

STOWUPLAND BOWLS CLUB

We hope that everyone was able to enjoy the Easter period which presented us with the usual mixture of weather and extreme temperatures.

Our green is looking immaculate and we are set to commence playing on April 17, which will comprise of friendly matches amongst ourselves, weather permitting. There is news coming through that league matches will begin mid-May, although it will be too late to include definite information in this edition.

We will be open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons with play commencing at 2pm sharp. A reminder for anyone who would like to 'test the water' and try bowling, please do come along but have a word with our chairman, Frank Boxall beforehand, on 01359 244591.

We will be following government guidelines with no more than six players per alternate rink and look forward to a competitive but friendly season.

To everyone, whether involved in bowling or not, enjoy the coming weeks and we will be back in the June edition with further information.

David Begg



THE SALVATION ARMY

Although the building is currently closed for all weekday and weekend activities, the Salvation Army is still here for you. You are welcome to our online Sunday Service at 11am; find us on YouTube.

Reflection from Major James Lloyd

"The news about Him spread throughout all Syria and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains and He healed them." Matthew 4:24 NASB

The atmosphere around us seems to swirl with constant messages. The advertising of products and services. The speeches of politicians. The appeals of advocacy groups. The promotion of opinions. Each trying to communicate their ideas but some more effectively than others.

A recent study revealed that the most successful campaigns are those which focus on the needs of the audience. These messages are developed by people who are good listeners, who study their audiences and seek to show why their products are beneficial. In contrast, the least successful campaigns tend to talk mostly about what they think is important.

As Jesus began His ministry, we see Him demonstrating His sensitivity to people's needs. He showed His compassion by healing all manner of diseases. Multitudes responded. Here was a man who really cared and who could actually help them, but Jesus didn't stop there. He knew that people needed to know God and experience His fullest blessings, so Jesus used this as a teaching moment, sharing central principles of God's Kingdom (Matthew 5:1-2).

As you interact with people around you, ask God to give you greater sensitivity. What are their deepest needs? What are the real concerns of their hearts? Seek to be a good listener. Be open to the leading of the Spirit. Be less concerned about your own interests and more focused on showing how the Gospel can meet every need. Physical and emotional. Mental and spiritual. Temporal and eternal.

The main reason that we, The Salvation Army, took over the Café on the Rec is to provide a safe place to come, chat, be prayed with, meet others and have a great cup of coffee or tea. We hope to see you there.

For additional information on our work and opening dates please visit our Facebook page or call 01449 614133.

If you would like to support the work of the Salvation Army, please send donations to Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE or donate online at: www.salvationarmy.org.uk / FB: [fb.me/missionalarmy](https://www.facebook.com/missionalarmy)

FINBOROUGH NETBALL LADIES' NETBALL CLUB



One of our junior players, Imogen Porch (pictured,) attended the Suffolk Netball Camp in early April. Here, Imogen reports back on her experience of the event, run by the Suffolk Netball Performance Pathway.



"After three months of twice-weekly netball Zoom sessions, I was very happy to be back on the court. In the first week of the Easter school holidays, I played two days at the Suffolk Netball Camp and an evening of club netball at Finborough Ladies. Within the Suffolk Netball session, they ran a challenge involving ball handling skills; whoever got the most in 30 seconds was the winner. I managed to take the lead and got an England Roses netball as a prize!"

CHRISTCHURCH NEEDHAM MARKET

Do you find that you have slowed down a bit during the lockdowns? Many of us seem to have had more time to ponder and have found time to enjoy being more friendly and helpful to those around us. Having time to think about what is important in life reminded me of this poem about prayer by an unknown author:

I knelt to pray when day was done
And prayed, 'O Lord, bless everyone,
Lift from each saddened heart the pain
And let the sick be well again.'
And then I woke another day
And carelessly went on my way,
The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from any eye.
I did not try to share the load
Of any brother on the road.
I did not even go to see
The sick man just next door to me.
Yet once again when day was done
I prayed, 'O Lord, bless everyone.'

But as I prayed, into my ear
There came a voice that whispered clear,
'Pause now, my child, before you pray.
Whom have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessings always go
By hands that serve him here below.'
And then I hid my face and cried,
'Forgive me, God, I have not tried,
But let me try another day.'

Shelia Norris

Sunday Services at Christchurch

Now that lockdown is easing, Christchurch will be holding Sunday Services on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10.30am. As social distancing still applies, we have less seating available, so you do need to book a place by contacting Linda on 01449 721258 and you will be required to wear a mask.

We look forward to welcoming you to Christchurch.

Christchurch Knitting Group

During lockdowns, our members and friends have been extremely busy with their knitting and have produced so many amazing garments and toys that we are looking for local charities and organisations that might be in need of warm clothing. We continue to send large boxes of knitting to the Knit for Peace charity, which we have supported for several years, and would also like our jumpers, scarves, hats and blankets to be enjoyed locally. If you know of any organisations that need warm clothing, please contact Sheila Norris: 01449 720871 / sheila_norris@hotmail.co.uk