

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

A welcome guide for new neighbours

Welcome,

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome you to Culford, West Stow and Wordwell.

This Welcome Pack has been produced to help you get to know a little more about our communities and provide some contact information that might be useful for finding facilities and services.

There is a comprehensive listing of information regarding the clubs and organisations that are active in and around the villages in the useful information section. We hope that these details will be useful and allow you to feel part of the community as gradually or as quickly as you would wish.

You are very welcome to participate and contribute to village scenes, where you will find many opportunities for the expression of new ideas and involvement.

The Parish Council meets regularly to act on issues of importance within the communities. If you believe there is something we can do to help on any community matters or issues, please feel free to contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

We hope you find this publication interesting and useful.

The Parish Council

Chair Cllr Rachael Salt (Culford) rachaelsalt@outlook.com	Cllr Paul Turnill (West Stow) paulturnill@hotmail.com
Vice Chair Cllr David Fisher (Culford) david.a.fisher@btinternet.com	Cllr Paul Luke (West Stow) Paul.luke53@hotmail.com
Vacancy	Vacancy
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The Parish Council

The Parish Council exists to represent the interests of the three village communities. It is a local authority with certain powers which it exercises in its own right, or in conjunction with West Suffolk Council or/and Suffolk County Council. Activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life and community wellbeing.

The Parish Council works with the County Council on highway matters and is consulted by West Suffolk Council as a right on most planning matters within our boundaries.

The Council serves, and makes decisions on behalf of, the villages and aims to keep everyone informed about important issues and on-going projects. Councillors are members of the community, elected by the community and they give their time, effort and resources without financial reward.

Meetings

The Parish Council normally meets on the 3rd or 4th Thursday of July, September, November, January and March. The May meeting of the Parish Council is its Annual Meeting and is preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Parish (which is not a meeting of the Council).

Meetings are held in Culford Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm (other than in May when it starts after the Annual Meeting of the Parish). Any variations to dates are published on its website site (and in the Lark Valley Benefice Newsletter if time allows). Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings.

The agenda for the next meeting becomes available in the week of a meeting and is published on the Parish Council website <http://culfordweststowandwordwell.suffolk.cloud/> and the village notice boards, and a reminder is posted on the Culford West Stow and Wordwell Community facebook page.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and while they may not interrupt the proceedings, there is a Public Forum during the meeting when comments on matters on the agenda, questions and suggestions of matters for future consideration by the council are welcomed.

The finance needed to run the Council and provide for facilities and services, comes primarily from the Parish Precept. The precept is set in January of each year for the year beginning on the following 1st April and is raised as an element of Council Tax.

The Parish Council is a statutory body, whose members are elected every four years by the people of the parishes. This is the time when those with a keen interest in the villages have the opportunity to become more formally involved as councillors.

History of the Villages

Culford

Culford is situated 4 miles from Bury St Edmunds and has a population of about 650. The River Linnet flows through the southern edge of the village into the lake of Culford Park and then into the River Lark.

For several hundred years Culford was almost entirely an estate village, connected with Culford Hall. The Bacons (a large and important Suffolk family) were the first known to own the estate and in 1935 the last aristocratic family to own The Hall sold it and it has since been home to a public and prep school. Culford School acquired the 480 acres at the core of the old estate with the rest having been sold off piecemeal.

In the second half of the 20th century the village developed in a ribbon along the Bury road (The Street - a road created in 1804 by the estate) with some development on small roads leading off it. Within the estate the School has converted, extended and developed many buildings to meet the needs of a modern school.

The Hall itself is a notable building. There has been a house on the site since at least the C16 and the present Hall has a Georgian core (built by the Cornwallis family in c1796), rather swamped by late Victorian additions. These were perpetrated by the Cadogan family in the 1880s when they acquired the estate to provide the then earl with a base near to the racing at Newmarket.

The Georgian house can be discerned only from the south west - the northern front (depicted in the village sign) and the eastern range (which provided service space) are all Victorian, as is the high-level balustrading which was added in an effort to unite old and new in the 1880s. The Cadogans were responsible for much building on and around the estate and buildings of their era are clearly identifiable by the use of the hallmark red brick and terracotta panels also to be found on the Cadogan estate around Sloane Square in London.

Between the Cornwallis and Cadogan families the Hall was owned by the Benyon family. E R Benyon, the second of the two Benyon owners was an exceptionally wealthy 'Squarson' (ie both squire and parson) who was responsible for gradually increasing the size of the estate to the 20,000 acres that it comprised by the late C18, and for adding many buildings..

