EARL STONHAM

VILLAGE

WELCOME PACK
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Welcome to the villages of Earl Stonham

This guide to the villages and surrounding area has been compiled by the Church in Earl Stonham and we hope that it helps you to settle quickly into the area.

We would emphasise that no advertising revenue has changed hands, and that the information included is by no means exhaustive. If you have any comments on how it could be improved or added to, then please telephone 711779.

To avoid confusion, we have used the name Stonham Parva throughout the guide, but many people will refer to it as Little Stonham - the names are interchangeable.

Earl Stonham is the name of the parish that encloses the hamlets of…

❖ Earl Stonham (around the church and up Angel Hill along the A140)

❖ Middlewood Green (around the water tower in Blacksmith’s Lane, Larters Lane and a few houses to the east)

❖ Forward Green (around the actual village green and along the main road towards Stowupland)

❖ Broad Green (on the 'loop' past the chapel and back to the main road)

Some people use the old names - others just use Forward Green or Earl Stonham.

Stonham Parva lies either side of the A140 from the junction with the A1120 to the Mickfield crossroads.
HELP!

The nearest Police Station for both villages is in Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket - manned 8.00 am - midnight. Phone calls go through Ipswich, being automatically transferred to a local station if anyone is there (01473 613500). If in doubt, dial 999. For non-emergency calls ring 101.

Stowmarket Resource Centre, Crown Street, Stowmarket (626215)

Citizens' Advice Bureau can be found in the Council Offices, 5 Milton Road, Stowmarket (676060/676280) and are open Monday & Tuesday 9.30am-3.30pm, Wednesday closed for drop in, Thursday 9.30am-6.30pm and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm.

Samaritans (01345 909090) (24 hrs)

COUNCILS

Earl Stonham Parish Council
Usually meets on alternate months in the Village Hall. Parish Clerk is Jill Gould (711172)

Stonham Parva Parish Council:
Usually meets on the second Monday of alternate months in the Baptist Chapel Hall. Meeting schedules, minutes of previous meetings and other associated information can be found on the parish notice boards.

Mid-Suffolk District Council, 131 High Street, Needham Market (724500)
Planning, housing, sports centres, community charge, pest control, environmental health etc, leisure and culture, waste and recycling. Opening hours 8.30am-5.00pm. Your local councillor (for both parishes) is Terry Curran (01379 586474)

Suffolk County Council, County Hall, Ipswich (0845 066067)
Open Monday-Friday 8.30am-6.00pm & Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm
Social care and support, transport & highways, education, fire & emergencies, libraries & culture etc
The County Councillor is Matthew Hicks.

CHURCHES

Church of England

Stonham Parva Parish Church is in the care of the Church’s Conservation Trust. However, services are held there on some Sundays in summer. Both parishes now worship together at St Mary's Church in Earl Stonham. Local Minister, Rev Barbara Gallagher (711337), Lay Pastor, Mrs Frankie Wicks (711222) and Readers Mrs Christine Edgar (711606) and Mr Henry Stanford (711742). Lay Elder for Stonham Parva is Mary Hamilton (711241). Please feel free to contact any of the ministers for help in any situation.
The parishes are part of the benefice of Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter and Earl Stonham with Stonham Parva. They, together with Stonham Baptist Community Church and the Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Stowmarket share a magazine, “The Grapevine”, once a month. If you would like to receive a copy, please phone 711337.

Services are detailed on the notice board by the churchyard gate, in 'The Grapevine' and in the 'Recorder' (the free Earl Stonham parish newsletter). There is a service every Sunday at 11.00 am but the form of the service will vary.

Children are positively welcomed at any service.

The Parish Room is available to hire for parties, meetings etc - contact Frankie Wicks (711222)

Midweek Communion Services are held in the Parish Room on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month.

Music Group meets intermittently - contact Colin Edgar (711606)

**Stonham Baptist Community Church**

Contact David Archer (676827)

Services are held at 10.45 am on each Sunday.

Prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 7.45pm.
Parents & Toddlers on Wednesdays at 10.00 am.
Friday Clubs for young people - 6-7pm Juniors, 7-8pm Middle, 8-10.30pm Seniors

A Community Lunch is served on the last Tuesday of each month at 12.30pm. Contact Anne Havers (711338).

