



Local Recorder Report for Stowupland in 2025

Time was, is past thou canst not it recall,

Time future, is not, & may never be,

Time present, is the time for thee.

Copied from a local resident's 1936 autograph book. Of course, as local recorders we do our past to record memories of the past so that future readers will better understand our present, but we will never know how successful we have been.

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My top story for Stowupland from 2025 must be the disruption caused by some members of the traveller's community who decided to park up on the village green. The green is owned and administered by the Stowupland Parish Council (PC) and the villagers are very protective of the appearance and local amenity value of it. It is one of the biggest greens in Suffolk with wide open spaces in the centre part of the village. We have a beacon, football pitch and an established half a mow scheme on the far side, of the green and more recently the Biodiversity Group have been working hard to incorporate planting and structures to restore some of the biodiversity that has been stressed in recent times.



The first caravans to arrive. In the foreground is the track across the green leading to the Retreat pub. Behind the vans is where the village windmill once stood.

On the arrival of the first vans at the end of April the parish council were quickly alerted, and the police contacted but apparently since the green is privately owned this actually made it more difficult of them to act. It was established that the travellers had been evicted from the Stowmarket Recreation Ground and over the next few months it became apparent that members of the travellers community were playing the system working out just how far they could push different localities until legal restraints kicked in and they couldn't push the boundaries any more. It felt as if this was a game they were used to playing but to local people whose lives were blighted by their presence it was no game. Some examples of the disturbance was teenagers driving powerful cars on the green, theft from the Retreat public house garden, reported drive offs without payment from the CO OP and abuse from the Travellers to residents, and school children making their way to school over the "safe route to school's" area on the green. Not to mention the mess from litter and human waste.

Eventually a court order was obtained which would last until 13th August 2025, but this had been a costly period for the village not just in court fees, but despite local people helping to clear up the mess left behind by the travellers the clear up bill for removal of the waste was costly. The Retreat Pub, the fish and chip shop and the Co-op suffered loss of trade, thefts as well as the anguish suffered by their staff and of the residents who live around the green. Local children use 'safe routes to school' that cross the green so they do not have to walk along busy roads, but with the abuse from the travellers alternative safe routes had to be planned.

Despite the court order it was reinforced that the village needed to put in place some form of physical barrier to prevent future vehicle access if we wanted to protect the green. In previous years the council had installed small posts round some of the green to prevent parking on the verges. Although these were effective at protecting the grass along the road they had provoked quite a lot of negative comments and would take time to install. The council had to act quickly and it was decided the most viable option was a mound and ditch surrounding the green with level sections for pedestrian access.



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Over recent years with support of some of the community the parish council had put in measures to deter damage to the grass and verges caused by vehicles.. There was a consensus the green should be protected but dissent about the means. These photos show some of the pathways built for safer footpaths across the green and wooden pillars that were erected to deter damage by cars parking on the edges on the grass.



parish council took the decision to cancel the lighting of the Beacon which had been planned to celebrate VE Day on Thursday 8th.

“Victory in Europe” day 80th Anniversary 8th May 2025. This had taken to mark the end of hostilities in Europe on the 8th May 1945, the King asked that beacons be lit around the country at 21 30pm on the above. At our meeting on the 1st May 2025 the PC took the decision to cancel on health and safety grounds as the traveller encampment was around area of the beacon which had been installed for in 2018 to mark the 100 anniversary of the ending of the 1st world war which was 11th November 1918.



place had date. this the year.

We hoped to join in with the function. Some residents were unhappy that this did not happen but a decision had been taken. However not to be defeated the church wardens at “Holy Trinity Church” suggested we have an alternative service at the church on the 8th May 2025 at 18 30pm. This was duly arranged for 18 30pm and an order of service published. The service was well attended and allowed residents to take part in the country wide celebration and light a candle to show that we were able to take part. Some residents remembered the day and were able to share their experiences of the day with those attending. Thanks to all concerned for organising this at very short notice.

an option that some residents felt we should go for and that was the balliff option, but that incurred costs of £1000 a time without towing off fees if they failed to move.

This option had to be used on the 4th take over of the green by travellers, prior to work being finished to defend the green. The PC still had a warrant in place to evict the travellers from the green up to 13th August 2025, however when the Police served it, the travellers insisted that the vehicles referred to in the paperwork, did not match the registration numbers of the vehicles on the green on that day.