Benyon believed that whatever the station of a person in life they deserved to have a sense of ownership over their house and land and while this did not extend to him giving land to his workers, he did provide them with good houses. Hence it was under his ownership that the many white-brick and flint cottages that can be seen not only in Culford but in many of the surrounding villages (all of which fell within the estate) were built. Many of these semi-detached pairs were built to a back-to-back design (rather than side by side as is more common for semis) so that each house looked out over its own garden.

A lasting legacy of the Benyon era is the fact that the village has no pub. Benyon regarded the White Hart, which stood almost opposite the main gates to the estate, as "a scene of moral debauchery" and had it closed in 1840 - the building is now a private house, known as Benyon Lodge.

The first mention of a postal service in Culford is in July 1852, when a type of postmark known as an

undated circle was issued. The village post office was immediately north of Butchers Row (now the northern drive into the School, opposite the phone box) but was closed in January 1990 - it is now a private house

To the north of the village is an area known as 'The Triangle' where the road forks towards either Wordwell or Ingham. The green burial ground is to the left of The Triangle.

Home Farm House at the southern edge of the village dates back to c 1500 and the farm the early 1800's; This being the dairy unit and piggeries of the Culford Estate.

Culford Park - 480 acres of parkland with grazing, formal gardens, lake, and the 16th-18th Century Culford Hall. If you wish to walk in the grounds please stick to footpaths and if you have a dog it must be kept on a lead (and of course please clean up after it!). Most of the paths are 'permissive' which means that there is no public right of way but permission exists to use them.

The thatched *cricket pavilion* has featured in many films and television programmes. The iron bridge built over Culford Lake is of exceptional interest as one of the earliest bridges with an unmodified cast-iron structure to survive. Built in 1804 and Grade 1 listed, it has its own Wikipedia Page.

The Culford Club, was formerly the village/estate Reading Room and was opened in February 1891 by the Countess Cadogan. In 1976 it was opened as a club after the then members bought it from Bass Charrington Brewery. It is held in a trust.

Culford St Mary's Church, is situated in the south part of Culford Park. There has been a church on this site since antiquity although it was renovated during the time the Cornwallis family were lords of the manor and later in 1856 when it was almost completely demolished and rebuilt by the Victorians. Besides the residents of Culford, the School also uses the Church for their worship.

Culford Village Hall is located in the heart of the village, benefiting residents of Culford, Ingham, West Stow, Wordwell and Culford Heath as well as people who wish to hire it for events. The hall was proposed by the Earl of Cadogan as a "Harvest Home" in 1912 and was constructed during 1914. It is used regularly by local groups including indoor bowls, children's music clubs, Parish Council and other meetings, and for social gatherings such as children's parties, wedding receptions and discos. Residents of the villages receive a reduced rate for village hall bookings.

Find out more about events and hiring the hall in the Useful Information section. In 1936 the hall and surrounding land was conveyed to local trustees and is now run by the Village Hall committee. If you would like to join the committee please contact culfordvillagehall@gmail.com.

The Hill of Health. At the north end of Culford, is a beautiful round barrow crowned with a clump of Scots Pines. It is thought that it was a Saxon burial area and is now in the garden of a private house.

Culford Heath. Is an appendage of Culford some distance north of the village. Part of the estates of the Earl of Cadogan.

St Peters Church built 1860/3 was made redundant in 1976 and is now converted to a private residence.

West Stow

West Stow is a small village north of Bury St. Edmunds, and west of the village of Culford. West Stow is the site of an early Anglo-Saxon village, occupied from AD 420-650, over 400 years before the Norman Conquest. Its name may have come from Anglo-Saxon *wēste stōw* "deserted place", rather than "western place".

This area is located in an area called the Brecklands. Current population approx. 220.

The village sits on the road to Icklingham, and has entrances to West Stow Woods (Kings Forest) and to Fullers Mill. Further down towards Icklingham / Mildenhall is the Anglo Saxon Village.

The road from Bury St Edmunds passes Chimney Mills and Cornwallis Close.

West Stow Anglo Saxon Village is one of England's great archaeological sites. There is a stunning recreation of an Anglo-Saxon village, with supporting, modern buildings and it is surrounded by 125 acres of unspoilt countryside. There is a children's adventure playground and a number of guided walks through the country park round the lakes and alongside the River Lark. The dog-friendly café serves a selection of drinks, cakes and hot food. You will need some change to pay for parking.

