstice Yoga also took place before Christmas and was greatly enjoyed by our regular members in addition to new yogis from far afield, this popular event has become a winter must.

### New Year, New You?

Join our popular weekly **Yoga classes on Wednesday and Friday morning** at 9.15am or try Sonia's **Strength and Resistance training on a Tuesday morning**(all abilities welcome) Details on the website <https://ousdenvillagehall.org.uk/activities/>

### Coming soon

**17<sup>th</sup> April - Paint and Prosecco evening** to be run by our local artist, Michelle Parsons . Booking is essential via [ousden.vh@gmail.com](mailto:ousden.vh@gmail.com), cost is £15 to include all artist materials, closing date to book is 10<sup>th</sup> April. Bring your own drinks. More details on our website.



*Quiz Nights  
Bingo  
Coffee Mornings*

### Opening Times

Monday – Sunday  
12.00pm – 11.00pm

### Meals Served

Wednesday, Thursday	Sunday Roast
Friday & Saturday	12.00pm - 3.30pm
	12.00pm—8.00pm

**Tel: 01638 500740**



**16<sup>th</sup> May - Farm Walk 10am**, starting and ending at the Village Hall, led by the farm estate manager, Graham Flux. Hot beverages and homemade cake will be served at the village hall afterwards along with an archaeology update of finds around our village by Albi. This event is a joint fund raiser with St Peter's Church, and ticket details be available on our website. <https://ousdenvillagehall.org.uk/news-and-whats-on/>

### Fundraising and the New Hall

The Ousden Lottery took place at the beginning of January, with **prize money of over £450**. We are inviting new members, so if you are looking for a way to help us fundraise for the new hall, with a chance of winning prize money, this could be for you. Cost is £1week. Details - <https://ousdenvillagehall.org.uk/910-2/>

We have also **raised nearly £700** through Easy Fundraising App, [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk). You can easily download the app and use it for shopping at no extra cost but of much benefit to us. Try it and see!

To end on a high.... We meet with the National Lottery Capital Team next month to complete the final details and hopefully we will have some very good news for you all later in the year!

Wishing all a Happy and successful 2026, from all of us at the Village Hall.

**Chris Ingham & Celia Holt  
on behalf of the  
Ousden Village Hall Committee**

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergency.....999  
Suffolk Police (non urgent).....101  
Crime Stoppers.....0800 555 111  
Electricity Emergency.....08007 838 838  
Anglian Water Emergency.....0800 145 145  
Power Cut .....0800 3163105  
Power Cut From mobile..... 0333 3232105  
West Suffolk Council.....01284 763233  
Suffolk County Council.....0345 6066067  
Wickhambrook Surgery:  
Appointments.....01440 820140  
Repeat Prescriptions.....01440 823801  
Ousden Parish Council  
Clerk—Ms Joanne Kirk.....07880 686069  
clerk@ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk  
www.ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk  
Ousden News Editor..ousdennews@outlook.com  
Church Wardens:  
Nicola Nunn.....01638 500237  
Trevor Harris  
Rev Eve Bell.....07815 441304  
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:  
Helen Gale.....07971 282545  
Wickhambrook Stores.....01440 820220  
Garage.....01638 500080  
Bowls Club.....01638 500438  
Newspaper Deliveries.....01440 820969  
Village Hall  
Bookings...www.ousdenvillagehall.org.uk/bookings  
Email.....ousdenvh@gmail.com  
Website.....www.ousdenvillagehall.org.uk  
The Fox.....01638 500740

### Nearest Defibrillator

Outside The Fox Public House (Postcode: CB8 8TR / What3Words: dandelions.takers.dignify)  
In an emergency, ring 999, the ambulance service will give you an access code if required.

### Ousden Website !

For more information on news and events please visit:

[www.ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Or look up

Ousden Village Facebook Page



### Ousden Parish Council

A meeting of Ousden Parish Council took place on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025. District councillor Mike Chester also attended the meeting.

### Budget 2026-27

Ousden Parish Council approved its budget for 2026/27. Councillors agreed to increase the amount of money it gives to Ousden Village Hall from £2,800 to £5,000 to help with ongoing costs while the Village Hall Committee focuses on the new build project. The precept request will be **£12,627**. The parish council element for a band D household will be **£92.43** per annum an increase from **£81.20** which equates to **£11.23** per annum per band D household, an increase of **13.83%**.

### Village Hall Update

Ousden Parish Council has been working with the Village Hall Trustees to prepare documentation required by the National Lottery for their application for funding for the new village hall. Part of this involved a trip to Suffolk Archives in Ipswich which holds a number of historic documents relating to Ousden and the village hall. The village hall and playing field were gifted to the Parish Council in 1954 and the Charity Scheme set up in 1965, which passed responsibility for managing the village hall and playing fields to the Village Hall Management Committee. Ousden Parish Council was appointed as Custodian Trustee, which means it holds the title for the land in safekeeping for the trustees. Following legal advice from Ashtons Legal LLP, Ousden Parish Council is now in the process of formally registering the title with the Land Registry as this will help with the application for a National Lottery grant.