The PC had to get the Balliff's in at a cost of £1000 fortunately they moved without further problems, we then had to fund the clear up which again was done by village volunteers. At the August 2025 bank holiday, the travellers arrived again at 22 15hrs and tried to take over the green, the Police arrived and escorted them away from the village plus the ditching option had done its job as they could not access the gr

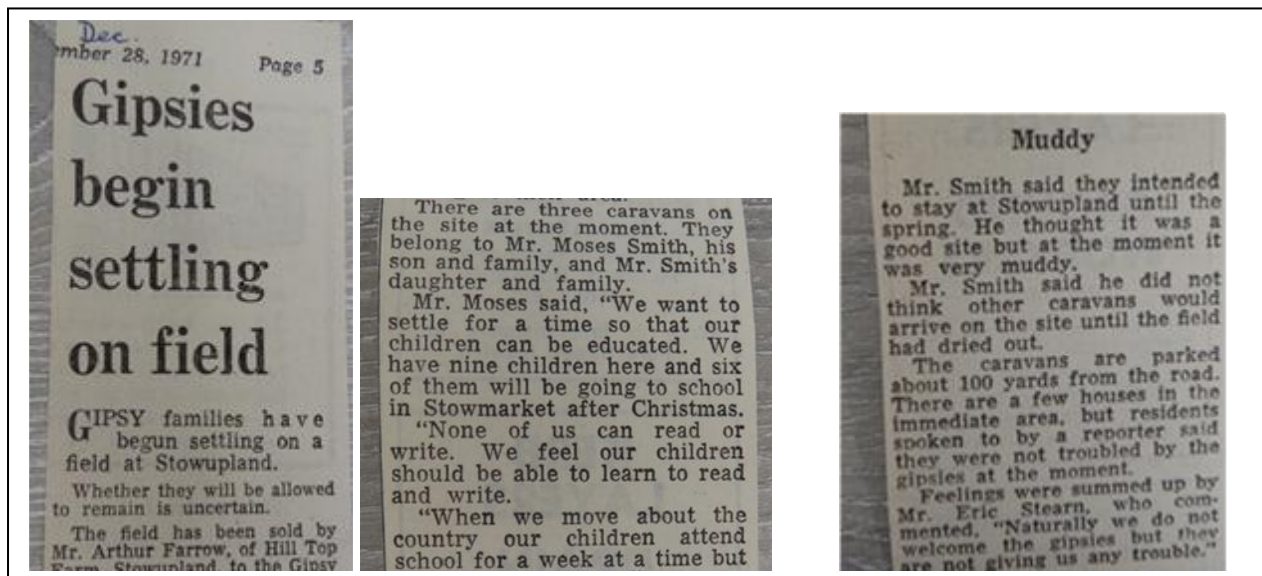
The travellers final attempt at parking up was over the August Bank holiday, but this time they were quickly moved on.

This was not the first time we had had visits from Gypsies or members of the travellers community. to give just a couple of examples, in 2003 the police were called on to take action and the visitors were moved on in 5 days. Going back some 50 years to 1971 saw a very different scenario with visitors then being offered a more permanent site



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because apparently the travellers wanted a more permanent base so their children could receive an education. How long they stayed is not known



as long been acknowledged that families who chose a travelling way of life need sites to use but attitudes have changed, but it also seems that the traveling community has changed. Maybe members of the traveller community are finding it more difficult to find locations for short stays. Certainly, Stowupland's recent visitors had been moved around from various sites in the local area. Anecdotally, in the past a mobile workforce was useful to the farming community so travellers were more tolerated, but our visitors seem to have gone out of their way with their anti-social activities to ensure they were not and never would be welcomed.

Comments made on social-media platforms certainly did not help the situation. Local people were annoyed that the PC did not keep the village informed of action that was being taken (silence being assumed to indicate that no action was being taken) when in fact they had been advised not to publicise proposed plans.

Background:

Action Taken:

Following on from this.

PC Action: A meeting was held and options debated: bearing in mind the time scale, we discussed fencing, consultation with the open spaces society and a ditching option as suggested by the Police Security team, also more bollards which was not a popular solution as far residents were concerned, we already had a number round the green, we had a quote from a contractor, who could do the ditches fairly quickly within the time scale so that option was agreed on. We decided to consult with all residents living round the green, many had mixed feelings about this option, but it went ahead anyway. There was

Conclusion: The PC held several meetings on site with residents, some very unhappy with the ditching option, as it spoiled the green space in the village. Most recognised that the situation could not go on and expressed satisfaction that the PC had acted so promptly to sort out the problems.