West Stow St. Mary's Church At first glance the pretty country church appears to be entirely Victorian, but first glances can be deceiving, for though St Mary's owes a lot to a comprehensive Victorian restoration in 1878, it is at heart a Norman church, dating to the 11th century, with rebuilding in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Fullers Mill Gardens run by the Perennial Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society, is open to the public between April and October. It is an enchanting 7 acre garden on the banks of the River Lark. A beautiful site with light dappled woodland and a plantsman paradise. Excellent tea room.

West Stow Club is situated on the Icklingham Road. A defibrillator is positioned at the club. Opening hours are Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime. Membership is required.

West Stow Hall: Legend has it that West Stow Hall was built by Sir John Croftes, 'Master of the Horse to Mary Tudor', Dowager Queen of France and Duchess of Suffolk, and that he had her coat of arms placed over the door to the gatehouse by way of a compliment to her. You can find out more about the history of the hall at www.weststowhall.com

Wordwell

Wordwell, a village about five miles North of Bury St Edmunds, was hit by the Black Death in 1348 and never recovered in terms of population. The current population is 13 which may make it the smallest village in England. During the 19th and early 20th centuries it was part of the Culford Estate.

All Saints Church is a redundant Anglican church. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade I listed building, and is under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The Church is largely Norman but with Victorian alterations. Due to the absence of electricity, services are generally only held during the light summer months.

Wordwell is also one of very few Thankful Villages, that is to say one which lost no men during either World Wars.

Walking and Riding

The three Parishes are blessed with close proximity to Thetford Forest comprising West Stow Wood and Kings Forest.

Thetford Forest is the largest lowland pine forest in Britain and is located in a region straddling the north of Suffolk and the south of Norfolk. It covers over 19,000 ha (47,000 acres) The Forests are managed by the Forestry Commission and are open 24 hours per day seven days a week, (unless signs informing of forest work are placed).

Dogs are welcome and there are no charges for access to the woods.

The Kings Forest, named to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary, offers acres of trees, sweeping heathland, wide open skies and plenty of solitude. This is a very special area, filled with history, evocative names, undisturbed habitats and miles of walking, cycling and horse riding opportunities. Close to the walks and rides are West Stow Country Park, Rampart's Fields Picnic Site, Suffolk Wildlife Trust Lackford Lakes and Cavenham Heath National Nature Reserve.

Dale pond in West Stow woods supports a variety of wildlife in the area, made special by its incredible diversity of dragonflies. It's also a summer watering hole for many birds!

It is possible to walk through to Fornham All Saints along the river and continue into Bury St Edmunds.

There is a public footpath across the fields from Culford to Ingham

Culford Park offers a walk from Culford through to West Stow alongside the River Lark and Culford Park Lake. Dogs are requested to be on leads and there are a number of dog waste bins in the park.

Culford West Stow and Wordwell - Useful Information

Local Shop

Your nearest shop and Post Office is in the neighbouring village of Ingham - run by Chrissie and Karl. Open Mon - Friday 9am - 5pm and until 1pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Telephone 01284 728250 This is also your nearest place to withdraw cash at the counter. Hot food is also available.

Recycling and Bin Collections

Bin Collection Days are Wednesdays (unless there's been a bank holiday) black bins are rubbish, brown (by subscription) for garden waste and blue are recycling (excluding bottles). There is a bottle bank outside Culford Club and the usual facilities at the local supermarkets. Both the Co-op and Tesco now offer soft plastic recycling bins (for pet food pouches, film and plastic bags etc)

Household Waste Recycling Centre Fornham Road. Bury St Edmunds IP31 1ST (currently by appointment only). Bin (and Bulky item) Collection: 01284 757320

If you'd like a 30mph bin sticker please contact one of the Parish Councillors.

Planning

If you live in the parish and are thinking about any works to your house, beyond routine maintenance, you are likely to need permission because most of the parish is in a conservation area. This means that even most work to trees (cutting back, reducing height etc) also requires permission. You can follow this link to find out more:

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Conservation/conservationareasandappraisals.cfm>

It is well worth checking your particular planning situation because you can be compelled to remove unauthorised structures or face prosecution for tree works, listed building works or any other works that change the appearance of the village and that are carried out without proper permission.

Oil Club

To buy heating oil at the best rate you may want to join the Oil Club. You can sign up at: www.oil-club.co.uk.

How it works: Oil Club send out an email on Friday/Saturdays with the best price that week. You log into your account and place your order (minimum is 500 litres) Once there are enough orders, the oil is delivered (usually within 7 - 10 days). This is a great scheme to be part of as it offers you a competitive price and instead of multiple journeys from multiple suppliers, one supplier delivers all the oil in one trip, saving money and fuel/environmental emissions.

