



**Welcome to  
Drinkstone**

# Welcome to Drinkstone

We know there is a lot to do when you settle into a new place without worrying about where your nearest shop/vet/ petrol station is, or which bin is collected on which day. With this in mind, we thought it would be useful to gather together as much local information as possible for all newcomers to this lovely village.

We hope you will find it useful. Neighbours are often the first point of contact in a community, but please feel free to contact the Parish Councillors, the Rector or Churchwarden for any information and help that you may need.

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## About Drinkstone

Drinkstone is unusual in that it has no village centre. It is widespread geographically in three clusters, Drinkstone (Church end), Drinkstone Park and Drinkstone Green to the south. We have two telephone exchange codes (01359 & 01449), Drinkstone Green end comes under the Stowmarket exchange, while the rest of the village comes under Pakenham.

The resources seem modest – about 650 people, a Playing Field (known locally as the 'Cricket'), two allotment sites, two Windmills, a 14th century Church and a Village Hall, opened in 2013. But there is much going on beneath the surface. A considerable number of clubs, sports, activities and social events take place in the village.

Drinkstone is a quiet, unspoilt village, surrounded by beautiful countryside. It is classified as a 'Hamlet' in the Mid Suffolk Local Plan which means that development will only be permitted within the settlement boundary and subject to strict criteria. We have few facilities—yet nowhere is far away. Day to day shopping needs, plus a Health Centre and Pharmacy can be found in Woolpit—only two miles away. Just about everything else can be found in Bury St Edmunds (7 miles) or Stowmarket (5 miles).

Drinkstone has an extensive footpath network. A map showing all the paths can be found on the *Useful links and information* section of the Village Website; see page 4 for website address.

## Local information sources

### The Parish Magazine

A very useful source of information published by All Saints' Parochial Church Council on forthcoming events, local notices, and contains advertisements from local businesses and tradespeople.

10 issues per year delivered to your door £6.00 p.a.

Subscriptions Jo Stark 01449 736184 Magazine Editor : Sharon Schofield email [drinkstoneeditor@gmail.com](mailto:drinkstoneeditor@gmail.com). All profits raised from the Parish Magazine contribute to the work of All Saints Church.

**The village website :** [www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk](http://www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk)

A wide range of information including the history of Drinkstone, and the Village Archive

### The Drinkstone Information System (DIS)

Primarily a means of passing information quickly around the village using email. This information falls in the following categories; Invitations to Drinkstone Events/Activities, Warnings/Alerts, General information, Items available. This service is administered by a small team of volunteers. Requests to subscribe to this service and items for inclusion should be sent to [drinkstonejungledrums@gmail.com](mailto:drinkstonejungledrums@gmail.com).

## Parish Council

The current council was elected in May 2023 in an uncontested election. A list of the current councillors with contact details can be found on the PC [www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk/parishcouncil](http://www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk/parishcouncil).

Council meetings are open to all parishioners and members of the public. Meetings are held in the Village Hall 8 times during the year, generally on Mondays at 8 pm. The schedule of meetings can be found on the Parish Council website together with past minutes and many other documents. The agenda for each meeting is issued by the Parish Clerk in advance via the Drinkstone Information service.

The council is currently directly responsible for providing and managing the allotments, maintaining the playing field and the play equipment, providing waste bins, seats and maintaining the village sign. There are two allotment sites in Drinkstone, in Rattlesden Road and in Gedding Road. Further information can be found at <https://www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk/parishcouncil/allotments/>

The Parish Council are statutory consultees on all planning matters. Drinkstone has a Neighbourhood Plan which can be found at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/mid-suffolk/drinkstone-np-referendum-version>

The Parish Council works closely with Suffolk County Council to maintain footpaths and highways and is the first port of call to report any highways or rights of way problems.

If you need to contact the Parish Council for any reason please email the Parish Clerk on [drinkstoneclerk@gmail.com](mailto:drinkstoneclerk@gmail.com)

### **District Councillor**

Nicky Willshere- Rattlesden Ward

[Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Nicky.Willshere@Midsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **Suffolk County Councillor**

Penny Otton (Thedwastre South) [penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Local MP**

Jo Churchill (Bury St Edmunds) [jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk)

## **Local services**

**Bin collection** – refuse (black) and recycled (black bins with green lids) waste are collected on alternate Fridays, put your bin out the night before. Garden waste (brown bins) is collected on the Thursday of the recycling week. Full details, including information on how to order a brown bin, are available on the Mid Suffolk District Council website <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling>.