We are now working with our Bio Diversity group to landscape the areas where the ditches are located. And so far we have had no further problems in the area. I hope this gives anybody reading, in the future an insight into why the PC took the decisions we did, over this period and that's why we have the defences on the green today. I might add that some Travelling groups are welcome in the community and do a lot of work for farmers and the community, when they come to villages and towns, I think on this occasion Stowupland was unlucky.



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Jerry Voden Stowupland Parish Council 5th November 2025.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM DONNA BRIDGES On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to explain the process surrounding the recent events on The Green. Travellers arrived Wednesday the 30th April in the evening and this was immediately reported to the police and governing bodies. As part of a pilot scheme, Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) offered to support the Parish Council through the eviction process, with assistance from Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Service (NSGRTS). On Thursday, the 1st May, an urgent item was added to the Parish Council meeting agenda to discuss and make plans on how to progress with the issue. The choice was made to move forward with serving a Section 77 notice, followed by a Section 78 if necessary. The Parish Clerk and Chair worked tirelessly throughout Thursday to research the process and put the necessary plans in place. On Friday 2nd May, a Case Conference took place, at which MSDC agreed to serve the Section 77 notice. Unfortunately, the bank holiday prevented this from being served to the Travellers until Wednesday the 7th May. This notice instructed them to leave the green within 24 hours. As this was not adhered to, MSDC applied for a Section 78 hearing at Ipswich Magistrates Court. The next available Court date was Tuesday the 13th May, at which the Notice was granted and immediately served by Suffolk Constabulary. Again, this requested the site to be vacated within 24 hours, but the Travellers began leaving site at around 6pm the same day, with the last leaving site at 9.30pm. At 9pm, myself and some neighbours, alongside 2 lovely young ladies from the village, began clearing the green. This clean-up was resumed on the morning of Wednesday the 14th May by members of the public, Parish Councillors, MSDC's Public Realm, The Green Party and District Councillor Janet Pearson. The green was back to its lovely self by lunchtime on Wednesday. The Parish Council worked swiftly to resolve the matter and would like to thank Mid Suffolk District Council especially for their invaluable help and support through this process, as well as NSGRTS, Stowmarket Town Council & Haughley Parish Council. Thanks also to Suffolk Police for serving the Section 78 notice so promptly as this definitely expedited the process. Thank you for the patience of residents on The Green who were directly affect

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..... Councillors' Reports: Councillor Bridges reported back on the travellers' encampment on The Green. They arrived on the Green at 6.30pm on Wednesday, initially 2 motorhomes but were later joined by 7 caravans. The Police were called but appeared reluctant to get involved. The Traveller and Romany Officer has been in contact, as have MSDC. The District Council talked through the process of trying to instigate their removal and the likely costs. There are no details on their intended length of stay. MSDC can instigate a section 77 notice via the Travellers Liaison Service straight away and if this has no effect, then they can issue a Section 78 notice to apply to the Courts but as it is Bank Holiday this will not be done until Wednesday at the earliest. The District Council will support the Parish Council and pay the costs of obtaining and serving the notices, but, if the travellers do not move off, the next step would be to employ bailiffs to remove them, at a cost of around £3,500 or more if the travellers do not move off without further incident. If they do not, and the bailiffs require trucks to tow them off, the costs could escalate to around £20,000, which the Parish Council, as landowner, would be liable for. Alternatively, the Parish Council can employ the bailiffs straightaway at their own cost. Police will only come out again if there is significant disruption, such as fire. etc. It was also noted that the traveller children were driving their parents cars around The Green whilst the students from the schools were crossing, the Green which was extremely dangerous

The school need to arrange a safer exit from school premises. It was agreed to go down the Section 77 and 78 notices route first. The PC will then be liable for the costs of cleaning up The Green after them. It was also agreed to postpone the lighting of the beacon on The Green scheduled for Thursday to commemorate VE day to the 8th August to commemorate VJ day instead.