## Crime updates from Haverhill Community Policing Team.

From 10<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025 there was a burglary of a dwelling and a report of a dangerous dog which bit someone when off the lead. As of 13<sup>th</sup> October, this was still being investigated.

There have been a number of burglaries of outbuildings, residential homes and farms in the area and residents should remain vigilant.

Poachers have been in action in and around Ousden and Lidgate. There have also been oil thefts. Any suspicious activity should be reported to police, if urgent by dialling 999, or for less urgent issues by ringing 101 or online using the link [suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something](https://suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something).

### Rural South Watch

Rural South Watch is a local organisation which is designed to combat rural crime by sharing information about suspicious activity in the area and giving details of vehicles to look out for. To receive updates, email [ruralsouthwatch@btinternet.com](mailto:ruralsouthwatch@btinternet.com)

### Potholes

At this time of year, more and more potholes appear. If you notice potholes when out and about it is important that they are reported to Suffolk County Council as soon as possible. The easiest way to report a highways issue in Suffolk is online using Suffolk County Council's Highways reporting tool <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> The sorts of issues you can report include blocked drains; damage to highways, footpaths, cycle lanes or tracks; debris, weeds or mud on the road; Flooding on a road or pavement; heavy goods vehicle incidents; missing or faded road markings; obscured, missing or damaged signs; potholes; public rights of way issues; trees or hedges affecting the highway. It is helpful if you can take a picture of the issue if it is safe to do so and attach it to your report. If the location is hard to describe, the What 3 Words app is an excellent tool for pinpointing locations <https://what3words.com>.

**Do not report a highways problem online if it poses an immediate danger to public safety. Instead call 0345 606 6171.**

If there is an issue of a trunk road like the A14 call the National Highways Information Line on 0300 123 5000.

### Urgent dental care in Suffolk.

Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board have shared the following information: Urgent care dental appointments are available across Suffolk within 1 to 7 days by contacting NHS 111. Adults and children experiencing dental pain, infection and other urgent issues can access NHS care seven days a week, including in the evenings. Go online at [111.nhs.uk](https://111.nhs.uk) or call 111 for an appointment.



## St Peter's & St Barnabas

### Carol Service

The Carols by Candlelight service in December was well attended, a lovely start to the Festive Season. Fantastic singing followed by mulled wine and mince pies to get everybody into the festive spirit.

Thank you to all the ladies who provided flower arrangements and helped to clean and prepare the Church for the Service - it looked beautiful.

### PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting is being held on 28th February 2025.

### Garden of Remembrance

After a long and lengthy process, we have received the Faculty for the new Garden of Remembrance within the cemetery at St Barnabas.

This offers a dedicated space within the cemetery for the interment of cremated remains, giving families a lasting and beautiful setting in which to remember their loved ones.

Trevor Harris & Nicola Nunn  
Churchwardens, St Peter's & St Barnabas

### Bansfield Benefice Services

(10.00am - Holy Communion unless otherwise stated)

	<b>February</b>		<b>March</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Denston	1 <sup>st</sup>	Stansfield
8 <sup>th</sup>	Cowlinge	8 <sup>th</sup>	Stradishall
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OUSDEN</b>	15 <sup>th</sup>	Lidgate
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wickhambrook (Ash Wednesday)	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Denston
29 <sup>th</sup>	Wickhambrook	29 <sup>th</sup>	Cowlinge

Please note these are subject to change, always check the website for up to date details or use the QR code for the services website.  
[www.bansfieldbenefice.org.uk/services](http://www.bansfieldbenefice.org.uk/services)



# WHATS ON IN OUSDEN

## Dates for your Diary.....

### Village Hall

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March  
Café Stop - 10am -12pm

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### Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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### Mobile Library

14<sup>th</sup> February / 14<sup>th</sup> March / 11<sup>th</sup> April  
Village Hall – 10.35am-11.05am

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### The Fox

#### OAP Lunch

19<sup>th</sup> February

19<sup>th</sup> March

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#### Quiz Night

18<sup>th</sup> February

18<sup>th</sup> March

-

#### Bingo

8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February

9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March

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## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

**A CHANCE TO WIN & HELP FUND THE NEW VILLAGE HALL**

Contact Jessamy Saltmarsh:  
[jessamy.saltmarsh194@btinternet.com](mailto:jessamy.saltmarsh194@btinternet.com) or  
01638500816 for details

You might be lucky!

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