

FELSHAM + GEDDING

june 2024

VILLAGENEWS



ISSUE 244



**to the June edition of your
Felsham and Gedding Village News.**

It was certainly a busy May for me. Not only have I been busy with work, but earlier in the month I was part of a great cast who were treading the boards in a musical at the Theatre Royal in Bury. The production was 'Made in Dagenham' and was put on by Bury Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society. By all accounts it was received rather well! Thanks to all the Felsham and Geddingers who came along!

This year, BSEODS (as they're known for short) decided to hire out Felsham and Gedding Village Hall for the rehearsals. It proved to be a great venue, not only for the rehearsals, but also for a ceilidh night which was held to raise extra funds for the show's budget. The cast noted how much they were going to miss turning up every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

Now that the main hall has had its nice new flooring installed, I'll take the opportunity to remind you all that the hall is available to hire at a discounted rate for residents. Great for parties and whatnot!

Anyway, plug for the hall sorted. Now to try and mow the grass on the playing field... When it's stopped raining, anyway. Never ends, doesn't it!

Phil.

from the editor

Next Copy Date: 20/06/2024

Please be aware that items submitted after the deadline cannot be guaranteed to appear in the magazine.

Copy Submissions

Email: fgvillagenews@gmail.com or call Jo Tavernor on 01449 737793

Advertising

Email: fgvillagenewsadverts@gmail.com or call Jo Tavernor on 01449 737793

Compliments, Complaints and Suggestions

The Village News welcomes your feedback. Do you have any comments about what we do, what's going well, anything you'd like us to change?

Newsletter General Policy

We do publish acknowledgements, articles of general interest, artistic works and similar.

We do publish factual material from recognised organisations.

We do publish to the Village Website at <http://felsham.onesuffolk.net>

We do not publish defamatory, rude, blasphemous, racial or other inappropriate material.

We reserve the right to edit contributions to suit publication needs.

We are reliant on contributions from many sources, taken in good faith, and cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

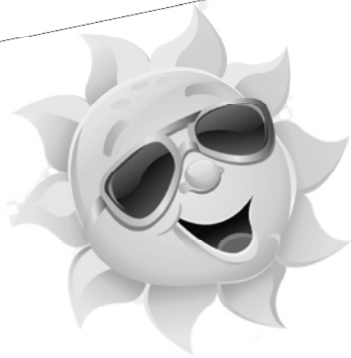
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Annual Parish Report – 2023/24

Councillor: PENNY OTTON

Division: THEDWASTRE STH

County Councillor Contact Details:

Mobile: 07545423847

Email: penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk

Flooding in Suffolk

From end of October 2023, Suffolk suffered a winter of repeated flooding, most notably Storm Babet, when the area around the Burford bridge, Rattlesden and parts of Lower road were particularly badly affected.

I attended a meeting of local parishes in Gt finborough and in Beyton to see what we could do jointly to make improvements to prevent this happening again. It was agreed that all the agencies need to work together. I managed to get the problem on lower road partly dealt with but SCC still needs to get the landowner to clear ditches.

Suffolk's total rainfall during October 2023 was 117.9mm (4.5in). The drainage systems in the county were unable to cope with the volume of water. Suffolk County Council have committed an extra £1m for flood investigations to try and prevent future incidents;

The government offered funding to household affected by flooding, with many also able to access further money for preventative works and I'm pleased many were successful in getting this money.

.PARKING AT THE ORCHARD. I asked the highways officer to look at the problems and she has sent her report for our discussion.

RAAC/Condition of School Buildings

In September the council held a scrutiny session on the condition of school buildings, which was very timely as the news has just begun reporting on the number of schools with RAAC. RAAC, which stands for Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, is a lightweight building material, cheaper than concrete, which was used extensively in buildings between 1950 and 1990. Stowupland High School was one that had to close and will now be re-built. Thurston community college is due to be re-built anyway. Decision on the 6th form still not decided but will possibly move to Thurston in stages.

