

Trade Directory

Architectural Services - for advice and free quotation, contact	Mark Woods	01508 498805
Oil boiler services: servicing/commissioning & breakdown repairs	Chris Clarke 1-service/2 - emergency	07377 516660/07912 146619
Central heating/boiler engineer (gas/LPG) - Gas Safe registered	Kennerson (Boiler Champ Ltd)	07874 007263/01508 473080
DKC Oil Boiler Servicing and breakdowns	David	07375 995198
Oil Boiler Services - for enquiries: em Enquiries@JAboilers.co.uk	James Allen	07526 052222
Car servicing/repairs/MOT prep etc	Mike Curtis	01508 550293/07753 182065
Airport transfer specialist/Chauffeur hire. www.peterrudlingtravel.co.uk	Ben Rudling info@peterrudlingtravel.co.uk	07545 560565
The Village Chimney Sweep of Saxlingham - City and Guilds	Ben Hampton	07920 585518
Computer repairs, virus removal & more - www.pcassistonline.co.uk	Darren Rose	01508 471459
Coco's Dog Grooming - holistic grooming, washes/full grooms, etc	Rachael Hill	07812 753750
Electrician - ICD Domestic Electrics	Ian and Caroline Duerden	01508 813802/07790 273689
Foot Care Practitioner - all treatments (diabetics welcome)	Mandy Baker	07398 402620
Funeral Services (Poringland based offices)	R B Copping	01508 494434
Floorlayer and Handyman	Bradley Patrick	01508 499133/07982 740833
HR Consultant- advice and support on employment matters	Lucy - Lucy@mustardhr.co.uk	07809 227222
Garden Design and Maintenance garrecgardendesign@gmail.com	James Garrec	07551 660485
Gutter Tech, Clearing, Cleaning, Repairs. guttertechnorfolk@gmail.com	Charlie (Nick Charles)	07982 452351
Local Handyman, property maintenance/painting & decorating service	Ian Pilkington	07789 541421
Landscaping and gardening, patios, fencing, brickweave drives etc	Rachel Cooke (Arkscape)	01508 470482
Interior/exterior painting and decorating	Michael Wiseman	07941 699232
Live honey bee removal from chimneys and wall cavities	Louise - louise@buzz-off.co.uk	07876 141153/01603 259945
Lady Mole Catcher for all pest and wildlife management problems	Louise - louise@ladymolecatcher.co.uk	01603 259945/07876 141153
Pet sitting service - cats, dog walking and other animals	Jo Sanders - jsanjcook@yahoo.co.uk	07902 393078
Plumbing and bathroom installation	Neil Prior	01508 489359/07713 352494
Recycled car spares, MOT failures - www.dysalvage.com	David Yarham	01508 482612/07860 626595
Tutor - 3Rs, maths and sciences to GCSE, revision support	Storm Roberts - fayre@me.com	07939 242262
Wills and estate planning accredited by Trading Standards -	Rick Mantin	01603 765337/07789 194430
Washing machines, etc. - all repaired	Michael Jay	01603 499578/07884 255292
Washing machines, cookers, dishwashers, fridge freezer etc repairs	Ashley Yallop	01603 433083/07525 150999
Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall Bookings	Claire Smith - e-mail saxlinghambookings@gmail.com	
Community Emergency Co-ordinator	Bryn Austin	01508 499757/07788 795666
Police Telephone Number	Non Emergencies	101
Power cuts	Local information	105

If you would like to advertise in the Trade Directory, please do get in touch with the Editor.

Saxlingham Contact January 2026

Chapel Talk

A Happy New Year to you all.

So here we are again, stepping into a New Year and thinking about how to live it and wondering what the future holds. For some, the New Year brings excitement at the prospect of new opportunities and for others it brings anxiety in the face of difficulties and uncertainties. It doesn't seem possible that 2025 has come and gone! Christmas is over, festive decorations are down or soon to come down - nativity scenes are dismantled and put back in the cupboard till next year! There can be a very real sense of anti-climax, even sadness as we enter a new year, with more cold, dark days ahead and perhaps not very much to look forward to. BUT, although the nativity scenes with the baby Jesus lying in His manger may be relegated to the cupboard, Jesus himself, is alive! Of course, that's the whole point of the season we've just celebrated; Jesus is no longer the baby in the manger - He is the risen Saviour, who invites us to enjoy a living relationship with Him every day of this new year. And that's a message of joy and real hope for 2026. Live 2026 with Jesus. I, and millions more around the world, can't live without Him!

God bless you all, Ian.

