

Hinderclay Newsletter December 2025

If you have anything you'd like included in the next newsletter, please email Rikki at rikki@rikkiwebster.com who will add it (space permitting). All information must be received by the 25th of the month at the latest. Anything received after this date will unfortunately not be included.

We all know why we celebrate Christmas, but do you know where some of our most beloved customs come from?

Christmas in the UK is a festive tapestry stitched together from centuries of winter customs, many of which predate modern celebrations. The Christmas tree tradition became firmly rooted in British culture in the 19th century when Prince Albert popularised the German custom, but the idea of bringing evergreens indoors goes back much further to local midwinter practices symbolising endurance through the dark season. Crackers were a Victorian invention by a London confectioner inspired by French bonbons wrapped in paper; he added a "bang" and a motto, and they quickly became a uniquely British staple. Even the emphasis on hearty feasts grew from old English winter gatherings where communities shared preserved foods and warm drinks to brighten the cold stretch of the year.

Many cherished UK traditions grew from simple, practical habits that evolved into cultural cornerstones. The custom of hanging stockings took shape through European folktales but found a particularly cosy niche in British homes alongside the ritual of leaving mince pies out as tokens of hospitality. Boxing Day, now associated with sales, sport, and leftovers, originally centred on acts of giving, with employers distributing "Christmas boxes" to workers and tradespeople. Together, these traditions create a distinctly British seasonal atmosphere: twinkling high streets, festive jumpers, pantomime outings, and communal moments that celebrate comfort, generosity, and togetherness at the year's end. Here's to a happy and healthy 2026 and a very Merry Christmas to all!

Many common Christmas sayings have origins rooted in 16th-century England, carols, or popular literature. Phrases like "Merry Christmas" first appeared in the 1500s and were popularised by Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* and early Christmas cards in 1843. Other sayings, like "*'Tis the season*" or "*Deck the halls*," come from older, popular phrases and carols, while "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night" is from the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas".

HINDERCLAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE

The Parish Council normally meets bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month and usually has attendees from Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.

Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026
Thursday 8th January
Thursday 12th March

Meetings are held in the Hinderclay Village Hall starting at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated and members of the public are welcome to attend, so come along and have your say about what happens in our village.



HINDERCLAY LITTLE ERNIE WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER 2025

CONGRATULATIONS!

1st	71	Mr D Emerson
2nd	164	Millie O'Driscoll
3rd	37	Mr M Forge
4th	56	Mr T Woods

If you would like to be in with a chance to win cash prizes every month (40p per ticket per month) and support our Village Hall, please contact:

Linda Aves on 01379 898512

HINDERCLAY DEFIBRILLATOR

The village defibrillator is in the **YELLOW BOX** located by the main door of the **Village Hall**.

Remember to take your mobile phone - give the 999 operator the 3 words below and it will give them the location of the defibrillator box.

UNLOADS - CABS - FIZZLE
The postcode is **IP22 1HW**



THANK YOU FOR COMING ALONG AND SUPPORTING US ON SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025

As the Bazaar was held after the deadline for the December newsletter submissions, we shall give more details of this event in January.

In the meantime, thank you to all who came and supported us, and congratulations to all who won prizes.



Weekly local mobile points are:

Monday - 9am to 11am
(outside the village shop)
HOPTON

Thursday - 11am to 12pm
(outside the Village Hall)
WALSHAM

Friday - 2.45pm to 3.45pm
(behind Park View Chapel)
BOTESDALE

CHURCH SERVICES: On Sunday 14 Decemer 2025 at 4.30pm we will be holding our CAROL SERVICE.

We welcome back the Castleton Brass Band to accompany us with our favourite carols, finishing the service with a glass of mulled wine (thank you to Emily and Geoff Metcalfe) and a mince pie. With our readings telling the Christmas story, the church beautifully decorated, and the candlelight - what a perfect way to start the Christmas season. Everyone is welcome, we would love to see you.

Unfortunately, there will not be Christmas morning service at St Mary's this year.

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR



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 **Patient Participation Group**
Botesdale Health Centre

Question of the Month

Q: Is it possible to shorten the length of the questionnaire we need to complete when submitting an animal medical request?

A: No, the length of the questionnaires can't be changed. They are set by the system provider and ask questions which will provide us with as much detail and relevant information pertaining to your concern.

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026 BIN COLLECTION

Please note, following a bank holiday, collections are often one day later than normal for the rest of that week. More info at midsuffolk.gov.uk.

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1 ^{Dec}	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 ^{Jan}	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



Remember, if you're in need of help, you're not alone. The people listed here are happy to help if they can...

KAREN
01379 898949

ROGER
01379 890257

KATE
01379 898562

CHRIS
07841 016384

KEN
01379 898776

PETER
01379 898906

RICHARD
07939 241550

JULIA
07931 327004

Our next **BINGO** session will be on **Friday 5th December** at the Village Hall.

There will be a **Christmas Jumper Competition**, with prizes for the winners. Come and join us for a fun evening and a chance to win cash prizes!



Doors open at 7pm, 'Eyes Down' at 7.30pm.

Hinderclay Coffee Morning

There will be no Coffee Morning on the 11th December as we will be having our **Annual Christmas Lunch** at **The Four Horseshoes**, Thornham Magna on **Thursday 4th December**.

The next Coffee Morning will be **Thursday 8th January 2026**.



Looking for something new to read?

A **mobile library** comes to the Village Hall on Thursdays, every four weeks, from 2.55pm to 3.30pm. The next visit is scheduled to be on **Thursday 4th December**.

THE HINDERCLAY HEAD SCRATCHER



What has to be broken, before it can be used?



Last month's answer: A bank (or post office)

WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL?

For Hinderclay Village Hall bookings, please contact **Linda Aves** on **01379 898512** or email secretary.hvh@outlook.com. Fees are £8 per hour for Hinderclay residents and £9 per hour for others.



YOGA (Weekly) Monday evenings - 6pm-7pm
Contact Abigail Jackson on 07557 794928



BROWNIES (Weekly) Tuesday evenings in term time - 5:30pm-7pm
Contact Claire Brinkley on 01379 890709



GARDEN CLUB (Monthly) Wednesday evenings - 7:30pm
Contact Martin Forge on 01379 898270



YOGA (Weekly) Wednesday & Saturday mornings - 9am-10:30am
Contact Alyze on 07518 262697



COFFEE MORNING (Monthly) Thursday mornings - 10:30am
Contact Len Parsall on 01379 898867



KENNINGHALL MORRIS (Weekly) Thursday evenings - 7:30pm
Contact Vicki on 07476 762125



BINGO (Monthly) Friday evenings - 7pm for 7:30pm start
Future dates in newsletter