**The Forge Community Church (formerly) Mendlesham Christian Fellowship**

Meets at Debenham Community Centre - info@forgechurch.com, phone 710437 or www.forgechurch.com

**Roman Catholic**

The nearest RC church is the Church of Our Lady in Stricklands Road, Stowmarket. The priest, Father David Finegan, can be contacted on 612946.

Details of services are on the notice board outside the church. Local contact in Earl Stonham is Anne Perkins (711272).
EARL STONHAM ORGANISATIONS & CONTACTS

Bowls Club: Doreen Revell (674914)
Cricket Club: Simon Edgar (711572) - Players and non-players welcome.
Golden Circle: Joan Rice (711294) - meets first Wednesday of every month, 2.00 pm in the Parish Room for those of 'mature years'.
Women’s Institute: Cynthia Micklewright (711723) or Lindsay Stone (711602) Meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall, 7.30 - 10.00 pm.
Theatre Guild: Kathryn Burston (710096) or David Kirk (710300)

STONHAM PARVA ORGANISATIONS

Friday Club: Baptist Chapel - meets weekly, 6.30 - 10.30 pm at the Baptist Chapel, age approximately 8+ - games, quizzes, trips, Tuck Shop. See above.
Friends & Neighbours: Joan Rice (711294) or Anne Havers (711338) - meets on the third Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm in the Baptist Chapel. Transport can be arranged. All ladies in either village welcome.
Toddler Group: Elizabeth Clarkson (711338) - meets every Wednesday during term-time, 10.00 - 11.45 am in the Baptist Chapel.

STOWUPLAND ORGANISATIONS

Toddler Group: Meet at Stowupland Village Hall on Wednesday mornings from 9.00-11.30am.

STOWMARKET ORGANISATIONS

Details can be obtained from the Library.

CHILDREN’S UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Rainbows: Stowupland - Sue Jennett, The Bungalow, Stowupland High School. Mendlesham - Sue Carter (766189)
Brownies: Stowupland - Sue Jennett - see above Mendlesham - Brenda Juby (766513) Stonham Aspal - Helen Keer (711678)
Girl Guides: Mendlesham - Dorothy Froude (766372)
Stonham Aspal - Shirley Page (01473 890876)

Beavers: Mendlesham - Diane Colchester (767863)

Cubs & Scouts: Mendlesham - Nita Scruby (766902)
Stowmarket - Alan Parris (613604)

HEALTH

Doctors' Surgeries:

Stowmarket Health Centre 776000
Violet Hill Road
Stowmarket
Large practice of approximately 10 doctors, with pharmacy, dental clinic, chiropodist, physiotherapist, chest X-Ray and visiting consultants for certain conditions.

Combs Ford Surgery 678333 (enquiries and appointments)
Combs Lane 678366 (emergencies and home visits)
Stowmarket
On the south side of town with five doctors, with pharmacy next door in the Solar supermarket. Has access to all the facilities at Violet Hill Road.

Mendlesham Health Centre 767722
Chapel Road
Mendlesham
Large village practice, with 4 doctors and pharmacy attached. Easy to get to from Stonham Parva and the Middlewood Green end of Earl Stonham.

Needham Market Health Centre 720666
Needham Market
6 doctors, with pharmacies at the surgery.

All the surgeries have women doctors available and the usual range of baby clinics, chiropody etc.

Hospitals:

Ipswich Hospital West Suffolk Hospital
Heath Road Hardwick Lane
Ipswich Bury St Edmunds
(01473 712233) (01284 713000)

Both these hospitals have casualty departments. Other referrals tend to be made to either hospital, depending on which has the shorter wait for any particular treatment. You can, of course, express a preference.

Dentists:
There are two community dentists based at the Stowmarket Health Centre who regularly go into the local schools, and who are also available to treat anyone who is entitled to free dental care. For further details contact the Health Centre and ask for the Dental Clinic.