ST MARY'S SERVICES

4 January: 9.30 am - Holy Communion
11 January: 11.00 am - Matins
18 January: 9.30 am - Holy Communion;
25 January: 8.00 am - Holy Communion
25 January: 11.00 am - Contemplative Worship

CHAPEL SERVICES

Every Sunday at 10.30 am and 4.00 pm

All are warmly invited

How to contact the teams:

Contact Rev'd Dawn Davidson at The New Rectory, The Street, Saxlingham Nethergate, Norwich, NR15 1AJ; Tel 498924; e-m: dawndavidson@btinternet.com

Contact Pastor Ian Masson at 73 Blithemeadow Drive, Norwich, NR7 8PY; Tel 07778 347461; e-m: ianmasson1@btinternet.com

Contact Rev'd Austin Uzoigwe at The Rectory, Church Hill, Tasburgh, NR15 1NB; Tel 470901; e-m: revaustinuzoigwe@aol.com

Contact Rev'd Rachel Hayden at The Rectory, Church Lane, Newton Flotman, NR15 1QB; Tel 01508 826971; e-m: racheljhayden@outlook.com

Useful Information Sharing

Don't forget to look at the PC's website for useful information – saxlinghampc.wixsite.com/saxlinghampc (or just Google Saxlingham PC). Anyone wishing to add useful items, please send them to our Parish Clerk, Julie King at saxlinghamnethergatepc@gmail.com

A New Year and a New Challenge?

The Church is still desperately seeking a volunteer to become the treasurer. Surely there is someone in the village willing to help? If interested, please get in touch with Rev'd Dawn Davidson or our churchwarden, Cindy Brookes, whose details appear elsewhere in Contact. They would love to hear from you.

Saxlingham Walkers go to Blickling 31 January at 9.30 am

We shall start the New Year by walking from Blickling on Saturday 31 January, leaving Saxlingham Church Car Park at 9.30 am for Blickling Car Park. Bring coffee and any other refreshment to share before starting the walk at approximately 11.00 am. To accommodate everyone, there are a variety of walks:

- 6 mile circular walk via Itteringham ..bring picnic to eat en route
- Estate walk
- Short walk round lake
- if all else fails, visit the house and book shop!

We look forward to seeing you, and your dogs! For further information contact Liz on 07799 696046

Contact deadline

Please note that the deadline for **February's** edition is **Thursday 15 January** Don't forget there is a parish photocopier available for use at very reasonable rates.

Please contact me with contributions/sponsorship by telephone on 498277 or e-m: stevens.t@btinternet.com or at home, 6 Pitts Hill Close, Saxlingham Nethergate, Norwich, NR15 1AZ.

Teresa Stevens

Save the date! Open gardens in our village on 6 June 2026

We would love to hear from you if you would like your garden to be included or if you can help with setting up / on the day/ cake baking. Please contact Anne with any queries or offers - annemfry@gmail.com or 07939 504896



SNAPP (Saxlingham Nethergate Allcomers Ping Pong) Friday 9 January 2026



Drinks and nibbles at 5.00 pm
followed by a short AGM and then a table tennis session until 6.30pm.
All very welcome!

February Fiesta at the Village Hall in aid of Educateperu 28 February at 6.30pm

£20 for 3 courses (wine and soft drinks available too)
(based on my original idea of safari suppers and so tables of 6 whose occupants move around after each course)

For those of you unfamiliar with my work, the school Santa Maria that I built out in Pachacútec, Peru 18 years ago, now has 800 students, aged 4 – 16. It is one of the poorest zones in Peru – a cool desert, sand, sand and more sand but no rain. 80 of the poorest of those children are “godparented” by lovely people in our village, my family and friends in the wider world.

The school has to charge a small amount in order to pay the teachers for the afternoon, as our school is open from 8.00 am – 4.00 pm, but it's on State land and the State pays the teachers, but only up to their timetable, which is half a day.

The other advantage of course, is that being open all day, enables the parents to work more hours. If you don't work, you don't eat, in Pachacútec. So “godparents” pay £22 per month and this includes a hot lunch for the god parented child each day.

However, there are always other needs too: new shoes, a door to the back of the “house” (think “shed”) so the family are not so cold and wet, medicines etc. More help is always needed – which is what I discover while I'm visiting homes and talking to the parents.

You will be able to see a powerpoint too on the night, showing you what I do and where all profits go in order to help those families. There will also, as usual, be a table of Peruvian goods for sale, so please bring cash, no Contactless, QR code etc available!!!

To book tickets, please telephone me on 01508 498050/07518 386383 or email me at jillbignellinperu@hotmail.com.

Wassail at the Saxon Club and Meadows A village tradition!



Come and join us at the annual Wassail on Friday 2 January 2026 at 6.00 pm meeting first at the Saxon Club before walking to the orchard and apple trees, with our ‘noise makers’ e.g. a pan lid, whistle or musical instrument. Don't forget a torch and sturdy footwear as the ground may be uneven. After the Wassailing ceremony to encourage the health of our apple trees, we'll return to the Saxon Club for mulled fruit punch. All are very welcome. If there are any queries, please contact Anne Fry on 07939 504896 or you can e:mail her at annemfry@gmail.com



Saxlingham Village Hall Quiz and Chips Saturday 7 February

Have you booked your tickets yet? Teams can have up to six members and no mobile phones and the winners have a chance of becoming millionaires!