Life has returned to normal with the Retreat Public house reopened after a short closure from Wednesday and Saturday due to abuse of staff and theft of toys from the beer garden. The CO OP petrol station had to bring in security cover to de After 2 unscheduled visits, the PC successfully organised a injuctions, and caravans were moved on unfortunately leaving a lot of mess bejand that PC supported by residents to clear up . It was a very costely experience. PC had to make a very quick decision a to what could be done quickly but effectively to deter repeat performance. They choose to dig ditches around the area, not to everyones liking but it is a replacable option and hopefully effective.



ter thefts of stock and drive offs from the fore court. School routes have also returned to normal after some disruptions.

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Stowupland Local History group continues to keep the village aware of our heritage through monthly meetings, writing articles for our [local parish magazine of Telstar](#), with an oral version posted on our website and regular updates with links inviting anyone who is interested to search for more details or to share with us if they have knowledge we are missing.

From our formation in 2011 our monthly meetings have hosted paid speakers to share their research about Suffolk history and *ad hoc* sessions dedicated to sharing material from our archives. In 2025, for a variety of reasons, we decided to try something different. Whilst most of our meetings would still give an opportunity to learn about history with a Suffolk bias, the committee decided that 3 or 4 times a year members would give presentations using material from our archives, sharing Stories about Stowupland.



In 2024 we had agreed to host SLHG's first **Focus On... Stowupland Day**. The date was set for Saturday June 7th to coincide with Holy Trinity church's Flower festival. It had been 40 years SLHC had been invited to visit.



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As the day drew closer the committee was slightly anxious that the 'visitors on the green' might be a problem as part of our programme involved a tour of the historic sward. In the event we had the Green to ourselves and even the rain held off for the walk.

Figure 1 Inside Stowupland Village Hall.



Figure 3 Delegates learning about the history of the Green

This might be the last time SLHC would see the village hall as it appears now. Sadly, it needs a revamp, whether that is a total rebuild or a cosmetic overhaul remains to be seen. Coordinating grant applications, planning consents and villagers' approvals is proving a definite headache!



Figure 2 Delegates outside the hall

Biodiversity

continue to be important rge group are hopeful we can turn the eyesore of mound and ditches into a positive feature. Since the Bio group was formed one of its aims has been make use of the open space of the green to encourage more insect and wildlife activit. A constant battle between residents who want the grass to remain as a green lawn like area and those who want it to return to a more traditional leass managed 'waste land' where nature was alloed more of a say. Thanks to Judy



Clarke (see below)one area of the green has been designated a ½ a mow – it is mown twice a year being left to nature.

The Bio group have persuaded the PC to allow it to manage a section near the retreat pond. The original intent was to create a wildflower meadow, but the grass has proved top dominant and with limited resources the plan now is to create a kess managed wild flower area and a more insct and therefore a bird friendly habitat.



The banks and ditches created in 2025 to deter travellers has unintentionally created a space free of grass where hopefully the environment will prove more conducive to wildflowers – especially as by necessity there will be strips around the green which cannot he mown monthly.



The High School

Having been affected by the RAAC debacle, work commenced on demolishing one of the affected buildings.

The need for mobile classrooms within the school grounds had had a knock on effect for the plans of the biodiversity group to position raised beds for students to grow some veg. This was also affected by the decision to close the 6th block, where the group had been working with a very keen student fostering his interest in horticulture.



On the subject of schools, one of new estate roads has been named after a head teacher at the elementary school, she took the school through the difficult years of WW2. Altogether spending 20 years at the school from 1935 to 1955).

A group of local ladies felt it would be helpful for the community to have its own lending library. There was a public library in Stowmarket and a mobile library visits once a week they saw the opportunity for creating a small community library in a little used bus shelter. Permission was sought from the parish community, a cabinet sourced and local people were asked to donate unwanted books. The project seems to have fulfilled a need – though does require vigilance to keep it tidy.

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2024/25 Report from Stowupland Biodiversity and Wildflower Group

In addition to working on the biodiversity plot on The Green, we have continued to work with Freeman School, the High School and the Mulberry Centre.

The Green has a great potential for improving biodiversity within Stowupland. And it is important to remember that schemes to improve biodiversity take years to provide wide benefits; they are not always pretty; we need to be patient.

All of The Green is a huge benefit to insects and mammals. On our biodiversity area we are seeing a wider range of wildflowers but still the grass predominates. It would be possible to remove all the vegetation from part of the plot and sow wildflower seeds, but this would be very costly and destroy dormant species, and wildlife habitat for a while.

