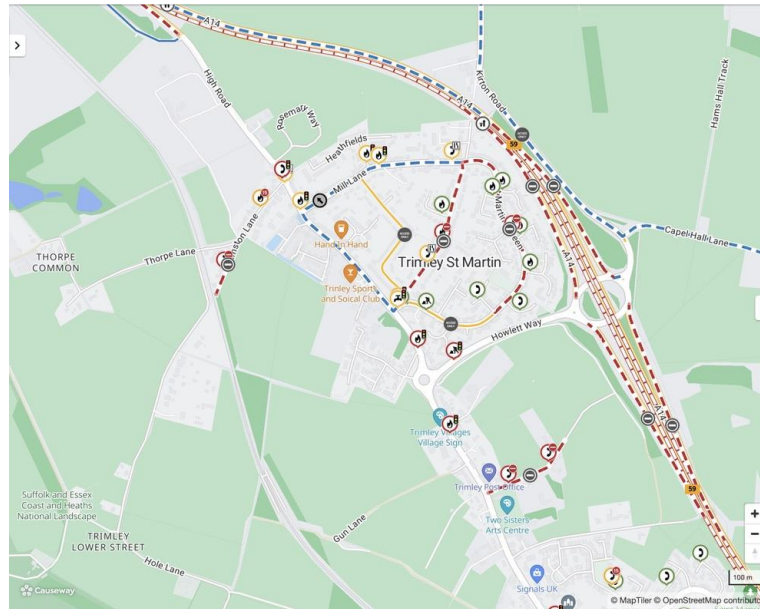


Trimley St Martin
Village Recorder's Annual Report
2025

Supported by Trimley St Martin Parish Council.



*Map published c. 1st May 2025 by Causeway.one
It outlines proposed road works for a three month period in Trimley St Martin
N.B. It doesn't cover the whole of period of 2025*

Thank you for reading the Village Recorder's Annual report from Trimley St. Martin. Another busy year. I would like to express my thanks to the Parish Council who supported the work of the Recorder financially in 2025, which enabled me to cover some of the various expenses, which increasingly accompany the role. I also thank all those who contacted me with their stories, photographs and memories of an earlier Trimley. They and you are invaluable.

For those who engage with the Chinese Zodiac, you will know 2025 was the Year of the Snake. But that lithe and fast-moving creature did not manifest itself in Trimley St Martin to any significant degree last year. In common with several Suffolk villages, 2025 was the outstanding Year of the Road Works and with it came several challenges. With the Works came lights and slow-moving traffic queues. Scarcely a month went by when a lane or road was not being dug up, some more than once and in at least one location, three times. Some of this was due to an aging infrastructure and some was due to new technology. Cadent were responsible for renewing gas pipes, which had been in existence for approximately a hundred years, and Claret were responsible for upgrading part of the

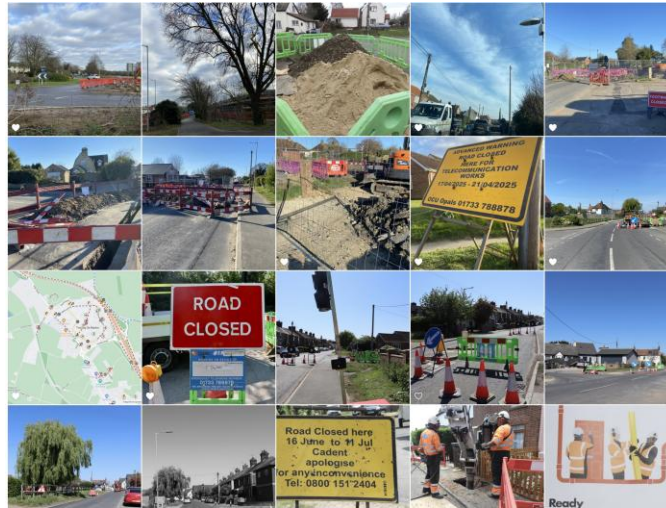
Sewage system. (The Trimley Main Sewer, was originally designed by Eric D.A. Smy, who was born in Kirton in 1921 and is now buried in Kirton churchyard.) City Fibre were responsible for upgrading broadband in Trimley as part of the government's Project Gigabyte Suffolk. The amount of digging has left significant scars on pavements, which are yet to be fully rectified. An efficiency of communication from Cadent was notably absent, with residents in Grimston and Thorpe Lanes not being informed about forthcoming work where they live nor what was due to start and when. However, the unaffected residents in other roads in Trimley St Martin were fully advised about the commencement of the approaching toil in Grimston. On 17th March, it was reported in The East Anglian Daily Times that Cadent had significantly damaged some of the grass verges. Cadent's command of information dissemination was further confirmed when a tree felling incident reported was reported in The East Anglian Daily Times on 17th November 2025,

"Trees removed by Cadent Gas had shielded Trimley home"

This resulted in a statement from the company as to what happened but not an apology to the owners of a house Jenna Beech and Remo Forpozzi who lived in Langstons, Trimley St Mary. The trees had provided sound protection from the noise of the A14 which was removed when green sound shield was axed.