£15 a ticket includes either cod and chips or sausage and chips. There will be a bar featuring soft drinks, wine, gin and beer from the award winning Redwell Brewery in Trowse. Best of all, profits are going to the Village Hall to help put our beautiful historic building back to the centre of village life. Tickets are on sale this month and so be sure to get in quick because it's likely to sell out quicker than Oasis.

Come to Newton Flotman Cinema 20 January—Downton Abbey— The Grand Finale

Doors opening at 7.00 pm with film starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00 each available from William Ball on 471506 or e-mail him at william.ball@outlook.com.

News from the Pews

A church full of stars - Have you seen the amazing array of stars decorating the church yet? Only a few days left, as the display is dismantled on 5 January—please ensure you retrieve your star(s) by 12 January.. An enormous thank you goes to all involved creating such an amazing display. Ideas for next year are already being discussed – please email me with any suggestions. The display has been admired by many people— some have come to visit the church simply because of the display

As you may recall, the carolling around the War Memorial and the carol service raise funds for charity and this year the stars theme inspired us to pick Norfolk charity, Star Throwers. Thank you for your generations donations totalling just over £275.00

Foodbank - Thanks to those who continue to donate items - they are gratefully received. As always, more items are needed and the list is: Tinned items: tomatoes, spaghetti, fruit; long life milk; microwave rice; shower gel; male/female deodorant; shampoo and toothpaste.

Thank you.
Cindy Brookes, telephone 398521, email cindylbrookes@icloud.com

Saxlingham Village Voice

If you wish to sign up to Village Voice e-mail Cathy Harvey at saxlinghamvillagevoice@gmail.com.

Mental Health Awareness in the Community Training

South Norfolk and Broadland Council are running **free mental health awareness training sessions** to help create supportive communities as part of our mindful towns and villages project.

Mindful towns and villages offer safe spaces for people to have an open conversation about their mental wellbeing with individuals willing to support their communities. People from within the community (such as small local businesses, community groups, sports clubs, residents who like to support others etc.) will have completed low level mental health awareness training and can use this knowledge to provide support and signpost to other services as needed. These individuals are called Wellbeing Champions.

We want to highlight that we do not expect Wellbeing Champions to give any additional time to this role; these conversations will occur naturally as part of daily life. Additionally, we do not expect Wellbeing Champions to take on the role of a counsellor or diagnose any conditions. They are simply there for a low-level chat and to signpost as needed.

The details of our next course are:

Title: Mental Health Awareness in the Community

Provider: South Norfolk and Broadland Council

Date: 27 January 2026

Time: 6.00 -8.00 pm (please arrive 10 minutes early)

Location: The Mill, Hempnall, NR15 2LP

The training is 2 hours long with a break, and offers basic education about stress, different mental health conditions, why people may struggle and signs you may notice when someone is having a hard time. You will also learn how you might approach someone and start a conversation. Finally, you will learn about the Council's Help Hub and other services that can offer support so you can effectively signpost. You will receive access to a private area on the Council's website with further supporting website links and a supporting resource to use when having conversations.

If you are interested in **booking a place**, please go to the following booking link: <https://forms.office.com/e/tQasbwdFn9>

Village Hall Website

Don't forget to visit the village hall website <https://saxnethergatevillagehall.co.uk/>



Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 December 2025

Village Hall: work continues to consider refurbishing the village hall, including redecoration and upgraded facilities. Fundraising continues.

Newton Flotman Bridge: plans are being explored to improve the Old Bridge shared with Newton Flotman PC, including seating, planting and an information board.

East Pye Solar: the PC discussed grid connections/constraints and contacting media outlets to share their concerns.

Saxlingham Nethergate Primary School: The PC heard from the school about a proposed summer room to support pupils' wellbeing and will consider funding support in the New Year.

War Memorial: New bollards to protect the War Memorial and school wig-wag signs will be installed, fully funded through the Local Member's Fund.

Flooding: Flooding mitigation work continues, including planned leaky dams on Wash Lane.

The next Parish Council meeting is on **Monday 12 January 2026**.

Decorating Help Needed at the Village Hall

Many of you will be aware that there have been numerous changes and developments at the village hall recently. The new trustee committee is committed to making the village hall the heart of our community once again. We recognise a significant opportunity to expand weekday services for everyone in the village and we are using the data provided by our community to develop a strategic plan for growth, which we will be publishing in February.

To help us create a welcoming, high-quality environment for all, we are asking for volunteers to join us in redecorating the hall this January. Every area needs to be refreshed and upgraded so we can offer the best possible experience to everyone who uses this space. The work will take place during weekdays and some weekends, with a completion deadline at the end of January. If you can spare even a few hours, please get in touch with me and let me know your availability. We are flexible and will coordinate a schedule that works for our volunteers—you truly will make a difference.

Please email me with the dates and times you're available, and I will begin putting together a calendar of painting duties.

As a thank-you, we will provide food and drinks throughout the day and express our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of myself and the entire committee. Thank you so much for your support!

Sue Fern - Chair - Village Hall Committee— sue@fernmanagement.com