The plot has been divided into three sections: an area nearest the pond has had the most attention, including sowing yellow rattle and a wildflower mix. The middle section has received less new planting and

[https://d.docs.live.net/8c658d3a89db5ad9/Documents/Stowupland recorder/2025/2025 Local Recorder Report.docx](https://d.docs.live.net/8c658d3a89db5ad9/Documents/Stowupland%20recorder/2025/2025%20Local%20Recorder%20Report.docx)
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the section furthest from the pond has been left completely, on the advice of the MSDC Biodiversity Office to allow any dormant seeds to germinate. All three sections will continue to be mown once per year.

We started work on the pond two years ago; the tree surgery completed last year has allowed more light into the pond and the banks. No further work is possible until the pond dries out and is de-silted. We have taken over the area at the back of the pond and removed some of the non-native species.

Planting of native daffodils and oxlips (the flower of Suffolk) in various places has been successful. They will take time to fully establish; meantime we will make further plantings where no growth has been evident.

On behalf of the Parish Council, we arranged a village-wide consultation of residents to find out their views on conserving and enhancing biodiversity. We received only 19 responses from over 2,000 adult residents, which was very disappointing. However:

68% of those responding are in favour of No Mow May for all or part of The Green.

74% of those responding are in favour of more or all of The Green left uncut and/or planted with wildflowers.

The Parish Council have agreed to meet with the group to establish a new mowing regime for future years and this will, hopefully, include No Mow May.

The 2024 sunflower competition was a massive success; many residents submitted photographs of their plants and flowers throughout the summer. The final result was a three-way tie. For the 2025 competition, every household in Stowupland should have received some sunflower seeds in their April Telstar; a prize will be given for the tallest sunflower and for the plant with the largest diameter flower.

We have continued our work with schools, including:

- Providing raised beds and compost
- Providing tools, seeds and plants
- Providing bird boxes and hedgehog houses.
- Planting and maintaining trees
- Attending, and providing equipment for, Forest School

At Barley Close, we have been working in the garden to provide plants that move when the wind blows and brightly coloured highly scented flowers. Also, a raised bed set at a height to allow plants to be tended by residents in wheelchairs.

We welcome new members to join the Group, either as members of the planning group or as practical volunteers. Come and talk to us when you see our banner, which we set up when working around the village.

A brief

Keith Welham

May 2025

Ongoing battle with the grass on the green, to reduce its vigour and allow some more diversity to develop

Plans have changed as rather than fighting to rewild certain area of the mown grass, the ditches give greater scope for wild life not to have to compete with established grass, time will tell.

Sad that so few local people seem to be prepared to be actively involved

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[https://d.docs.live.net/8c658d3a89db5ad9/Documents/Stowupland recorder/2025/2025 Local Recorder Report.docx](https://d.docs.live.net/8c658d3a89db5ad9/Documents/Stowupland%20recorder/2025/2025%20Local%20Recorder%20Report.docx)
24/02/2026



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Tour of Britain Cycle race – meant that portion of a1120 through Stowupland has its pot holes filled ,



Figure 4 2025 Tour of Britian competitors

The photo on the left is the main pack of cyclist from the 2025 Tour of Britian. It was completed in several stages. One stage startgin from Stowmarket took them down the A1120 through Stowupland before a circular tour took them through suffolk and returning fro the finis in Stowmarket I wonder what Stowuplands 1906s cycle spedway boys wuld have thought of the opprtunity to take in such a high profilr event. Their bies and cycling attire wa so different. No protective head gear but they did have a team tabbard printed with their team name. The Swifts.



Figure 5 1960s The Swifts.

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Stowupland school celebrated its 160th birthday

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Many villagers gathered on the green for the VJ Day beacon lighting on 15th August. Thanks to the parish council for organising this event, which honours those who made significant sacrifices. We had planned to light the beacon for VE day but this was scarpped at the last minute due to unwanted visitors on the Green. Holy Trunity stepped in at shrt notice to with Rev Alison Roberts and PC chiar Donna Bridges to ho;d a simple service to commorate those who took part, a few villages were brave enough to off their memories. Sadly because of the short notice it was only advertised on face book and not everyone does facebook

shelters for the

lending library to be set up.