The overall excellence of City Fibre work may be judged by the image above: a cable installation in Thorpe Lane which lay exposed to the elements for at least a month.



The small montage of Road works above is a composed of images taken from Feb. to May 2025

Housing Developments

In addition to utility upgrades, several new builds required road closure to ensure houses would have comprehensive access to utilities, notably Kingsfleet Park. This development of a hundred and thirty nine new homes, forty six of which are to be affordable homes quickly sprung into life. Simultaneously, the development extended much closer to the green pedestrian Bridge between Gun Lane and Grimston Hall. Ultimately, this area will house the proposed new Trimley St Martin school and new pre-school facilities. The whole development is the first in Trimley St Martin to install electric car charging points to the new homes as a standard fitting. Solar panels are predominant.



The view from the Gun Lane footpath looking towards Poppy Fields and Grimston Lane ...



...and the view from the same position, but turned 180° and looking toward Trimley St Mary's Allotments

The first computer generated images of Kingsfleet Park were published 25th January 2025 and by the 2nd of February 2025, the Sales Centre was open. It wasn't until June 2025 I managed to visit the Show Homes and look around them.



View looking towards the High Road from outside the first Bellway Show Home on Roundhouse Avenue.



View from the same property looking towards Howlett Way Roundabout from the interior.

Something I hadn't realised was that the Vendors created a narrative for each house and this is reflected in the theming of the property. The characters of the occupiers, their careers and their families are imagined throughout the Show Home. A couple of interior shots demonstrate how this is done...



L. "The office of a working mother, who was travel guide." R. "Bedroom of a teenage boy who wants to be a Pilot."

By the end of the year the first new residents had moved in. Bellway contributed to village life with their provision of a well-equipped Children's playground near the front of the development. They stated,

'Both the play area and wildflower meadow form part of the housebuilder's commitment to providing community facilities and green open spaces at the 139-home development off the High Street.'

(N.B. by High Street, they mean High Road.)

This makes three such play facilities in the village, one at the back of the Cavendish Grove development established in approximately 2017 and the other, the longer standing play area behind The Social Club.

The Memorial Hall

As part of the Housing developments built or being built in the village by Bellway and other developers, the Parish Council receives funds to improve the village, which is called Community Infrastructure Levy (C.I.L.). It had already been decided that an extension to the Memorial Hall would improve the facility and add more opportunities for community use. As a result, work began on 18th August to build on the back of the building. By the 14th October, work was sufficiently advanced to allow a Time Capsule to be buried inside one of the walls. The contents included fifty three photographs, a daily newspaper, contemporary postage stamps and cost of living averages. Children from St Martin's Primary School were invited to hand the Capsule over to the builders in a small ceremony.



*Jack, Riley, Kiki and Madeline with the Head Teacher, Mrs Ross, of Trimley St Martin's Primary School,
14th October 2025*



The time capsule waiting to be buried 14th October 2025

Question: When will the Capsule next see daylight?

The Village Fête

Bellway also generously sponsored the first Village Fete, which was much appreciated by the organising bodies, Trimley St Martin Parish Council. There had not been a Village Fête for at least fifty five years, when they were organised by the Church, although of course, the Primary School had held Fêtes. Due to the success of the event, the Parish Council agreed to hold another one in 2026.



The Opening of the Village Fete.

Left to right: Carly Small, Parish Clerk, Nick Oliver from Bellway Homes and Councillor Paul Rastrick.



Food...



Information...



Stuart Bird helped everyone and ran the Coconut Shy



Mrs I's ran a successful Craft Stall.

Traffic

There were two major accidents on the nearby A14, which resulted in all traffic being diverted through the village. Death or injury is always a sad event and, on both occasions, the High Road through the Trimleys proved inadequate for any form of heavy traffic. This has been the situation for nearly a hundred years and is seemingly insoluble. For residents living on the road, the situation was and is almost intolerable.