Bury House Dental Practice  
32 Bury Street  
D Taylor  
612705  
5 Tavern Street

Needham Market Dental Practice  
56 High Street  
Needham Market  
720699

Another dentist taking NHS patients is A Patel, Station Road, Stowmarket (613369)

EDUCATION

Pre-school:

Toddler Groups
Stonham Parva - meets in the Baptist Chapel every Wednesday morning 10.00 - 11.45 am during term-time. For further details contact Elizabeth Clarkson (711338)

Stowupland - meets at Stowupland Village Hall on Wednesday mornings 9.00 - 1.30am.

Pre-schools
Stowupland - meets every morning in their own building behind Freeman School. Contact Ella Gissing (676281) for further details.

Stonham Aspal - meets in Stonham Aspal Village Hall. Contact Cathy Woolhouse (760597) for further details.

Mendlesham - meets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings in the Old School canteen from 9.15 am to 11.30 am. Contact Julie Knock (766384) for further details.

Nursery
All the local schools now have provision for the under-5’s. Please contact the schools for further information.

Private Nurseries
Busy Bees Day Nursery, Community Centre, Hillside, Combs, Stowmarket  
Sally Jones (615604)

Foxglove Nursery, Abbots Hall School, Danescourt Avenue, Stowmarket  
Marianne Vagg (612818)

Creeting Nursery, Village Hall, Creeting St Mary (Glynis Clint 720740)

Little Mice, Stowmarket (774800)

Little Mice, Stowmarket Station (678089)

Just Learning, Cedars Park, Stowmarket (770806)

Poppies, Fairfield Road, Stowmarket (614848)
Schools:

Schools on the eastern side of the A140 are part of the Northern Area of the Suffolk Education Authority - Stonham Parva children feed into this area, which operates a Primary (5-11), Secondary (11-16, 16-18) school system.

Schools on the western side of the A140 are part of the Western Area of the Suffolk Education Authority - Earl Stonham children feed into this area, which operates a Primary (5-9), Middle (9-13), High (13-18) school system.

All schools in Suffolk admit children at the beginning of the term in which they have their fifth birthday - children with birthdays between Jan 1st and April 30th start in the Spring term, those with birthdays between May 1st and August 31st start in the Summer term, and those with birthdays between September 1st and December 31st start in the Autumn term.

Stonham Parva:

4-11 years attend Stonham Aspal C of E Aided School (711346)
11-16 years attend Debenham C of E Controlled High, Gracechurch St, Debenham (01728 860213)
16-18 years attend Thomas Mills High School, Saxtead Road, Framlingham (01728 723493)

Earl Stonham:

4-9 years attend Freeman CP School, Church Road, Stowupland (612067)
9-13 years attend Bacton Middle School, Wyverstone, Bacton (781389)
13-18 years attend Stowupland High School, Church Road, Stowupland (674827)

except those children living on Angel Hill (both sides), who are in the Stonham Aspal catchment area (see all the schools above).

School Transport:

Free school transport is available only if a child attends the catchment area school, and lives over two miles away if under 8 years old, and over three miles away over that age. These limits are strictly adhered to. However, special arrangements exist in Stonham Parva and on Angel Hill in Earl Stonham, due to the A140 - decisions are very individual, and so it is best to liaise directly with the School Transport department (see below). Recent legislation also allows free transport for children going to an out-of-catchment school that is nearer to their home than their catchment school but still over the mileage limits above, provided transport is available. (This would apply to children in Stonham Parva who may wish to go to Stowupland High, or children in Earl Stonham who may wish to go to Middle School in Stowmarket).

For those children under 8 years old who do not qualify for free transport, a seat on a school bus has to be allocated if that child lives over 1.5 miles away from the school - although this will involve payment.

Other children may also use the school bus - again, a charge will be made, and a pass
being issued is dependent on there being spare seats available on the bus. There is a special telephone number for school transport queries (01473 264671).

The previously listed schools are the ones designated by the Education Authority to take the children from this area. However, parental choice is available, and operates particularly at Middle and High School level - dependent on whether the school chosen has any places available for children who do not live within their catchment area. The following, therefore, is a list of other schools around this area.

