

Newsletter of the Parish Council

Exning news

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The Exning News is delivered in February, May, August and November. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Parish Council.

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All articles and letters sent to the Parish Council editors must be accompanied by a name and address in order to be published and may be edited for brevity.

To advertise or feature in the Exning News please contact editor@exning-pc.gov.uk

The deadline for submitting editorial copy and adverts for November 2024 is **24th October 2024**

Useful telephone numbers

Emergency	999
Suffolk Police (non-urgent)	101
NHS Direct (medical or dental)	111
Crime Stoppers UK	0800 555 111
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Electrical emergency (Including power cuts)	105
Anglian Water Emergency	0800 771 881
Burwell Surgery	01638 741234
Rookery Medical Centre	01638 664338
Orchard House Surgery	01638 666887
Oakfield Surgery	01638 662018
Exning Community Church Hall	07516 438133
Londis Store, Exning	01638 577225
St Martin's Church Warden	01638 577581
Exning Primary School	01638 600123
Exning Parish Council, Clerk	01638 577461
West Suffolk District Councillor Jon London	01638 599376
Suffolk County Councillor Rachel Hood	07706 308220
Member of Parliament Nick Timothy	02072 194272
Exning Court Care Home	01638 578020

Meet the editors

Kathryn Schosland



Kathryn has been an active member of the Exning community since moving here in 2010. She supports local church groups, educational organisations, and was a founding member of the Exning Neighbours Group during COVID.

Dani Kilsby-Steele

Dani moved to the village in 2019 with her husband Oli. She enjoys walking with Archie the Border Terrier, horse riding and hockey. Dani and Oli welcomed their baby in November and look forward to meeting more families.



Lindsay Morgan



Lindsay came to the village in 2012. She became involved fully in village life during COVID, when she helped form the Exning Neighbours Group and now takes an active role in the Parish Council and Exning Primary School.

Contact details for your Parish Council

Clerk to the Council clerk@exning-pc.gov.uk

01638 577461 (office hours only)

Your Parish Councillors

Lindsay Morgan (Chair)

Kathryn Schosland (Deputy Chair)

Kathryn Schosland (Deputy Chair)

Seamus Connolly

Bodek Grzech

Alex Hall

Dani Kilsby-Steele

Jon London

Gary Robinson

Anabel Simpson

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District Council News

Councillor Jon London

The dust has settled from the General Election, and I thought this might be a good time to lift the curtain to reveal what it's like from the other side. This was my first GE, and while I'm a Lib Dem, Labour and Conservative colleagues share similar stories.



Imagine you're running to be the next MP of West Suffolk, what needs to be done?

Immediately after the GE is called there is a burst of activity to get your paperwork submitted. You need ten signatures of local people to nominate you, pay the deposit and register a crucial person, your agent! They're legally responsible for your campaign so make sure it's someone who knows the law inside and out.

Next, the leaflets. Thousands will be designed, printed and delivered to your house, to then be delivered by an army of your volunteers, or if you have the money you could always send them by post.

With around 70,000 people in a constituency it's impossible for you to knock on every door. Some parties focus mostly on their existing supporters, others knock on every door in a street. You must find an effective way of getting your message across.

Hustings are the way that community organisations get involved in politics, inviting all candidates to debate the issues and answer questions from their members.

Every candidate gets one freepost courtesy of Royal Mail. You pay for the printing, but delivery is part of deal you get as a candidate in a UK General Election. In fact the reason you may not reference any businesses on your free leaflet is because a takeaway once put up a Candidate to get free menu delivery!

Polling day is a long one! From 7am-10pm you will be visible and available to the public. 10pm finally arrives but don't head for bed because now it's the count! Being at the count is important for future campaigns because results are only released for entire constituencies. If you're there while each polling station is being counted you find out which areas support you. At each table 4 officers count the ballots and behind a fence agents from various political parties watch and adjudicate spoiled ballots. Larry the Cat got at least 3 votes in this constituency!

At some point in the middle of the night the returning officer will take you and the other candidates to one side and let you know who has won, and after that the public announcement is made. For the winning candidate this is when the real job begins.

