

# NOUSDEN NEWSLETTER



Oct & Nov 2025 No:264

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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  
ousdenparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk  
www.ousden.onesuffolk.net

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

The Fox.....01638 500740

## Village Hall

Bookings.....01638 500329

Website.....www.ousdenvillagehall.org.uk

Fundraising App:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/ousdenvillagehallandplayingfield>

## 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.

**Previous editions of Ousden Newsletter can be found on the Parish Council website [www.ousden.onesuffolk.net](http://www.ousden.onesuffolk.net)**



## Ousden Parish Council

A meeting of Ousden Parish Council took place on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025. County Councillor Bobby Bennett and District councillor Mike Chester attended along with two members of the public. Cllr Bennett and Cllr Chester spoke about their preferred options for local government reform. Cllr Bennett favours a single unitary authority whereas Cllr Chester favours two unitary authorities. The final decision will be made by the Government.

## Welcome to two new parish councillors

Following the resignations of Helyn Dudley and Geoffrey Ingham, two new councillors, Jo Wright and Jess Pettitt were co-opted on to the Parish Council. We look forward to working with them and hope they enjoy being part of the team.

Ousden Parish Council would like to thank the outgoing councillors Helyn Dudley and Geoffrey Ingham for all their hard work and commitment during their time on the Parish Council. They will be missed.

## Six-month budget review

Councillors reviewed the Parish Council's expenditure to date against the budget for 2025/26. The budget is currently on track.

## 2026/27 budget

Ousden Parish Council will be discussing the budget for 2026/27 at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Ousden Parish Council regularly receives request for money. Our main priority is to support village organisations and in particular Ousden Village Hall.

We already contribute to their running costs and pay the insurance for the playpark; however, we will be discussing the possibility of increasing the amount of financial support we give to Ousden Village Hall so that the Village Hall Committee can focus on raising money for a new village hall. The only way we can do this is by increasing the precept which is part of the council tax that you pay. This means that the cost of supporting the village hall would be shared by council tax payers in Ousden.

We always welcome your views about how the parish council element of your council tax is spent. Do you support the Parish Council's proposal to give more money to Ousden Village Hall by raising the precept as we believe a new village hall will benefit the whole community? Please use our new contact details below to let us know your views.

### **Tackling speeding and road safety in local communities**

Speeding and road safety is a concern which is consistently raised by residents but the most difficult one to tackle. This is because the highways authority for Suffolk is Suffolk County Council and communities find it a challenge to get them to act on their concerns.

Moulton Parish Council has contacted other parish councils in West Suffolk to find out if their experience has been the same as Moulton's. It soon became clear that Moulton is not alone. The words 'battling' and 'challenging' were used to describe what it is like to try and engage with Suffolk County Council. As a result of this feedback, Moulton Parish Council is setting up a group of parish councils to work together to lobby Suffolk County Council about their current stance and to ask them to update their policies which are over 10 years out of date.

Ousden Parish Council agreed to join the group and work collectively with other parish councils to highlight the extent of their concern about road safety. John Gale agreed to represent the Parish Council at any meetings.

### **Community Thermal Camera project**

Ousden Parish Council is hoping to run a Thermal Camera Project this year and has registered its interest with Suffolk County Council. The aim of the project is to survey

homes from the outside to see if there is any heat loss from the property and highlight where more insulation might be needed. More information will follow later in the year if the project goes ahead, however if you would like to register your interest, please contact our parish clerk using the contact details below.

### **Loft insulation offer**

Public sector organisations in Suffolk have teamed up to pay half your bill when you top up your insulation with High Loft (up to £200). Anyone in Suffolk can receive a 50% discount off their purchase of 200mm or 370mm wide insulation rolls (up to £200) with free delivery, from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand.

Go to [www.bit.ly/suffolkloft](http://www.bit.ly/suffolkloft) and fill in the short form to receive your personalised link to order, or call High Loft's insulation experts on 01706 248203. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will close once the allocated funding has been spent.

Loft insulation helps maintain a cooler indoor temperature so now is the perfect time to get your home summer ready.

To find out more visit [www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/funding](http://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/funding).

### **Thefts from oil tanks**

PC Cheryl Claydon from the Local Community Policing Team came to the pop-up café in June. She asked that people be made aware of increased levels of heating oil theft, especially over the summer months as people stock up when prices are cheaper.

### **New contact details for Ousden Parish Council**

Ousden Parish Council has new a new email and website address.

Email: [clerk@ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Website: <https://ousdenparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Tel: 07880 686069

The minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council website. Draft minutes will be published with 28 days of a meeting.

**Joanne Kirk**  
**Clerk to Ousden Parish Council**



## Ousden Village Hall & Playing Field

It's hard to believe that summer 2025 is now over and what a summer it was. We all seemed to enjoy the wonderful weather but the gardeners were not always happy due to the lack of rain.

Since the last newsletter, we have been running some very successful cafés and have decided to extend our dates into October.

Normally Café Stop finishes at the end of September but requests have been made from many cyclists for us to continue. If you haven't joined us during the last few months, there is still an opportunity to do so. We can't guarantee the weather outside but you will be sure of a warm welcome indoors.