Local residents report

1. Brenda

My granddaughter and I, neither of whom drive, have found the community bus service which travels through Stowupland via Saxham Street and Church Road, once a day Monday to Friday of great help. Drop off is in Bury Street, Stowmarket. As regular bus services do not come up this way it is a much cheaper way of getting into town than expensive taxis. The drivers are always friendly and helpful and this service is useful for people who have no-one to rely on for transport.

Not many people from Stowupland use this bus service but for info it will stop in Saxham Street by the post box between 10.10 and 10.20am and in Church Road, near The Crown. Return is from the top of Bury Street in Stowmarket at 1pm.

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In memorian

Sarah (our telstar editor)

My husband and I took over an allotment in 2025. Technically, it's only a half plot, but it seems rather spacious to me. To be honest, My husband is the main gardener; I mostly cook what he grows. True to form, he didn't do things by halves—he got us the best shed on site and a giant water container. Although rain has been scarce and he's had to haul water from home, we hope it will fill up next year. Our learning curve has been steep, but we've ended up with an impressive potato harvest—so much that family and friends have shared in the abundance. There was plenty of rhubarb already growing, which suited us well since we love it, and our cabbages thrived. Unfortunately, we missed out on sprouts, so we'll be relying on the supermarket for those!

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Work is going well for me; I really enjoy my job as a trainer for a domestic abuse charity and have made good friends there. I even appeared on local television to discuss coercive control, and on local radio about domestic abuse risk assessment. The radio interview was particularly memorable: I found myself at the hairdresser's, agreeing to talk because they couldn't find anyone else, with an audience and foils in my hair.

This year I completed a marathon walk—26 miles across London—to raise money for my charity. Out of 310 participants, 14 didn't finish, and I came in 154th with a time of 8 hours and 20 minutes, which I'm proud of.

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From jerry

fter Covid 19

In this year's report for 2025 we record events in the village, for me what has been the key is the restart of full scale community events once again. 2023/4 saw us return to a more normal way of life after two country wide lockdown's, which had isolated many people from friends and family, some only seeing each other on screen via a computer link, and a lot of committee meetings also held on screen. I feel the start of 2025 saw events start again, the village hall was again in use for organisations and clubs to gather again, and get on with normal activities, examples include, community bingo, three monthly community quizzes, and many of the clubs resumed meetings and activities, coffee mornings on a monthly timetable at both the URC and Holy Trinity, the village Walkers cup between Stowupland and Old Newton, with many more joining in the annual event, and once again able to meet and socialise with no restrictions. Advertising in Telstar and notice boards helped promote these events, and the Stowupland Local History Group, were one of the first to restart our monthly meetings again in the village hall. Bingo has proved popular again with many people waiting at the door of the village hall for the "Eyes" down start time. However not all groups started again, after covid 19 restrictions were lifted, and some had made other arrangements, but in the main the "regulars " were back and the village was vibrant and functioning again, which I think



was an important factor for “2025” and as we move forward into 2026. Let’s hope the rebuilding of the “Community Spirit in Stowupland will continue”.

Jerry Voden Stowupland Parish Council

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The following was contributed by a next door neighbour Although originally from America has chosen to make Stowupland his home in and get involved in many local activities. Volunteering as trustee for the Museum of the 34th Bomb Group is just one of those activities. It is more than just rooms of exhibits but it is helping to keep alive the links between America and our local area that were forged during a time of crisis

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34th Bomb Group Exhibition

The establishment of the 34th Bomb Group Exhibition at the Mid Suffolk Light Railway (the “Middy”) Museum represents far more than a collection of wartime artifacts, it is a powerful act of remembrance. It preserves the story of the men, machines, and communities that played a decisive role in the Allied victory during the Second World War and safeguards a legacy that helped shape the free world we live in today.

The exhibition’s origins trace back to 2005, when the Fleece Pub in Mendlesham dedicated its “American Room” to the legacy of the 34th Bomb Group, whose B-17 and B-24 bombers operated from RAF Mendlesham as part of the U.S. Eighth Air Force. The dedication ceremony was attended by surviving aircrew members and their families, lending a deeply personal dimension to the display. Photographs, documents, and artifacts told the story of a young generation thrust into an unprecedented global conflict.

When the Fleece Pub closed in 2013, the collection was placed into storage and appeared to be lost to history. Remarkably, in 2023, local aviation historians and volunteers who had reformed the Mendlesham Airfield Association succeeded in recovering the memorabilia. Their aim was clear, to return these irreplaceable items to public view. The Middy Museum proved the natural home for the exhibition, as the railway itself played a vital supporting role in 34th Bomb Group operations during the war.