Village Emergency Plan

If you have a particular skill and would like your details added to the village emergency plan you can do so by contacting Cllr Salt on rachaelsalt@outlook.com. We're always happy to hear from first aiders, chainsaw licence holders or anyone with a 4x4. The emergency plan covers things like loss of services, extreme weather etc - anything more than that would be covered by the main emergency plan from West Suffolk Council.

Defibrillators

Can be found outside Culford Club, West Stow Club and outside the Gym at Culford School. There is also a defibrillator at Hall Farm Wordwell.

Community Aid Groups

There are two community aid WhatsApp groups that you can join by scanning the QR codes.



These groups were set up at the start of the Covid 19 pandemic but are still in use to share village news, ideas and requests for help. If you need help (swarming bees, borrowing tools, lifts etc) then post in the relevant group and your neighbours will be able to help or advise.

There are also Facebook pages/groups for:

The Village Hall: [@culfordvillagehall](#) this is a public page.

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Community: www.facebook.com/groups/287595602443290 this is a public group (so easiest to find using search).

Drainage

Many of the sewerage and drainage pipes in the villages are very old and can quickly be overwhelmed if anything other than 'the three Ps' are flushed. Please - no 'flushable' wipes, cotton buds, cotton wool etc as they may end up making a reappearance.

Neighbourhood Watch

There is an informal neighbourhood Watch scheme running in Culford. If you would like to get involved please contact councillor David Fisher.

There is no neighbourhood watch scheme in West Stow – if you are interested in setting one up please contact Councillor Paul Luke.

The Village Hall

The Village Hall is on The Street, in Culford and also serves West Stow, Wordwell, Culford Heath and Ingham. A full list of current activities and clubs can be found on the Village Hall website which is www.culfordvillagehall.co.uk. The Hall has WiFi and there is a noticeboard signposting some other local groups and social events. Ingham Social Club hold regular quizzes and bingo afternoons. Contact: culfordvillagehall@gmail.com Local residents get a discounted hire rate.

Culford Club

Opening times can be found at the club entrance but it's generally Monday, Thursday and Saturday 8:30pm - 11pm. The club is run by volunteers and the team are always pleased to welcome new members. The Club can also be hired for events.

Contact: David Fisher on 01284 728768

West Stow Club

Membership is required: Contact Mary Cooke 01284 728715

Opens Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime.

Wildlife Friendly Villages

We run a Wildlife Friendly village scheme - currently a collective (due to Covid) you can join the WhatsApp group here. Keep an eye out for offers of seeds, discounts on bat boxes and hedgehog boxes and group activities when we can resume them safely. Everyone is welcome.

Wildlife Friendly Village

WhatsApp group



Fish and Chips

On alternate Friday evenings the Suffolk Mermaid Fish and Chip van visits Culford Village Hall from 4:30 - 6pm - it then moves on to Risby. Very few takeaways deliver to the villages - ask for recommendations in the community groups as it can change!

Cafe

Held on the fourth Saturday of every month in the Village Hall in Culford - this runs from 10am - 12pm and is a great opportunity to meet neighbours over a cuppa and cake. Everyone is welcome. Volunteer bakers should contact gailbate@btinternet.com.

Friday Club

Currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions; the Friday club is an informal group of crafters, neighbours and natterers who meet monthly to share skills and ideas. It is held either in the Village Hall or the Club in Culford. Everyone is welcome (all ages). Keep an eye on the Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Community Facebook page to see when it restarts.

Toddler Groups

The nearest toddler group is in Fornham St Martin Village Hall, It runs in term time 10:00 – 11:30am
Contact Nicola Warwick on 07786 575801

Book Swap Phone Box

The Telephone Box on the Street in Culford is owned and managed by the Parish Council. Mainly used as a book swap there is also information about the jigsaw puzzle lending library, and a seed swap. If you leave excess produce in there please make sure you pop back after a couple of days to make sure it's been taken (some Culford villagers use it as a food drop for Olio and other food sharing apps). There is no fee for taking a book - if you see one you'd like to read then help yourself!

A jigsaw lending library is available with puzzles dropped off and swapped every month – usually at the Café but we also deliver - there is information about how to join in the telephone box or email Cllr Salt.

Mobile Library

Visits **West Stow Every 4th Wednesday**

Flempton The Links 09:30 -09:55, West Stow Chimney Corner 10:00 – 10:20, Cornwallis Close 10:25 – 10:45, Walnut Tree Cottage 10:50 – 11:10

Visits **Wordwell Every 4th Saturday** 9:30 – 9:50

Visits **Culford every 4th Tuesday**

Culford Village Hall 11:00 – 11:30, Glendale 11:30 – 11:40

Check the back cover of the Lark Valley Magazine for the next dates.