Primary:

Creeting St Mary C of E Aided Primary School, Creeting St. Mary (720312) - closely linked with our churches
Mendlesham Primary School, Mendlesham (766224)
Abbot's Hall Primary School, Danescourt Avenue, Stowmarket (612818)
Chilton Primary School, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket (612928)
Combs Ford Primary School, Glemsford Road, Combs, Stowmarket (613112)
Woodley Primary School, Lowry Way, Stowmarket (616038)

Middle:

Combs Middle School, Lavenham Way, Combs, Stowmarket (674666)
Stowmarket Middle School, Walnut Tree Walk, Stowmarket (612301)

High:

Stowmarket High School, Onehouse Road, Stowmarket (613541)
Hartismere School, Castleton Way, Eye (01379 870315)

NB: Should you choose to send your child to an out-of-catchment-area school, you are then wholly responsible for transport to and from that school (but see note about latest legislation above).

Adult Education:

The Adult Education Centre is based at 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket (0845 603 7917) Reception open between 09.00am-4.30pm.

Details of evening classes are published in September, and distributed through the 'Mercury' and local libraries. Some classes are held in the villages, but none, as yet, in Earl Stonham or Stonham Parva.

Suffolk New College, Rope Walk, Ipswich - (01473 255885) - holds many courses, including 'A' Levels, word processing etc, for which anyone can apply. They also run Saturday schools on varying topics, and an annual Summer School during July.

Belstead House, Belstead, Ipswich, is the Adult Residential Centre for Suffolk (01473 686321). Details of courses can be obtained direct, or through the Library.

Easton & Otley College, Otley, nr Ipswich - (01473 785543) - holds many courses including Equine, Horticulture, Construction, Animal Care.
Music lessons:

**Guitar:** Greg Fitch
Shaftesbury Cottage
Broad Green (711538)

Other teachers are also available in Stowupland and Stowmarket - look out for ads.

Some instrumental tuition is given through the schools - availability and instruments vary. Also, the **Suffolk County Music School** meets at Stowmarket Middle School on Saturday mornings between 9.00 am and 12 noon. Sessions for brass, strings, woodwind and orchestra as well as theory. The organiser is Sheila Morbey.

**Earl Stonham Charity:**

Through a charitable bequest, money is available for which Earl Stonham residents may apply - the only condition being that it must be for educational expenses. Contact Sam Wilson (711497).

**BUTCHERS**

- Mr Allard’s Farm Butchery
  - Stowupland (615006)

- M & M Butchers
  - Stowupland (677720)

**MILK**

- Leslie Lummis (767111)
  - Ropers Farmhouse
  - Church Road
  - Mendlesham

- Dairy Crest (770142)
  - Prentice Road
  - Stowmarket

Both firms deliver to both villages.

**NEWSPAPERS**

- Mr P Wolfe, Brockford Home Delivery, The Pines, Brome, Eye IP23 8AT (01379 870241)

**Sunday papers** can be delivered in some parts of Earl Stonham - contact 768123. **Mr Wolfe** (above) also offers a Sunday delivery service. Otherwise they can be bought from Stowupland Garage. **Local papers** include the East Anglian Daily Times (Daily), The Evening Star (Daily) and The Bury Free Press (Weekly on Fridays).

Earl Stonham has its own village paper - The Recorder - published four times a year and delivered free to every house in the village. The editors are Margaret Anthony (711779) & Deb Turner (711461). Items can be sent electronically to ** Recorder@btinternet.com **
REFUSE DISPOSAL

Wheelie Bins are emptied for the council by Serco - the day and time vary according to where you live. In general, however, they expect the bins to be available by 6.30am on the day stated, and, unless special arrangements are made with them, e.g in the case of elderly or disabled people, they have to be by the roadside. If your bin has been missed, you can report a missed collection by ringing 0845 606 6045. If your bin is stolen or damaged, MSDC will charge for a replacement.

There is a garden waste collection service too. Annual subscriptions cost £45 per brown bin for new subscribers. Annual subscription renewals cost £40 per brown bin. Please contact MSDC on 0845 606 6045 to arrange.

There is a tip for larger items on the north side of Stowmarket, on the slip road leading from the A14 down to Bury Road. It can be reached from Stowmarket by going up Bury Road as far as the roundabout, and then taking the right turn. It is open from 9.00am until 5.00pm Monday to Saturday (April to September), 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Saturday (October to March) and 10.00am to 4.pm on Sundays & Bank Holidays all year round. They will also accept used motor oil, household and vehicle batteries, fluorescent tubes and low energy lightbulbs, televisions and computers and fire extinguishers (except the Halon type) for recycling.