New Suffolk Fire and Rescue Control Centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have recommended that the council leave the current control centre partnership with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire councils and open a new control centre in Suffolk by the end of 2024. A new temporary site for the control centre was needed from December 2023, and work will now begin to find a more permanent site in the centre of the county close to major roads.

New Highways Contract

From 1 October 2023, Suffolk County Council entered into a new Highways contract with Milestone, following the end of the previous contract with Kier. The new contract promises better communication with councillors and Suffolk residents, and contains incentives for the

new contractor to work efficiently – for example, undertaking other works needed in the same geographical area when they are called out. The performance of the contract will be scrutinised after 12 months to assess Milestone's performance and is for an initial period of 10 years, with the option to increase it a further 10 years.

At the same time, a new contract for street lighting was entered into with McCann. This contract is due to last for seven years.

Budget Meeting: GLI Amendments Declined

In February 2024, the Council's budget for 2024/25 was voted in. The Conservative budget proposed an increase in council tax of the maximum 4.99%, which breaks down into a 2% rise for the Social Care Precept and a 2.99% increase in general tax.

Council services have faced another year of spiralling demand and additional cost pressures. The proposed budget included a 100% cut to arts and museums funding, with a temporary fund set up for 2024-25 using the remaining Covid funding from the government to allow some time for these organizations to adapt and find other sources of income.

It also proposed that all local archives and records be centralised to The Hold in Ipswich, a decision which has been vigorously opposed in both Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds, where communities want to keep their record office buildings in the area.

My group acknowledged the difficulty of the council's financial position and proposed a minor amendment – that instead of using all of the leftover Covid funding for arts and museums, half should be allocated to supporting young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), a service the Conservatives were planning to cut.

We proposed that £250k of the 2024-25 funding for arts and museums be allocated from the council's core funding, as this is an important distinction for arts organizations when they are applying for other sources of income. This amendment was declined.

The Conservatives backed down on the 100% reduction in funding from April 2025 onwards, and shortly before the budget meeting announced a £500k funding pot which arts and heritage organisations can bid for in the 2025-26 financial year. This could mean the funding for arts and museums is spread more thinly, but means more organizations are likely to benefit. As budget decisions for 2025-25 will not be made until the February 2025 council meeting, this decision is not yet ratified.

Ofsted/CQC Inspection of Suffolk SEND (special education needs) Provision

Suffolk County Council and its NHS partners who provide SEND services (the 'Local Area Partnership') were inspected by Ofsted and CQC in November 2023, with the inspection report being published on 30 January 2024. The inspection found 'widespread and/or systematic failings' in the county's SEND provision and is the second poor inspection result since SEND inspections were introduced in 2016.

As a result of the inspection, the two Cabinet Members for children's services and education at the council stood down, and new Cabinet Members have been appointed to these roles. A new full time and permanent Director for Children's Services (DCS) has also recently been appointed, who will start at the council in July.

Suffolk Devolution Deal

After much talk of devolution in the last few years, it looks like this may now happen in Suffolk. Devolution is a process by which regions or cities in the UK can have greater control over decisions in their areas. The government agrees a deal with the area which gives them more freedom to make local decisions about how to spend government funding. This is due to happen in Suffolk from 2025 in areas such as transport and adult education. There will also be a £16m annual investment fund for economic growth, a £5.8m lump sum to regenerate brownfield sites across the county, and a £3m one off investment in retrofitting homes to make them more energy-efficient.

The devolution deal also means the leader of Suffolk County Council would be directly elected by the people of Suffolk, so every four years residents will have two votes, one to elect their local county councillor and the leader of the county council. That leader CANNOT BE A COUNTY COUNCILLOR. The first election for the directly elected leader will be in May 2025, which is the next county council election. There could be problems with having an elected leader if they are from a different political group to most of the other councillors; the leader can choose a Cabinet and control the council's agenda, but without the votes in the council chamber they might find it difficult to get things done.