Railway difficulties disrupted the quiet life of the Thorpe Lane and lower Grimston Lane residents when the rail crossing barriers stuck in October 2025. There is no other legal vehicular access point to those residential areas. Householders could either walk across the fields to the Morston Lane Crossing or head east to the Green Bridge between Grimston Hall and Gun Lane. Although the sign stated there was a 'Collision', this was not the case, but apparently there isn't an appropriate sign for "Barrier Failure". It took two days to repair the crossing. The reason given for this was the despatch of an incorrect part, adding to the delay.



*Looking towards an inoperative railway barrier,
6th October 2025*

In October 2025 there was a three car crash on the Kirton Road outside Trimley St Martin Primary School. Always an overburdened road during term time with cars parked on both sides of the road on the approach to the school, ten year old Roman Osborne was involved in a collision at the end of the school day. He received a fractured hip and had to remain in hospital for three days. Roman wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer. Suffolk Coastal's local M.P. Supported by The Right Honorable Jenny Carpenter, (who had launched a campaign, "Safety at the gates",) earlier in October, he presented the letter to 10 Downing Street. The Prime Minister responded to this in Parliament saying,



*The road outside Trimley St Martin Primary school where the accident occurred.
Autumn 2025*

“What an incredible young boy aged just ten. I totally agree with him and I say to Roman, 'this is what we are going to do: I have asked ministers to work with the right people to look at his school to get a safe crossing in place and the Roads minister would be very happy to meet with my right honourable friend (Jenny Riddell-Carpenter) to discuss the road safety strategy.”

Railway Station – Trimley Station Regeneration Project

This was not the first occasion Jenny Ridell-Carpenter’s presence was influential in the Trimleys. On 31st January our M. P. met with **Trimley Station Trust, Greater Anglia, Community rail and others to ascertain if there was still an appetite to restore Trimley Station buildings. A meeting was held in the Welcome Hall** and later on 26th June, a Public Meeting was held at Felixstowe Town Hall. The speakers included: Robert Scrimgeour, East Suffolk Heritage Planning, Andrew Godrum of Greater Anglia and Thalia Woodgate of Suffolk County Council. Members of the earlier Trimley Station Restoration Trust including Adrian Reynolds, posed questions and the result of the meeting was that people put their names forward as an expression of future interest in the project. Another meeting followed and by September a Working Party of eight people was established to assess and move forward in the possibility of restoring the building. At the time of writing this is very much work in progress with several factors coming into play which were not originally anticipated, the proposed alteration to local government boundaries, whereby Trimley would become part of Greater Ipswich after the demise of East Suffolk District Council. Also, the implications of any resident protected species extant within the building, e.g. bats.



*Trimley Station Building
3rd November 2025*

House Prices

During the year, some of the new properties in Kingsfleet Park came on to the market. Setting those aside, it would seem a total of twenty four properties in Trimley St Martin were sold, achieving a total sales value of £7,922,700 or an average of £330, 112. The cheapest was sold for £170,000 and the most expensive for £610,000.

Entertainment

Across the Borders

The long arm of Covid stretched into 2025. Back in the dark and distant days of the first Lockdown, Chandra Grover of Trimley St Martin, together with her choir, Felixstowe Harmonies, composed a song, "Across the Borders". It was about the hopes and friendship the choir members brought to each other. Almost by chance, I sent the link to the song to a distant, and then unmet, friend of mine who lives in America. Very long story short, it resulted in a collaboration across the airways which you can read about in my Blog," The top song of 2020."

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com/2021/01/01/the-top-song-of-2020-across-the-borders-by-chandra-grover/>

But the story didn't end there because Patti, my American friend worked to bring her Sweet Adeline group, Prime Time and her choir, Song of Seattle, to the UK. The result was a week long festival of song between the American groups, Felixstowe Harmonies and Stella Acapella. It was a major act of collaboration and Trans-Atlantic friendship.

VISITING CHOIR EVENTS

Across the Borders

A SINGING EXTRAVAGANZA!
10th-20th July 2023





In 2023, three choirs and a quartet - Song of Seattle, Felixstowe Harmonies, Stellaracappella and Song of Seattle quartet singers Phil and Tina will arrive in Essex. Our friends from Song of Seattle are planning to visit us in July, and the three choirs have events and joint concerts scheduled to celebrate their friendship through music.