So much of a GE is accomplished by volunteers. So no matter the colour of your politics, if you want to see a change get involved and make a difference!

E: <u>cllrjonlondon@gmail.com</u> Facebook: @CllrJonLondon

Web: www.wslibdems.org.uk/our-team/jon-london

Conservation and Green Spaces



Bringing Fresh Life to our river

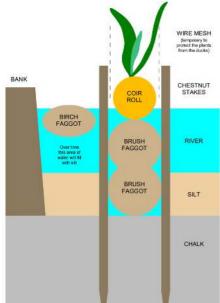
Summer Update - July 2024

Duck Pond - Phase 1 work has been completed!

The **berms** (**low level shelves**) have started to reinstate the natural sinuosity of the river and provide erosion protection for the banks. These have been formed with **chestnut posts** driven into the river bed and **brush faggots** placed between to ensure that the **coir rolls** sit at the correct level to remain wet in the summer and not create a flood risk in the winter. The **coir rolls** have been planted with chalk stream aquatic plants and temporary wire mesh has been installed to protect the plants from the ducks. **Birch faggots** have been placed between the banks and the new planting to improve habitat for invertebrates.

All the plants are growing well and the **Water Forget Me Not**, **Meadow Sweet**, **Purple** and **Yellow Loosestrife** and **Water Avens** have been flowering throughout the summer. Numerous sticklebacks can be seen in the gravel, moorhens have built three nests between the new planting, a kingfisher has been sighted and a heron visits most days. Several new families of ducks and moorhens have been hatched.

Phase 1 has been funded by Exning Parish Council and the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's Anglia Water Flourishing Environments Fund.



Phase 2 additional funding is required to purchase plants for the margins to increase the habitable areas and more gravel to continue to improve the sinuosity of the river, scour the silt and oxygenate the water.

Swan Lane

In September volunteers from the Exning New River Association will be working to clear the debris by Swan Lane bridge, stabilise the bank and gently redirect the flow to the culvert under the road. Jon London, our West Suffolk Councillor has kindly given a donation so this work can be started from his Locality Budget.

If you would like to find out more, donate to help with continuing the restoration in Ducks Lane, the Swan Lane project or volunteer go to

www.exningnewriver.co.uk

Where the Wild Things are...

The Environmental and Sustainability subgroup of Exning Parish Council looks at ways in which the village spaces can be optimised for environmental impact.

Changes to the Suffolk County Council mowing schedule and frequency this year have seen some of our spaces take on a more... abstract form at various times of the season!

Grass verges and weeding are part of the essential maintenance the village needs but the reduction in County activity is also an opportunity to identify areas where frequent mowing isn't the best use of the limited resource and the space might be better utilised to encourage pollinators and wildlife.

Exning is surrounded by productive farmland, with active allotments, keen gardeners and a number of beekeepers. Our food production is intertwined with the life cycles of a number of insect species which we could better support.

Important work has already started, with Greener, Cleaner Exning creating a vibrant insect corridor on Church Lane through planting and maintenance, with help from the Exning 1st Scouts and other volunteers to keep on top of the trimming and weeding.

In the telephone box library, we are collecting wildflower seeds. With expert advice, the Parish Council will identify areas where wildflower micromeadows could work, reducing the mowing burden, providing important food for hungry bees and butterflies throughout the season and a pleasant view for the villagers. They would be maintained by the Village Keeper.

The wildflower species set seed at different times so why not pop a few envelopes in your pocket with your poop bags when you take the dog for a walk. Shake a poppy head, grab the whorl of a hollyhock, create an avalanche of aquilegia and then seal it and place it in the telephone box on the way past. There is even a pen in there to label your envelope if you know what you have, or simply describe it and it's original location if not









What's growing? On the Exning allotments with Phil

We are following Phil on his allotment journey, hoping to inspire others to pick up a trowel and a bag of seeds. You don't need an allotment to start your own home-grown journey; even small gardens and containers are a great place to start.