There is a consultation being held about the deal right now, and you can find out more about it and fill out the survey here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>

Libraries Consultation

On Tuesday 25 March, Cabinet reviewed the results of the recent consultation about the Suffolk library service, which is due to go out to procurement in the summer. Broadly, the members of the public who responded to the survey agreed with what libraries currently provided, including community and digital services, and the mobile library and home library services for people who were housebound.. It is also likely that mobile libraries will run from smaller vehicles in future. The successful bidder for the new libraries contract is likely to be announced in November, with the new contract starting from June 2025. The contract will be for six years with an option to renew for a further six years.

Motions to Council

My group passed one motion successfully during the year in May 2024, which was for the council to work with its partners to better signpost members of the public to benefits they may be entitled to. This motion was raised as a result of reports that over £15bn of means tested benefits are going unclaimed because people were not always aware of the support they could access to help them,.

Other motions the group had been unable to bring forward or were voted down by the Conservative administration included solar power 'Roofs before Rural', to ask the council to commit to prioritise solar panels on buildings and brownfield sites over solar farms on good quality agricultural land, and to lobby the government to reduce barriers to community energy projects. Community energy projects enable local people to produce electricity (for example,

by solar panels on schools) to reduce bills, with any extra electricity sold to the grid, making a profit which can be reinvested locally.

In July my group proposed a motion to make it easier for communities to lower speed limits on rural roads where the safe speed for driving is clearly lower than the current National Speed Limit., thereby reducing accidents and making roads safer for all users. This motion was voted down by the Conservative administration.

We also tabled a motion on flooding in December, which among other things, proposed to increase the frequency of clearing drains and gullies around the county; however, the Conservatives proposed an amendment removing this recommendation and passed a weaker motion which did not include any changes to the usual schedule of drainage works.

Follow us on:

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Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

FELSHAM AND GEDDING VILLAGE HALL

Upcoming Events....

- AGM – 10th June
- Midsummer Madness - 22nd June
- 80's and 90's disco - 5th October
- Quiz Night - 9th Nov



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New members and guests are very welcome to join us

Six Bells Felsham Upcoming Events in June:

5 th	Curry night
10 th	Open crib night
12 th	Curry night
13 th	Bingo
15 th	Football special burger day
16 th	Father's day roast, evening BBQ
19 th	Curry night/football special burger
21 st	Football special burger
24 th	Open crib
25 th	Pre-England game BBQ
26 th	Curry/football special burger
27 th	Quiz night



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☎ Steve – Felsham – 07786 071786

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VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on

Thursday 20 June

at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

2-4pm

Do come along for tea and a chat plus monthly raffle!

This month we have a group coming to sing

'Songs from the Shows'

Village Friends is an over 65's friendship group of men and women from various villages in the area who meet once a month

All welcome, no need to book!

If you require transport please contact:

Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063 revsharon2@gmail.com or

Susan Metcalf 07925 867221

st.metcalf@btinternet.com

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ALLOTMENT PLOTS AVAILABLE!

Due to recent improvement works on the Felsham allotment site, we now have full and half plots available for rent.

Whether you're a novice wanting to get into growing, or an experienced gardener wanting to expand your veg repertoire, we can offer plots to cater for all.

There is no shortage of friendly faces or knowledge in the allotment association, so why not give it a go and experience the joy of growing and eating your own food!



For all enquiries, please contact **Jamie on 07894966618** who will happily show you around and explain how it all works.

There will be a meeting in the pub on Thursday 6th June for anyone who'd like more information about the allotments.



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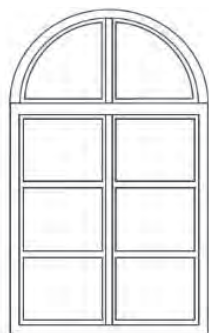
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We've booked a package holiday to Spain. It's our first time booking this sort of getaway, and a friend recently had a terrible experience when things went wrong on a similar trip. What sort of help is available if something does go wrong?