There is a bulky item collection service which can be arranged by ringing 0845 606 6045. The charge is £22.

Recycling banks are available at:

- Earl Stonham Village Hall - bottles, cans, paper & clothes (money raised is used for village facilities)
- Stowupland Village Hall - bottles, cans
- Iliffe Way car park, Stowmarket - cans, bottles, clothes and paper
- Solar Supermarket - cans, bottles, clothes
- Tesco Supermarket - cans, bottles, clothes, paper

Mid-Suffolk Council produce a guide to recycling sites in the area - available from the Council Offices in Needham Market.

EXHAUST & TYRE CENTRES

Stowupland Fast-Fit (770888)  Stowmarket Exhaust & Tyre Centre (674141)
Mill Street  Charles Industrial Estate
Stowupland  Stowmarket

GARAGES

John Bull (675898)  Old Forge Garage (711252)
Charles Industrial Estate  Norwich Road
Stowmarket  Earl Stonham
Stowupland Service Station (612326) 7.00 am - 8.00 pm
Thorney Green
Stowupland

Fully stocked shop
No mechanic, but next door is...

Mike Ling (674920)
Orchard Garage
Stowupland

General mechanic, MOT's, recovery

Stonhams Automotive
(711808 or 07928 835224)
Garage services, Rent-a-Ramp
Vehicle Storage & Transport

Tesco (Cedars Link) 24 hours

24 hour petrol and shop are also available at the Esso garage at Combs.

LOCAL SHOPPING

Earl Stonham doesn’t have any shops.

Stowupland has: a Post Office (on the main road through the village)
a butcher (on the green at the back of the village)
a farm shop - Walnut Tree Farm
a shop attached to the garage
a fish and chip shop (on the green)
a Chinese take-away (on the road into Stowmarket)

Mendlesham has: a bakery, with groceries (Old Market Street)
a fish and chip shop (Chapel Road)
a post office linked to The King's Head

POST OFFICES

Stowupland PO (612870) 8.45 am - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri
Church Road 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Sat
Stowupland Also sells cigarettes, sweets, cards, Car Tax etc & ATM

Stowmarket PO (612869) 8.30 am - 5.30 pm Mon, Thurs
23 Ipswich Street 9.00 am - 5.30 am Tues, Weds, Fri
(in Dillon’s) 9.00 am - 4.00 pm Sat (last post collection 12.30)
Stowmarket

1 Wolsey Road 9.00 am - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri
Stowmarket 9.00 am - 12.30 pm Sat

Mendlesham PO 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Mon-Sat
The King’s Head
CASHPOINT MACHINES

Stowupland Post Office
Adjacent to Debenham Co-Op
Beacon Hill Services - A14/A140 junction
Tesco Stowmarket

FUEL

Gas:
There is no natural gas piped to either village.

Electricity:
For emergencies, account enquiries, repairs etc the local office is at Bury St Edmunds (01284-763111).

Oil:
http://www.communitybuying.org.uk/

There are various other companies who supply domestic fuel oil, mainly based in Ipswich - see Yellow Pages for numbers and then phone around for the best deal.

Coal:
Rose Brothers (01728 860364) Ipswich Co-op Society (01473 727023)
Wetherupstreet Derby Road
Wetheringsett Ipswich

Bags of coal and logs are usually available from Stowupland Garage.

Boiler Maintenance:
Stowmarket Fuels will supply and maintain oil-fired boilers.

JS Boiler Service (674949)
Willowfield
Station Road
Old Newton
Service all boilers and send automatic reminders.