A calendar for the collection dates in 2024 can be found at: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/mid-suffolk-refuse-and-recycling-collection-schedule-2024>

There are recycling banks in the Village Hall car park for bottles and textiles only. Any other items that cannot go in your black or green bins need to be taken to one of the two local recycling centres, in Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. Slots must be booked at both centres. Full information can be found on <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling>

**Mobile Library** - Calls at Drinkstone Green Close every 4 weeks on Friday at 1.40 pm. For dates see <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries/bury-st-edmunds-mobile-library-route-16>

## **Post and Post offices**

Post office: Woolpit Post Office (in the Co-op) Check website for opening hours

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder/1721127/woolpit>

Rattlesden Post Office (in the Community Shop) Check website for opening hours

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder/0821128/rattlesden>

Felsham Post Office (in the Community Shop) Check website for opening hours

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder/064112X/felsham>

**Postboxes** at the junction of Rattlesden Road and Gedding Road, and by All Saints Church. Collection at 9 am. Later collection in Woolpit

**Defibrillator**; the nearest defibrillator is located outside the Village Hall (postcode IP30 9SZ). If you have a medical emergency dial 999 to obtain the code to the defibrillator cabinet together with instructions for its use.

## Regular weekly activities

Most classes take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise indicated. See Parish Magazine for changes.

Art Club	Fri 10am 01449 736314
Bingo	Fortnightly on Wed at 7.30pm 07871 901096
Circle Dancing	Thurs 10am 01284 705548
Community Choir	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs at 7 pm 01499 736049
History Group	Monthly on Wed 7.30pm refer to Parish magazine for date 01449 737101
Reading Group	Reading Circle: 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 2 pm in the Village Hall 01449 737101 Chapter 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 2.30 pm in members homes 01449 737168 Chapter 3: 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 7.30 pm in members homes 01449 736192
Stitch and Craft (WI)	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 2 pm 01449 736192
Tai Chi	Tues 11.30am 01449 736455
Tuesday Club	Coffee & chat Tues at 10 am 01449 736314



Village Lunch	Usually 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 12.30 pm 01359 242244
WI	2nd Thurs (except August) 7.30pm 01449 736192
Yoga	Tues 6.30-8pm Wed 9.30-11 am 01449 736557

## Other Events

Details of these regular events, together with any other community events, will be announced in advance in the Parish Magazine, and via the Drinkstone Information System (DIS)

Pub nights	3 or 4 times a year in the Village Hall
Sale Trail	Annually, early May, in the Village Hall and around the village
Open Gardens	Every second year in early summer, around the village and in the Village Hall
Harvest Supper	Annually in late September in the Village Hall
Christmas Coffee Morning	Annually, in late November/early December. Location varies
Wreath Making Workshop	Annually, in early December in the Village Hall

Mulled Wine and Mince Pie morning      Annually, in mid December in the Village Hall

Carol Service      Annually in mid December in All Saints Church

## Churches

**Church of England: Drinkstone Parish Church (All Saints)**

Rector: Rev'd Ruth Farrell: 01359 242244 Details of Services in the Parish Magazine

**Christian Fellowship:** The Room, While Elm Lane, Woolpit 01449 674010

**Roman Catholic:** A Mass is held at St. Mary's Woolpit, 6pm on Saturdays. Main Parish Church is Catholic Church of Our Lady, Stricklands Rd., Stowmarket 01449 612946

**Baptist:** Lower Road, Rattlesden 01359 240088

**SOZO Church:** Drinkstone Village Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10.30 am [www.sozochurch.co.uk](http://www.sozochurch.co.uk)

## Transport – bus, trains, taxis

### Bus

There is a weekly bus No. 386 operated by Dan's Coach Travel from Drinkstone (on the roadside by the Village Hall) to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday at 10.00 am returning from the bus station (stand 4) at 13.15 pm – journey time approximately 30 minutes.

Suffolk County Council provide information on buses from Woolpit and Rattlesden on [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com)

### Trains

To London via Ipswich & Colchester. Frequent trains from Stowmarket to London Liverpool Street – journey time approximately 1 hr 20 minutes

To Norwich. Approximately hourly from Stowmarket – journey time approximately 30 minutes

To Cambridge. Ipswich to Cambridge service, approximately hourly stops at Stowmarket, Elmswell, Thurston and Bury St Edmunds – journey time from Thurston approximately 50 minutes.

For live information on train services see [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com)

### Taxis

There are taxi companies in Elmswell, Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds. Search online for contact details.