Hopefully you'll have a lovely time but if something does go wrong with your package holiday, Citizens Advice has lots of information about what to do and what compensation you may be eligible for.

Examples of things going wrong include:

- If the holiday you went on turned out to be lower in value than the one you originally booked.
- The hotel was a bus ride away from the beach rather than across the road as advertised.
- Big parts of the trip you booked didn't happen or services weren't provided, for example a planned two-day excursion was cancelled, and no alternative was organised.

It's worth noting that you can't get compensation if you simply didn't enjoy the holiday or if the problem was out of the holiday company's control - like bad weather.

If something does go wrong, firstly, tell the company or travel agent you booked with as soon as possible. Don't wait until you get home. And check the information you received when you made the booking to see what you're supposed to get.

Citizens Advice are currently seeking volunteers to join them at their Stowmarket office. If you are interested, please call us on 01449 676060.

If you would like to become a volunteer with Citizens Advice, please visit our website for more details <https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/volunteer/>

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS
3 F&G & FRIENDS GROUP VH 2.30PM	4	5 Curry Night, Six Bells TABLE TENNIS VH 7.30PM	MERMAID FISH VHCP 5.50 -
10 Village Hall AGM 7PM VH Open Crib Night, Six Bells	11 PARISH COUNCIL, 7.30PM, VH	12 Curry Night, Six Bells CARPET BOWLS VH 7.30PM	MERMAID FISH VHCP 5.50 -
17	18	19 Curry Night/Football Special Burger, Six Bells TABLE TENNIS VH 7.30PM	VILLAGE FRIENDS VH 2.00PM MERMAID FISH VHCP -5.50
24 Open Crib Night, Six Bells	25 Pre-England Game BBQ, Six Bells	26 Curry Night/Football Special Burger, Six Bells CARPET BOWLS VH 7.30PM	MERMAID FISH VHCP -5.50

VH - Village Hall VHCP -Village Hall Car Park

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 BLACK BIN	2 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham
6 BROWN BIN Allotment Meeting, six Bells & CHIPS 6.30PM	7 RECYCLING BIN FRESH FISH VHCP 10.30 AM	8	9
13 Bingo, Six Bells & CHIPS, 6.30PM	14 BLACK BIN FRESH FISH VHCP 10.30 AM	15 Film Night, VH 7.30pm Football Special Burger Day, Six Bells	16 10am Praise God Together, Felsham Father's Day Roast & Evening BBQ, Six Bells
20 BROWN BIN & CHIPS 6.30PM	21 RECYLING BIN FRESH FISH VHCP 10.30 AM Football Special Burger Day, Six Bells Whist, VH 7.30pm	22 FAGENDS present: Midsummer Madness, 7.30pm VH	23 10am Praise God Together, Felsham
27 Quiz Night, Six Bells & CHIPS 6.30PM	28 Library Van: 10.10 Gedding 11.40 VHCP FRESH FISH VHCP 10.30 AM	29	30 10am Communion, BCP, Gedding

COCKFIELD BENEFICE SERVICES AND **EVENTS**

JUNE 2024

Sunday 2 June Trinity 1	9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham
Sunday 9 June Trinity 2	10am Morning Prayer - Cockfield 10.30am Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 16 June Trinity 3	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 20 June	2-4pm Village Friends - over 65's club at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 23 June Trinity 4	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 29 June	2-4pm 'Knit & Natter' venue tbc, contact Sharon for more details on 07825 086063
Sunday 30 June Trinity 5	9.30am Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George
Sunday 7 July Trinity 6	9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham

SHARON SAYS

Dear Reader,

Everyone loves a willing volunteer. Unfortunately following the pandemic, and in many of our organisations, volunteers are getting harder to recruit. What with safeguarding procedures (what used to be known as Child Protection), Health & Safety and training that is designed to protect both volunteers and the public, it is understandable that people are reluctant to volunteer. Having said that, I am so proud of the volunteers that we have here in our local churches. Sometimes it might seem that we are very small in number, but great things are often achieved by a few people!