Schedule of Events - Dates for your diaries

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Sunday, June 29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song of Seattle arrive. Our guests will settle into their hotels and home stays in Felixstowe. <p>Monday, June 30th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening Welcome Event hosted by Felixstowe Harmonies for Stellaracappella/Song of Seattle. • Opportunity to get to know everyone, share songs and rehearse 2 joint songs. <p>Tuesday, July 1st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening rehearsal for Felixstowe Harmonies at St. Mary's Church Hall. • Evening rehearsal for Song of Seattle at St. Mary's Church (opposite Hall). • Opportunity for both choirs to come together and share a few songs during the evening. <p>Wednesday, July 2nd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening concert at Harvest House - Felixstowe Performers: Song of Seattle & Felixstowe Harmonies • Stellaracappella rehearsal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Thursday, July 3rd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song of Seattle has proposed teaching a tag at an outdoor event in Felixstowe town centre. More information in due course. • All singers are welcome to take part. <p>Friday, July 4th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening concert at St. Peter's by the Waterfront, Ipswich. • Performers: Song of Seattle and Stellaracappella <p>Saturday, July 5th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning: Felixstowe starting at the Triangle in Felixstowe and moving to the restaurant. All singers are welcome to take part. • Afternoon: Felixstowe Harmonies will host a social event with afternoon tea for all singers. <p>Sunday, July 6th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our friends depart |
|--|---|

This exciting schedule of events will bring the three choirs together to celebrate their friendship through the power of music.

Across the Borders project contact: Chandra 07954 465430

Saints Productions

Trimley Saints didn't perform their Annual Pantomime. Instead they produced a 'Who-dunnit' entitled, 'Death of a Parish Councillor'. This cryptic murder mystery was hugely successful and needless to say, this member of the audience didn't have the right answer.

The Two Sisters Arts Centre held an incredible number of productions of a rich and varied nature, over a period of forty weeks. It included Jazz Nights, Workshops, Poetry, Drama, , Plays and a wide range of musical performers. Well done, Suzanne Hawkes, who supplies the villages with many forms of culture.

Villager's Contributions

My thanks go to several people who were kind enough to contact me with information or allowed themselves to be contacted.

Robin Biddle and Martin Biddle who both supplied information about their father, Robert Biddle's role in the Second World War.

Stuart Franks contacted me and gave me valuable information about his mother, Audrey Franks who was the Head Cook at Trimley St Mary during the Nineteen Sixties.

Janet Read née Rodwell, gave me permission to interview her and read her personal memoirs of life in Trimley. Both she and her husband went to Trimley St Martin Primary School. Her mother was Dorothy Keeble, was born in 1913.

Ian Revell talked about his father, Walter Revell.

Jane Peters, née Rowe, contacted me about her memories and connections to the village. Her Grandfather was Isaac Giles.

Three excellent women from the Trimley Wives Clube, Joyce Grenfell, Jill Hughes and Sandra Merrick talked to me about their historic recipe books, compiled by themselves or their mothers.

I was contacted by Diana Hoy who was looking for more information about Mary Dains, which I could supply.

Robin Tremaseur made enquiries about The Mariners Landlords in the nineteen fifties.

Displays

The Village Recorder contributed towards the Felixstowe Historical Society's display in Felixstowe Library in September 2025. A second display in the Library related to the regeneration of Trimley Railway Station and its architect, William Neville Ashbee.

Blogs

Five blogs were published, during the course of the year. Two in May related to the eightieth anniversary of V.E. day:

Remembering – about two Trimley St Martin men, Dennis Lummis and Robert Biddle:

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com/2025/05/07/remembering-2/>

We also remember – relating to the memorials resulting from the Second World War

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com/2025/05/08/remembering/>

The others included:

Just a field – a short blog of images relating to the field where Poppy Fields is located

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com/2025/06/05/just-a-field/>

All Hail the Sun – Midsummer's Day, 2025

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com/2025/06/21/all-hail-the-sun-the-longest-day-as-seen-from-trimley-shore-2025/>

William Neville Ashby – the architect of Trimley Station

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com/2025/11/28/william-neville-ashbee-architect-of-trimley-station/>

Trimley St Mary

A Village Recorder, Rheanna Day, was appointed to the role but unfortunately, circumstances and the constraints of the post meant it was only temporary. There is still a vacancy for an interested person.

Longest Day. 21st June 2025.

The two hundred year anomaly of 2024's longest day being on the 22nd of June, returned to normal in 2025. Trimley Shore remains a beautiful place to be. Especially as the sun begins to lighten the skies.



*Trimley Shore.
3.23 a.m. 21st June 2025.*