Update from where we started

Phil has now had his Exning allotment for a year, after moving to the village last summer. In that time, he has grown a whole raft of things and has even upgraded to a bigger allotment and won an award at the Allotment Show.

What are you harvesting Aug/Sept?

Leeks, carrots, cabbages. We will be looking forward to sprouting broccoli and hopefully beetroot in November. Our pumpkins are also well on their way!

Any planting?

I am going to try planting salads in the greenhouse at home over the winter with a special low energy heater. I am hoping to grow lettuce and carrots.

What have been the main challenges this summer?

The lack of sunshine means the plants have grown very slowly, in particular my beans were very late. I have had to feed my crops a lot more this year, especially as the new allotment has poorer soil.

Have there been particular successes though?

Outside, the salads have done really well, especially the lettuces and spring onions. In the greenhouse, the tomatoes and cucumbers have been great.

Any tips/secrets you are willing to share?

A really good all round plant feed for fruit, veg, flowers, shrubs etc. is Phostrogen All Purpose Plant Food.

What do you have coming up?

The Fruit & Produce show will have taken place by the time this goes to print. I am entering all categories, so fingers crossed for a few wins! You might also have noticed that we grow flowers at the allotments too, including dahlias, snapdragons and sweet peas.



Good luck in the Fruit & Produce show Phil! If you have any questions for Phil, to be asked in the next edition, please email editor@exning-pc.gov.uk

Meet The Locals

Local business Q&A

Each edition, we run a Q&A with a local business owner. If you would like to take part, please email editor@exning-pc.gov.uk. In this edition, we caught up with Jo Lambert from Thoroughbred Wines.



Q1: Why did you start Thoroughbred Wines?

My partner, Bill, and I previously worked for a German wine company based on Fordham Road, but we were made redundant at the start of lockdown in 2020. We loved working in the wine industry, so we started our own business selling wines and running tastings. We cater for all palates but specialise in sweeter German wines which are highly sought after including sweet reds, pinks, and Moscato.

Q1: Where did the name 'Thoroughbred Wines' come from?

We are passionate about horseracing and own Thoroughbred horses. Thoroughbreds are an elite horse breed, and we consider our wines to be elite in their field; they are high quality, low sulphate, organic, biodynamic, and sustainable. We promise you will notice the difference in the morning from drinking our wines!

Q4: What do you enjoy most about running Thoroughbred Wines?

The wine tastings are really good fun; it is fantastic to see people tasting and enjoying the wines we have selected.

Q5: What is the most challenging part of the job?

The traveling, especially late at night after a tasting. We have a lot of clients in Essex so the drive home can be quite tiring after a busy day.

Q6: Where can we find out more?

On Facebook and our website www.thoroughbredwines.co.uk or come and see us in person at one of the Farmer's Markets we show at – Hartest, Bures, Isleham, and Moulton.

Exning Events

Music Builds Communities

If you enjoy singing, even if you don't think you can sing, come along to MBC "Singing for Fun", usually on the 3rd Wednesday each month at 8pm in Exning Community Church Hall. It's a sing-a-long where the words are shown on a screen and the music is pro-



vided on acoustic guitars. No need to book. It's just £2.50 for the evening.

On September 18th we'll take a "Trip round the UK" finishing with favourites from Last Night of the Proms". On December 18th we'll hold our Christmas Special with Parodies and Christmas Pop hits. We hope members of the MBC Band may join us for those. October 16th and November 20th are yet to be planned.

http://musicbuildscommunities.org/evening fun singing.html

We have restarted our Electric Guitar sessions on the 1st Wednesday each month. Open to anybody who plays, whether it be lead, rhythm or bass. We also not have a drummer.

http://www.musicbuildscommunities.org/play electric.html

For more information about MBC and any of its activities see the website www.musicbuildscommunities.org, email to lnfo@musicbuildscommunities.org or call John on 07968 912046

Exning.net

Exning dot Net (<u>www.exning.net</u>) is a website about Exning Village. It is a way for you to find out what is going on in the village over the coming month(s) and is available to promote your event for free! It also has links to various organisations' own websites and Facebook pages (or we can provide a web page where there isn't one). There's a section about the history of Exning, and pages of photos of past events held in the village (e.g. duck races, commemorations of world wars, jubilee events, fetes, etc). There's a photo tour of the village and even some aerial photos taken by the webmaster from a Tiger Moth aircraft!