Initially displayed in the Old Ticket Office for a trial season, public interest quickly exceeded expectations. Visitor enthusiasm led to the exhibition’s expansion into a dedicated railway carriage during its second season, complete with audiovisual presentations exploring the Group’s operational history and personal stories. As the exhibition enters its third season, the Middy has confirmed its everlasting status, offering a second carriage to further develop the display.

The expanded exhibition will feature a detailed timeline charting the 34th Bomb Group’s journey from its formation in 1940 through its wartime service and eventual deactivation in August 1945. A parallel timeline will highlight the broader impact of the war on British society, with special emphasis on life in East Anglia and the enduring bonds formed between American airmen and their British neighbours.



Figure 6 American Room Memorabilia

The 34th Bomb Group was among the pioneering units of the Eighth Air Force, whose strategic bombing campaign crippled Nazi Germany’s industrial capacity, undermined its military power, and hastened the collapse of a regime built on oppression and terror. Their sacrifice helped prevent the spread of totalitarian domination and ensured the survival of democratic values.

This exhibition stands as a tribute to courage, cooperation, and shared sacrifice and as a reminder that such history must be preserved and retold, lest we forget.

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In Memory of Judy Clarke – On the 15th of July, family, friends and the village said a tearful goodbye to Judy Clarke.



Judy was a very special and kind person. Judy was brought up in Stowmarket but her married life from the late 50s was spent in Stowupland. During those 50 odd years she was very much involved in so much of village life, has one long time resident said - it makes you wonder – how did she do it all?

- Dinner Lady at the High School • Helping with the village Youth Club • Secretary of the Parish Council • Secretary of the Village Hall Committee • Secretary of the Sports and Social Club • Three time President, Secretary and Treasurer of Stowupland W.I. • Stowupland Local History Group • Promoted and supported the Village Green ‘Half a Mow’ project. • Stowupland W.I. Community Quiz Team • Long term member of the volunteer Telstar Distribution Team • Long term member of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust magazine Distribution Team • Member of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Team • Volunteer at the former Museum of East

Anglian Life • Volunteer at the Redgrave and Lopham Fen nature reserve • Volunteer at the Poppy Line Steam Railway at Sheringham • Volunteer at the Oxfam Shop in Stowmarket.

She would have been an asset to the Stowupland Biodiversity Group, as another friend shared ‘Every time I walk by the Half a Mow, I am reminded that Judy was key in getting this area designated and I smile when I remember how engagingly Judy told me about the large number and wide variety of grasses grown there, giving benefit to the environment and wildlife. Judy was so proud of this project – which happily continues to this day. Maureen Carter recalls happy times together with Judy picking the ragwort from the half a mow area before it was cut as it would have been harmful to the cattle.

Judy always had an ear to the ground and often identified a need for volunteers. If you were not a volunteer when you met Judy, you surely were after a few minutes chat. Talking to Judy’s friends we all agreed we would miss her generosity of spirit, her open-minded and level-headed approach (tinged with the inevitable humour), and last, but not least, her willingness to help in any way with a village project.

Thank you Judy, because of you Stowupland is a much nicer and better place to live.....(copied from a Telstar article contributed by a lifelong friend of Judy Clarke)



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In Memory of Tony Southgate Many of you from years gone by or new to Stowupland will walk or drive by the allotments. Our dear dad Tony Southgate has tended to the one near the bench and has done for the last 50 years. Unexpectedly, on Friday 14th February, he passed away at home and has left us all heartbroken. Dad was 87 years old and worked hard on his plot and sold flowers and vegetables (which will be missed) and was a well-known face around the village. He will be forever remembered “tending his allotment,

In memory of Mr Keith Powell. Keith was a well-liked and respected teacher/deputy head/head of the Freeman Primary School, where he taught for many years before leaving and moving to Lichfield, Staffordshire. Whilst there, he taught cycling proficiency and met and married his wife, Alla. Keith had been ill for quite a while but fought many times to beat the disease. Keith started at the primary school in September 1980. Many of the children whom he taught, and even their parents, still live in the village.



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I am grateful for the assistance of friends who have shared their memories and photographs of 2025, without their contributions this would have been far less interesting and less complete

Sandra Walker.

Figure 7 map copied from telstar sharing the locations of some key places in Stowupland