When we think about the beginnings of the Christian Church, it started off with a small group of disciples, followers of Jesus, in fact there were 12 of them. And look what has happened to Christianity since that time – a world wide faith, where Christians in all walks of life work with each other, worship with each other and love one another as they are called to do by God.

One of Jesus' first disciples was Peter. His name was originally Simon, and Jesus renamed him 'Cephas' (which is Greek for Peter) and means 'the Rock'. The Church in Felsham is named after Peter, who is probably one of the most famous of the disciples. Peter was very close to Jesus, but his journey of faith was not without trial and tribulation.

When Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities – prompted by the local Jewish religious leaders, Peter denied Jesus three times because he was afraid to show that he had been associated with him. This caused him great pain and had been predicted by Jesus before his death. Following the resurrection of Jesus, Peter became a great speaker and leader of the new Christian movement, and certainly made up for his lack of courage in those dark days. It is thought that Peter was martyred for his faith in Rome, and the great church of St Peter in Rome is said to be his burial site.

St Peter is celebrated every year on 29th June along with St Paul. Two great saints who died for their faith, a great example to us all.

Yours in Christ,

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter,

revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Rector, Cockfield Benefice (Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield Combust, Bradfield St George w Lt Whelnetham, Cockfield, Felsham w Gedding, Gt Whelnetham and Stanningfield)

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is usually held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am.

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com

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Volunteers Wanted

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Would you be interested in volunteering in the Post Office?

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Tricia Wilson; Email: pawilson4@btinternet.com

Tel: 01449736330

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RECIPE CORNER

Roasting Tin Spiced Chicken

Preparation time

1-2 hours

Cooking time

30 mins to 1 hour

Serves

Serves 4–6

Ingredients

For the five-spice marinade

- 4 tbsp mango chutney
- 2 tsp Chinese five-spice powder
- 3 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp grated fresh root ginger
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 4 mild peppers from a jar, such as Peppadew, drained and finely chopped
- ½ lemon, juice only



For the traybake

- 8 large boneless and skinless chicken thighs (aprox. 1kg/2lb 4oz total weight)
- 1 fennel bulb, trimmed and sliced into 8 wedges through the root
- 2 small red peppers, deseeded and chopped into large pieces
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 3cm/1¼in cubes
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Measure all the marinade ingredients into a large bowl, season with salt and pepper and mix well. Add the chicken and turn to coat in the mixture. Cover and leave to marinate for 1–2 hours in a cool place, or overnight in the fridge.
2. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.
3. Blanch the fennel wedges in boiling water for about 5 minutes, or until softened. Drain well.
4. Tip the blanched fennel and all the prepared vegetables into a large roasting tin. Drizzle with the oil and season generously. Add the chicken and all the marinade and toss everything together to coat the vegetables and meat. Roast for about 25 minutes.
5. Remove from the oven and carefully pour off any juices into a small saucepan. Return the roasting tin to the oven for a further 10 minutes, until the chicken and vegetables are starting to brown and cooked through.
6. Meanwhile, mix the cornflour with 2 tablespoons water until smooth. Bring the roasting juices to the boil and pour in the cornflour mixture. Stir until thickened. If it's a little too thick add more water until it is a coating consistency. Pour the sauce into a jug.
7. Serve the chicken and vegetables piping hot with the sauce alongside.

D-DAY – 80 YEARS AGO ON THE 6TH OF JUNE...

1. D-Day was the start of Operation 'Overlord'.

On D-Day, 6 June 1944, Allied forces launched a combined naval, air and land assault on Nazi-occupied France. The 'D' in D-Day stands simply for 'day' and the term was used to describe the first day of any large military operation. Early on 6 June, Allied airborne forces parachuted into drop zones across northern France. Ground troops then landed across five assault beaches - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. By the end of the day, the Allies had established a foothold along the coast and could begin their advance into France.