The information is only as good as that provided to us, so if you have a regular activity, or are organising a one-off event, please let us know. We can also help publicise your event on several local Facebook pages and Nextdoor. If the event is in Exning Community Church Hall we can let people know about it by email. So, take a look at the website www.exning.net and, if you want to know more, email us at info@exning.net or call John Saville on 07968-912046

EXNING VILLAGE CINEMA

"Showing films monthly for 12 years"

EXNING COMMUNITY CHURCH HALL

Screenings 2nd Friday of every month except July and August

Details of the coming monthly film are to be found on notice boards and via social media

Doors open at 7pm and the programme starts at 7.30pm



Exning Parish Council have several new and established projects on the go at the moment, including the Exning Fete and our Environmental Group. Some projects need expert advice and consultation, some just need extra hands. We are always looking for volunteers to help us out, and are always hugely grateful for any help anyone can give. So if you have a bit of time spare, would like to give something back to the village or are, maybe, not quite ready to take the plunge into being a Parish Councillor but want to 'dip your toe', please do let us know.

We are also aware of other activities around the village, such as the Duck Races, that could also do with some help. Or, you may have ideas yourself about what the village may need, and are happy to start the ball rolling.

In any case, we would love to hear from you. Please do contact our Vice Chair, Kathryn Schosland, on kathryn.schosland@exning-pc.gov.uk

Charitable Organisations

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

EXNING BRANCH

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community providing lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. From offering expert advice and guidance, to supporting recovery and rehabilitation, through to transitioning to civilian life.

The Exning Branch is part of the 180,000 membership. Last year it raised approximately £15,000 for the annual Poppy Appeal. It supports the Parish Council in the management of the Remembrance Sunday event at the War Memorial and is responsible for the Service of Remembrance in St Martin's Church. When possible we like to have a presence at village events

Members play a vital role in supporting the Royal British Legion. They share experiences with like-minded people, but most importantly, they help provide support to the Armed Forces community. From being at the end of a phone line and visiting veterans in their local area, to holding Remembrance and community events, it can help reach those who need it most.

Like many organisations we are now low in numbers and are seeking to reverse this trend. You do not have to be connected to the Armed Forces to join just agree with the aims and objects of the British Legion. Exning Branch needs new members to ensure it can carry on its activities. For more information about the Royal British Legion go to:

www.britishlegion.org.uk

Or contact: mllovegrove@hotmail.com



TIME FOR TEA AND FRIENDSHIP





You are warmly invited to join us on the First and Third Monday of each month (excluding Bank holidays) For informal chat, cake and tea, meeting friends and making new friends, held at;

Exning Community Church Hall. 2-4pm.

For further information please contact:
Christine Pearce 01638 664314. Or just come along.

COFFEE FOR ALL
plus Suffolk Chuches
Ride and Stride
St MARTIN'S
CHURCH, EXNING





SATURDAY
14th SEPTEMBER
10am-3pm
Everyone welcome
No charge, donations gratefully accepted.

Exildas Angels

Trustees of this charity, have been raising money to build an extension to a primary school in Chita in rural north west Zambia which was constructed and opened in 2014.

The three classroom extension is to house the greatly increased numbers now wanting a place at the school. Built for just over 100 it now has a roll of over 400 pupils and is the nearest primary for many villages whose children would otherwise not have an opportunity to learn.

Work started in late July to enable the community to dig trenches for the foundations of the extra classrooms. The build will proceed in phases over the coming months.



Exning's Fete in July provided an opportunity for Exildas Angels to publicise our work. If you missed us, read our story on our website www.exildasangels.org

We are still needing funds of approximately £4000, so the roof can be in place when the children return to their studies during the rainy season. Building costs in Zambia though rising, are far cheaper than in the UK. The target needed is achievable and every pound donated buys considerably more in Zambia

If you would like to donate to the school extension please visit our Just Giving page, or contact our Treasurer at treasurer@exildasangels.org.