The main library is in Bury St Edmunds and can be contacted on 01284 352545

Lark Valley Magazine

The magazine is published by the Benefice (group of parishes) and as well as providing information from the church, it carries a wealth of information about local groups (like WI & Mother & Toddler), news of events and it also carries advertisements from local suppliers including garden services, dog walking services etc. If you wish to subscribe (£6 per year) please contact gailbate@btinternet.com or 01284 728406

To submit editorial please email gailbate@btinternet.com

Please send advertising enquiries to flo.rooke@gmail.com

Village Notice boards

In Culford the Notice Board is outside the old School House - please don't use it to advertise commercial endeavours - the phone box noticeboard is available for that.

The West Stow Notice Board is by Cornwallis Close (opposite the church).

What3Words

Knowing your what3words location will help delivery drivers or emergency services find your home. The premise is that the world is divided into 3 metre squares all of which have a unique three word identifier (the War Memorial outside the Village Hall for example is embellish.outfitter.empty). Download the app or visit <https://what3words.com>

Bus Routes

Culford is on the 332 Bus Route. There isn't a bus route through West Stow but you can catch the bus to Bury outside Flempton Church using the 16, the 355 or the 955 services.

Emergency and other useful numbers

Fire, Police & Ambulance: 999	Electricity (UK Power Networks): 08007 838838 (RS New Number? 0800 31 63 105)
NHS out of Hours: 111	Gas (National Gas Emergency): 0800 111999
Police (Non Emergency): 01473 613500 or 101	Water (Anglian Water): 0800 145145
Crime Stoppers: 0800 555111	West Suffolk Hospital: 01284 713000
Rail Travel: 08457 484950	Addenbrookes Hospital: 01223 245151
Trainline: 0333 202 2222 or www.trainline.com	Bus: 01284 766569
Library (in Bury St Edmunds): 01284 352545	Mobile Library information in previous section.

Deliveries:

Newspapers: 01284 702447 (Court News)	Milk: www.milkandmore.co.uk/deliveries
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Worship

Lark Valley & North Bury Website	www.northburychurches.org.uk
St. Mary's Culford	Warden Marcus King 01284 787225
St Mary's West Stow	Warden Paul Luke 01284 729654 Warden Ian Hobley
All Saints Wordwell	Warden Paul Luke 01284 729654 Warden Ian Hobley
St Edmunds Catholic Church 21, West Gate Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 IQ	01284 754358
Trinity Methodist Church Brentgovel Street, Bury St Edmunds	01284 755576
BICO (Bury St Edmunds Islamic Cultural Organisation)	http://bico.onesuffolk.net/
Quaker Meeting House St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SJ	https://burystedmundsquakers.org 01440 763763

GP Practices

Angel Hill Surgery, 1, Angel Hill Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LU 01284 753008	Mount Farm Surgery, Lawson Place, Bury St Edmunds IL32 7EW 01284 769643
The Guildhall Surgery, Lower Baxter St Bury St Edmunds IP33 1ET 01284 701601	The Swan Surgery, Northgate St., Bury St Edmunds IP33 1AE 01284 770441
Victoria Surgery, Victoria Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3BB 01284 725550	

Dental Practices

Abbey Dental Practice, 11, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1UZ 01284 754814	Alvington House Practice 112, Northgate, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1HP 01284 754169
ADP Practice 53, Risbygate St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3AZ 01284 764666	Cathedral Practice, 15 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1UZ 01284 705637
Guildhall Surgery, St. Andrews St North, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3PH 01284 755631	Saxon House Practice 1C Lawson Pl. Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EW 01284 750348
Sycamore House Northgate Business Pk Bury St Edmunds IP33 1AE 01284 747100	

Veterinary Surgeries

Bury St Edmunds Veterinary Centre Unit A, Autopark Eastgate Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1YQ 01284 630650	Eastgate Veterinary Clinic, Cotton Lane, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1XW 01284 753961
Moreton Hall Veterinary Centre Boldero Road, Moreton Hall Bury St Edmunds IP32 7BS 01284 747000	Swayne & Partners, Sidney House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3SP 01284 701444

The most up to date version of this Welcome Pack can be found on the Parish Council website:

<http://culfordweststowandwordwell.suffolk.cloud/>

The Village Welcome Pack is sponsored by Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council.

Thank you to retired Cllr Bruce Murdoch for the effort he put into creating the first edition.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this publication, the Parish Council accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.