2. 'Overlord' opened the long-awaited second front against Germany

The defeat of Germany was acknowledged as the western Allies' principal war aim as early as December 1941. Opening a second front would relieve pressure on the Soviet Union in the east and the liberation of France would weaken Germany's overall position in western Europe. The invasion, if successful, would drain German resources and block access to key military sites. Securing a bridgehead in Normandy would allow the Allies to establish a viable presence in northern Europe for the first time since the Allied evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940.

3. D-Day required detailed planning

Lieutenant-General Frederick Morgan and his team of British, American, and Canadian officers submitted plans for the invasion in July 1943. Although limited planning for an invasion of Europe began soon after the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940, detailed preparations for Operation 'Overlord' did not begin until after the Tehran Conference in late 1943.

4. D-Day was an international effort

D-Day required unprecedented cooperation between international armed forces. The Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) was an international coalition and although the Allies were united against Germany, the military leadership responsible for 'Overlord' had to overcome political, cultural, and personal tensions. By 1944, over 2 million troops from over 12 countries were in Britain in preparation for the invasion. On D-Day, Allied forces consisted primarily of American, British, and Canadian troops but also included Australian, Belgian, Czech, Dutch, French, Greek, New Zealand, Norwegian, Rhodesian, and Polish naval, air or ground support.

5. The largest naval, air and land operation in history

The invasion was conducted in two main phases - an airborne assault and amphibious landings. Shortly after midnight on 6 June, over 18,000 Allied paratroopers were dropped into the invasion area to provide tactical support for infantry divisions on the beaches. Allied air forces flew over 14,000 sorties in support of the landings and, having secured air supremacy prior to the invasion, many of these flights were unchallenged by the Luftwaffe. Nearly 7,000 naval vessels, including battleships, destroyers, minesweepers, escorts and assault craft took part in Operation 'Neptune', the naval component of 'Overlord'. Naval forces were responsible for escorting and landing over 132,000 ground troops on the beaches. They also carried out bombardments on German coastal defences before and during the landings and provided artillery support for the invading troops.

6. German defences in Normandy varied in effectiveness

Germany tried to defend the northern coast of France with a series of fortifications known as the 'Atlantic Wall'. However, German defences were often incomplete and insufficiently manned. Members of the French Resistance and the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) provided intelligence and helped weaken defences through sabotage. The Allied deception campaigns succeeded in convincing the Germans as late as July 1944 that the main invasion force would still land elsewhere. The threat of this larger, second invasion kept German reinforcements tied down away from Normandy.

Defence also suffered from the complex and often confused command structure of the German Army as well as the constant interference of Adolf Hitler in military matters. However, the Allies faced several setbacks both on 6 June and in the months that followed.

7. D-Day was possible because of allied efforts elsewhere

D-Day was made possible because of Allied efforts across all fronts, both before and after June 1944. In planning D-Day, Allied commanders drew important lessons from previous failures at Dieppe in France and Anzio in Italy.

The Allied strategic bombing campaign, which began in 1942, weakened German industry and forced Germany to commit manpower and resources away from Normandy to home defence. Securing air superiority allowed the Allies to carry out aerial reconnaissance, giving them vital intelligence on German coastal defences.

8. There is more to Normandy than D-Day

The importance of D-Day often overshadows the overall significance of the entire Normandy campaign. Establishing a bridgehead was critical, but it was just the first step. In the three months after D-Day, the Allies launched a series of additional offensives to try and advance further inland. These operations varied in success and the Allies faced strong and determined German resistance.

The *bocage* - a peculiarity of the Normandy landscape characterised by sunken lanes bordered by high, thick hedgerows - was difficult to penetrate and placed the advantage with the German defenders. Yet the bloody and protracted Battle of Normandy was a decisive victory for the Allies and paved the way for the liberation of much of north-west Europe.



RATTLESDEN GLIDING CLUB helping women reach for the skies.