The children are enthusiastic about learning and value it highly, the school is in the top ten of 350 of the Northern Provinces' primary schools. Education is changing life chances and opportunities for the next generation of boys and girls. Follow progress as the new extension grows through its phases on Exildas Angels Facebook page

Alan and Christine Shand, Jan Lovegrove and John Saville, Exilda Mungulube. Chair and Treasurer, Trustee, Secretary and UK Project Manager, Trustee.

Thank you, Jan

Children and Young People

Exning Primary Artwork on Display at Suffolk Show

We were thrilled to be asked by Suffolk Recycles to take part in an exciting recycling art project to celebrate and encourage biodiversity in Suffolk. We were tasked to make a collective piece of large-scale artwork from recycled materials, which would be used to build a fabulous display for the Suffolk Recycles stand at the Suffolk Show.



Our Year 2 class used this theme as part of their negative print art project, crafting

printing blocks from polystyrene tiles. Children drew inspiration from the local environment, producing intricate prints featuring bees, butterflies, flowers, and wheat fields. These prints were then transferred onto recycled newspapers. To link their local area with the global environment, they arranged the prints to form a world map.

The children were overjoyed to see their artwork showcased at the Suffolk Show, with many eagerly visiting to view it in person.



Natasha Warren

Deputy Head, Exning Primary School

Footsteps Toddler Group

St Martin's Church is starting 'Footsteps' Baby and Toddler group — journeying to Jesus.

Starts Monday 2^{nd} September for Babies and Toddlers. It will run from 10am to 12, midday, on the first and third Mondays of the month. There'll be time for play, crafts, Christian stories, songs and snacks. £2.50/session.

Venue: Exning Community Church Hall, Church Lane, Exning, CB8 7HF

Dates: 2nd & 16th September; 7th & 21st October; 4th & 18th November; 2nd & 16th December

exningfootsteps@gmail.com

1st Exning Scouts

The young people were out in force at the Exning fete, with all ages working hard to fundraise for their groups. Thank you so much for engaging with us.

Beavers, cubs and scouts groups continue to thrive in the village and at this time of year, it's all about the outdoors! Many of us will have fond memories of campouts and cookouts and we are committed to making those memories in a new generation. Thriving groups need equipment and we are looking for general camping gear to add to our resources, which do get a lot of wear and tear. If you have any surplus camping supplies, particularly cooking gear, gathering spiders in garages when they could be making memories, please get in touch with Barry Hussey.

barry.hussey@exningscouts.org.uk







Exning Telephone box library

Earlier this year we explained that, due to requiring regular maintenance and to prevent antisocial behaviour, the telephone box library needed a regular librarian.

A LIBRARIAN CAME FORWARD!

You'll notice the box is now tidy and well-stocked, and while staying true to it's library roots, will be diversifying to include a glutton box for excess veg and a seed swap.

Currently you'll find the Wildflower Collection box there, as part of Exning Parish Council's plans to support pollinators.

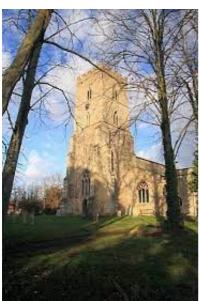
Faith and Worship

A letter from the minister, St Martin's Church

I am writing between two events – the duck race, which was a remarkable occasion, and the Exning Fête, to which I am looking forward. It was a delight to see so many people enjoying themselves at the duck race, not only with the races themselves, but also with other entertainments on offer. Life in Exning in the summer is good. Of course, pleasant events like these would not be possible were it not for the hard work of many behind the scenes. In so many ways we are the beneficiaries of other people's generosity, not only those in our own day but also those



who came before us. This was especially in my mind as I attended a trustees' meeting of the Morden and Fabian Charity, a small charity with the diverse aims of the alleviation of poverty, the education of children and young people, and the maintenance of the parish church.