## Doctors, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Dentists

**Doctors** Woolpit Health Centre – Heath Road, Woolpit 1359 240298.  
[www.woolpitheathcentre.co.uk](http://www.woolpitheathcentre.co.uk). See the website for more information and opening hours

**Pharmacies** Woolpit Health Centre 01359 240298. See the Health Centre website above for more information and opening hours

Elmswell Pharmacy - Unit 1 Cattlepens, Station Road, Elmswell 01359 242868. See website for more information and opening hours [theyvnepharmacy.com](http://theyvnepharmacy.com)

**Hospital** The nearest NHS hospital is West Suffolk Hospital, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds 01284 713000. The hospital has an Emergency department open 24 hours. For detailed information about the hospital can be found on <https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/home.AspX>

**Dentists** The nearest dentist (not NHS) is Abbey Dental Practice, The Street, Woolpit, 01359 242064. There are many more dentists in Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. NHS dentists can be found on this link <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist>

## Local amenities

### Drinkstone Village Hall

A number of clubs, activities and regular events take place in the Village Hall (see page 8). Further details about the Village Hall (which is officially named the Drinkstone War Memorial Institute), can be found on

[www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk/villagehall](http://www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk/villagehall) The Village Hall is available for private hire. Contact [drinkstonewmi@gmail.com](mailto:drinkstonewmi@gmail.com) for availability and cost.

Village Draw - a regular monthly draw held in the Village Hall at a public event. One stake costs 25p per week (£1 for each draw). The pot is split between prize winners and Village Hall funds. For further information and to join, contact Christine Emery [Drinkstone.emeryc@gmail.com](mailto:Drinkstone.emeryc@gmail.com) 01359 272536

### Shops

Although there are no shops in Drinkstone, the major supermarkets (Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, Waitrose) all deliver. There are community shops in Rattlesden and Felsham and small supermarkets in Woolpit and Elmswell. Woolpit also has a bakers, a tea room, a gift shop, a hairdresser, a fish and chip shop and a petrol station.

### Newspaper delivery

Felsham Stores (Drinkstone Green only) Tel 01284 386303

Suffolk News Delivery Ltd [suffolknewsdelivery@gmail.com](mailto:suffolknewsdelivery@gmail.com)

### Local pubs within 3 miles

Bull Inn, Woolpit

01359 240393

Brewers' Arms, Rattlesden	01449 736377
Five Bells, Rattlesden	01449 737373
White Horse, Beyton	01359 270324
The Six Bells, Felsham	01449 258216

## **Amenities further afield**

### **Leisure centres**

Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket  
<https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/mid-suffolk-leisure-centre/>

Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre, Beetons Way, Bury St Edmunds  
<https://www.acleisure.com/bury-st-edmunds/>

### **Main libraries**

The nearest libraries are in Elmswell, Thurston, Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds. For more information including location and opening times see <https://suffolklibraries.co.uk>

### **Markets (Street)**

Bury St Edmunds: Wednesday & Saturday

Stowmarket: Thursday & Saturday

### **Markets (Farmers)**

Bury St Edmunds: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

Wyken Farmers Market: Saturday 9 am – 1 pm

Lavenham: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month 10.00 am – 1.30 pm

## Vets

The nearest practice is Old Tea Room Veterinary Practice in Elmswell (Part of the Stowe Veterinary Group) Elmswell 01449 241761. The Stowe Group has an emergency service 07900 266357 For other options see

<https://findavet.rcvs.org.uk/find-a-vet-practice>

## Other useful contacts

Environment Agency (Flood Alerts) <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>

UK Power Networks (power cuts)

<https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut>

Anglian Water (water supply issues, leaks etc)

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/contact-us/>

Police Call 999 for emergencies, 101 for other enquiries

National Highways Agency <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/>

Suffolk Highways issues <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

## And finally

We know it is not easy to know who to contact for service and advice when you are new to a place. This resource is intended to help with first steps but we are not making specific recommendations regarding tradespeople and services; that is not our remit. The Parish Magazine (see Local Information Services on page 4) is an invaluable source of information about what's going on and has a considerable number of advertisements for local facilities and services.

If you cannot find what you are looking for in Drinkstone, the surrounding villages all have their own websites where you can find details of activities and events a little further afield. Woolpit, Elmswell and Thurston in particular, are much bigger villages and offer a wider range of facilities together with more extensive sporting and leisure activities.

Woolpit – <https://woolpit.org>

Elmswell – <https://www.elmswellinfo.co.uk/>

Rattlesden – <https://rattlesden.suffolk.cloud/our-village/>

Thurston – <https://thurstonparishcouncil.uk>

This booklet can also be found on the Village Website <https://www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk/main/home/useful-information/>

If you have any suggestions for additions, or amendments to this booklet, please contact [Liz.Schmitt2019@gmail.com](mailto:Liz.Schmitt2019@gmail.com)

LS/Feb2024