As all produce is home made by committee members and friends, we are looking to encourage more villagers to participate in baking as there is a high demand for our delicious cakes. If you have any skills in this direction, please let us know and we can arrange to reimburse you for your ingredients and your efforts.

Cricket has really taken off this summer thanks to Roderick who has sourced some funding and put in a great deal of effort on the field with Mike, ensuring the pitch and field are up to standard.

Our popular children's playground is always in need of TLC as it gets lots of use. We are grateful to parents who help keep down the weeds and do small repairs but we really require some extensive improvements in the area and need to apply for grants to bring some of the equipment up to spec. A working party would be the way forward and parents are a key to this as we need their enthusiasm and support to move things forward. Please don't hesitate to come forward to help, otherwise the play facilities in Ousden will not continue to exist. This is a huge responsibility for the committee who, at the same time, are trying to raise funds for the new hall.

It was lovely to see Shirley Mackie once again since her retirement from Ousden House when she came back to the village to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Hall in August. I understand that the family party was arranged by her granddaughter and that Shirley travelled all the way here and back to Kent on the day.

At our last meeting we welcomed Michelle Parsons on to the Committee. If you would like to join her, then feel free to come forward at the AGM on November 11<sup>th</sup> when we'll be electing and re-electing members.

That's all for now but we'll be planning our next Christmas event which, hopefully, will take place on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. Look out for adverts nearer the time as it will be fun for children and adults alike. Enjoy the Autumn months.

**Chris Ingham**  
**Ousden Village Hall Management Committee**

# Ousden Cafe Stop

~Ousden Village Hall~

Last Sunday of the Month

10am-12noon



All proceeds to Ousden Village Hall and Playing Fields



## St Peter's & St Barnabas

### Suffolk Historic Churches Ride, Stride & Drive

We welcomed lots of visitors who took part in the annual fundraising event for Suffolk Historic Churches on foot, bikes and in their vintage cars. St Peter's was part of the quiz which drivers take part in...the skeleton which is part of the Monument to Letitia Moseley being the answer!

It was lovely to be part of the day to provide refreshments and a history of the Church whilst they enjoyed a break.

### Harvest Festival

We will be hosting the Benefice Harvest Festival at St Peter's on Sunday 5th October. Please come along and join us...all welcome.

### Dates for your Diary....

Saturday 4th October - Harvest Lunch at the Village Hall. Come along and enjoy a Ploughmans Lunch followed by a hot Pudding and a chance to win on the raffle.

Sunday 5th October - Benefice Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church, Ousden. Food donations are welcome - these will be taken to the Gatehouse charity in Bury St Edmunds.

Sunday 21st December - Carols by Candlelight. We will be holding our annual Carol Service at 4pm with refreshments following the Service.

**Did you know the annual cost of running both St Peter's & St Barnabas is approximately £11,000 per year**

**If you would like to make a donation towards keeping these beautiful & historic buildings open and enjoyed by all, the QR code below can be used to make a donation which will be used to carry out necessary repairs and running costs.**



**Thank you**

### St Peter's Church Services

(10.00am - Holy Communion unless otherwise stated)

28th September	Wickhambrook
5th October	<b>OUSDEN</b> <b>Benefice Harvest Festival</b>
5th October - 3.00pm	Lidgate Harvest Festival
12th October	Stansfield
19th October	Stradishall
26th October	Cowlinge

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



# HARVEST LUNCH

Ploughmans & Pudding

Saturday 4th October  
12.00pm

RAFFLE

RAFFLE

Ousden Village Hall

£15.00 - Adult  
£8.00 – Child (up to 12 years)

All proceeds in aid of St. Peter's & St. Barnabas

Tickets – Nicola 07470 611700





[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/  
support-a-good-cause/  
ousdenvillagehallandplayingfield](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/ousdenvillagehallandplayingfield)

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

Contact Jessamy Saltmarsh:  
jessamy.saltmarsh194@btinternet.com or  
01638500816 for details

You might be lucky!

The Fox Inn  
Ousden 

**Christmas Events**

**First Christmas Dinner**  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
-

**Festive OAP Lunch**  
10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December  
-

**Party Night**  
**Chelse Francis (Abba Tribute)**  
13<sup>th</sup> December  
-

**Christmas Quiz**  
17<sup>th</sup> December  
-

**Christmas Draw Night**  
20<sup>th</sup> December



 *Quiz Nights*  
*Bingo*  
*OAP Lunches*

*Tel:*  
**01638 500740**

**Opening Times**  
Monday – Sunday  
12.00pm – 11.00pm

**Meals Served**

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

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*for Events & Information*



# WHATS ON IN OUSDEN

## Dates for your Diary.....

### Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

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### Mobile Library

25<sup>th</sup> October  
22<sup>nd</sup> November  
20<sup>th</sup> December

Village Hall – 10.35am-11.05am  
Church - 11.10am-11.25am

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### The Fox

### Quiz Night

22<sup>nd</sup> October / 19<sup>th</sup> November

-

### Bingo

5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October

2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November

14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December

-

### OAP Lunch

16<sup>th</sup> October / 20<sup>th</sup> November

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### St Peter's Church

### Harvest Lunch

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Ousden Village Hall  
See advert for details

### Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - 4.00pm

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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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