Of almost 30,000 pilots in the UK, fewer than 5% are women. As a career, industry and a sport, aviation has been slow to change, but a gliding club in Suffolk is determined to change that and help more women take wing. Rattlesden Gliding Club, based at an old USAF airfield near Stowmarket, will be running a Women's Go Gliding day Sunday 23rd June 2024 to introduce women to the experience of soaring flight and aviation. The event is part of a nationwide initiative by the British Gliding Association which is committed to broadening the sport and bringing in fresh skills and experience.

Gliding is a unique form of flying that uses air heated by the sun to stay aloft. Pilots can fly long distances using only thermal 'lift'. The UK distance record is 1,108km. Gliding creates almost no noise or pollution, and is a thrilling test of a pilot's skill and knowledge. The sport is much more affordable than power flying and lessons are provided by qualified club instructors. Women of every age are encouraged to learn and take part. Youngsters can learn to fly from the age of 12 and can qualify as a solo pilot at 14. It is an exciting hobby, and gliding can also open up a career in aviation.

"Gliding has been very much a male sport, and it is important to get more women into it," says Kevin Western, chief flying instructor at Rattlesden Gliding Club. "The great thing is it's one of the most accessible sports out there. The requirements to fly a glider are exactly the same for all. Success is purely dependent on aptitude, attitude and consistency, with no requirement for strength. We have members as young as 12 and some well into their 90's enjoying the freedom and self development flying enables. It's a hugely social and community-driven sport."

Rattlesden Gliding Club prides itself on its ability to nurture new pilots. Sienna Hunter first went solo at the club when she was 14. She is continuing her flying training, juggling this with her school studies, and is aiming to take up a career in aviation as a private pilot and travel the world. "Some of my family including my Grandad have been gliding for years," she says. "Gliding allows me to build my flying hours and I get the thrill and a huge amount of joy out of it."

The National Women's Go Gliding event has already run at several clubs across the country, from Scotland to the West Country whilst further dates at other clubs continue to be arranged. The British Gliding Association (BGA) is supporting clubs' efforts to recruit more women members and be more representative. "I have been asked why are women not participating in gliding? I could write a book on this," says Yvonne Elliott, the BGA's women's advocate. "But I will just comment that there are numerous barriers, some of which we can change. We need to ensure all are met with a warm welcome and facilities that are great for everyone. All the clubs participating are planning to ensure a fantastic experience for everyone who gets involved."

Rattlesden Gliding Club is offering flights to potential new women members during the Go Gliding event for £80. This will include a full introductory briefing, a flight with a qualified instructor and hands on flying themselves to give them a taste of the thrills of gliding. Trial flights are also available to book all year round, so come and give gliding a try.

For more details and to book a flight on 23rd June, email fly@rattlesdengliding.com. Enquiries about the event can be made to Sarah Lee on 07768 164 781 or Ian Godding on 07397 045 353. Information about the event and Rattlesden Gliding Club can be found at www.rattlesdengliding.com.

For details of flying opportunities at other clubs, or to arrange a visit to a club, visit <https://gogliding.uk/national-women-go-gliding-weekend/> or email yvonne@gliding.co.uk



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		Gedding Bus Stop			13:19				
		Felsham Six Bells			13:22				

DO YOU ENJOY READING THE VILLAGE NEWS?

The Village News is currently run by Tricia Wilson (Chair) and Jo Tavernor (Secretary and Treasurer). Tricia and Jo will be standing down at the end of the year.

Our editors are Tricia, Jo, Phil, and Serena. Neil supplies us with awesome covers each month.

We have a fantastic team of volunteer deliverers and are well supported by our advertisers. At present we print monthly on our professional printer at the Village Hall.

WE NEED HELP.

If you wish to see the Village news continue, we need volunteers to take it on, revitalise it and drive it forward into the next decade.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

To discuss, please contact Jo Tavernor on 01449 737793 or email at jsthorticulture@btinternet.com

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