One of the original objectives of the charity is to provide 'white herrings and bread' for the poor of Exning. While I am tempted to say anyone with a special interest in white herrings should get in touch, the need to respond to human need by generous, charitable service in this way has never disappeared. In church, we often remember that Jesus was explicit about the need to care for others. His invitation is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself. The spin -off is that as we do so, we find ourselves living more fully – enjoying life as it is meant to be lived. Perhaps the happy events of summer can be a taste of that.

Liam Beadle

Services are on noticeboards and on St Martin's website https://www.exningparishchurch.net



Update from the Parish Council



Summer 2024







As well as our normal civic business, Parish Councillors were focussed in this quarter on delivering the Exning Fete. Despite concerns about the weather in the week leading up to the event, the day was glorious.

Councillors started their 'shift' on Friday night, taking delivery of the toilets and hay bales and then were back early Saturday morning to start setting up. One by one our partners arrived to cheers and waves. Lily's Inflatables kept our young people busy and ultimately exhausted with different soft play and bounce areas. No one went hungry, with Pizza Passione, Bam Bam's Crepes and our own Parish Council providing a steady supply of hot food and treats, complemented by St Martin's Church's refreshments. Gentleman Jim's kept people topped up with grown up drinks, while Dylan's Mocktail Bar provided fruity alternatives.

Sustainability Corner, new this year and very popular, showcased some of the projects the Parish Council is supporting such as the Wildflower collection, the Foragers Map and the Exning Primary School Uniform Sewing Bee. Expertise in hydroponics and solar energy was provided by the very knowledgeable Councillor Annabel Simpson with husband Andrew, and all your pledges for a more sustainable Exning were a joy to read. Even the School Uniform Sewing Bee was solar powered as Councillor Lindsay Morgan assembled the bunting!











Tony's Caricatures created some hilarious sketches and the queue for the face painting stretched half the length of the field at one point. Bounce, Boogie Babes and the Circus Skills workshop kept us all on our toes.

Exning's Parish Councillors were supported on the day by a number of volunteers who did shifts at different stands to make your afternoon delightful. Thanks to them and thanks to all of you for a great day.

Matters in Council

As well as the Fete and our sustainability work, the Parish Council continues to contribute to a number of infrastructure and planning projects. The bus shelter will soon be erected on Burwell Road, and an early but interesting proposal for the redevelopment of the Brickfield Stud site has been publicised that looks at it's utility as an older person's residential area (similar to George Gibson Close) with an adjoining care home facility.

A new Parish Councillor joined us, and we would like to formally welcome Bodek Grzech to the team. Bodek is well known in the village and lives in the Chancery Park area. His presence on the council helps us to better understand the issues and opportunities of this newest area of the village and we're really pleased to have him on board.

We also say goodbye to our village keeper, Tom. Tom has kept the village pristine for many years and his pride in his work is evident from the churchyards to the recreation ground. Recruitment is underway for a new full time village keeper/groundsperson.

As you can imagine at this time of year, trees are showing their full heights and breadths and so we review lots of planning applications for tree management, as well as look at the heath of our own mature trees. A good deal of Exning Parish is designated as 'conservation area' which means many mature trees have Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) attached to them. Their regular maintenance comes with additional requirements to preserve their health and integrity alongside the semi-rural appearance of Exning. These requirements have to be met by the Parish Council for our trees, and by residents for their own.

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets at Exning Community Church Hall at 7pm.

There is an Open Forum at the beginning of each meeting when members of the public may speak for a maximum of three minutes on a subject, but members of the public are welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting to observe.

Dates of planned meetings 2024-25

Wednesday 25th September Wednesday 22nd January
Wednesday 23rd October Wednesday 26 February
Wednesday 27th November Wednesday 26th March
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER Wednesday 23rd April

Our Website: www.exning-pc.gov.uk

Here you can find information regarding your Parish Councillors and also your District & County Councillors. The minutes of parish council meetings are posted on there, along with the received reports of the District & County Councillors. The website has been redeveloped and we hope you like the new look.

We are collecting views about the future content and format of the Exning News. To complete the survey, follow the link below or scan the QR code.

https://forms.office.com/e/zQsdBpA2rh