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Atlas Chimney Sweep (01473 735508)
WINDOW CLEANERS

Abacus Cleaning (07810 500836) - visits Earl Stonham every 8 weeks

Crystal Clear Window Cleaners (766542)  Andy (710059 or Mobile 07986 470181)
5 Frelands (ask for Jon)  21 Church Lane
Mendlesham  Little Stonham

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE REPAIRS

DK Appliances (701309)
Finbows Yard
Bacton
dkappliances@yahoo.co.uk

ELECTRICIANS

John Chaplin (711589)  Pryke Electrical (612537)
Ashtree Cottage  Onehouse
Middlewood Green

Tony Turner (07710 018743)  Mick Ruffles (613778)
Forward Green  96 Poplar Hill
Earl Stonham  Combs Ford

PLUMBERS

A number are listed in Yellow Pages - there is also

Stow Heating & Plumbing (613124)  L & R Contractors (711001)
Crown Street (by Snooker Hall)  Angel Hill
Stowmarket  Earl Stonham

GARDEN CENTRES & GARDENING CLUB

Nareys (612559)
Bury Road
Stowmarket (on the eastern side of the A14, just north of Stowmarket)

Perfect Perennials (711320)
Mill End Lane
Earl Stonham

Roots n Shoots (721965)
Stowmarket Road
Badley (on the “old” Stowmarket to Needham Market road)
Oakhill Plant Nursery (721092)
Jack’s Green Road, Creeting St Mary

Stonham Barns (711755)
Stonham Aspal (on the A1120 on the eastern side of Stonham Aspal).

Includes a tea room, woodcraft shops, gift shop and a golf driving range. Birds of Prey Centre. Dog Training Classes.

There is usually at least one plant stall at Stowmarket market on Thursdays and Saturdays and the WI market in St Peters Church Hall (next to library) usually has plants for sale on Thursday 9.00 am - 11.30 am.

Needham Market Garden Club - meets on the 1st Thursday of the month (NOT Nov, Dec, Jan or Feb) at the Needham Community Centre. Membership £3 per year, visits to Gardens are arranged. Contact Brian & Jill Finbow on 711874.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Andrew Bingham Independent Funeral Service (771666)
17 Charles Industrial Estate
Stowmarket

Meredith Greengrass Funeral Service (612765)
9 Marriotts Walk
Stowmarket

Pecks Funeral Service (01473 272711)
44 Aspall Road
Debenham

DIY

Jewson (677780) Jewson (613147)
Finborough Road Newton Road
Stowmarket Stowmarket

Suffolk Heating and Plumbing Supplies (675174)
Charles Industrial Estate
Stowmarket

The usual large DIY chains e.g Homebase, B&Q etc are situated in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.

TOOL HIRE

Bright Acres Tool Hire (612632) Any Tool Hire (774322)
Charles Industrial Estate Union Street
Stowmarket Stowmarket
Jewsons Tool Hire (613147)
Newton Road
Stowmarket

CRAFT SHOPS

Homebrew Crafts
Bury St
Stowmarket

Museum Shop & Tourist Information Office
Museum of East Anglian Life
Stowmarket

Various units - Pottery; Crafts; Sugarcraft
Alder Carr Farm
Creeting St Mary

Tues - Sun: 9.00 am - 5.00pm
closed Monday

TAKE-AWAYS

Little China
1 Devon Road
Stowupland
(Chinese) (616049)

Authentic
(Chinese) (770649)
5 Station Road
Stowmarket

Radhuni
(Indian) (674392)
16/18 Tavern Street
Stowmarket

Sultan Kebab House
(Turkish) (613327)
39 Ipswich Street
Stowmarket

Tasty Pizza
(674999)
(Delivery service)
41A Ipswich Street
Stowmarket

Chinese Chequers
(676788)
Ipswich St
Stowmarket

There is a Domino Pizza in Stowmarket and a Burger King at Beacon Hill (A140/A14 junction). There are also Indian and Chinese take-aways in Needham Market.
Fish & Chips:

Stowupland  Thorney Green Road (opposite Shell Garage)
Mendlesham  Fish and Chip shop is on Chapel Road (767194)

A mobile fish and chip van visits both villages on Friday evening - times are not exact, but watch out for a large red van with a smoking chimney between 5.30 pm and 6.30 pm in Weylands Close, Earl Stonham, later in Stonham Parva.

PUBS

Shepherd & Dog & Restaurant (Forward Green)  (711361)
The Highwayman (A140)  (760369)
The Magpie Inn (Stonham Parva)  (711287)

HALLS

There are two halls available for hire:

Earl Stonham Village Hall which can accommodate functions of up to 250 people. To book, call Michelle Francis on 710048 and the Parish Room which is available for meetings, parties etc - call Frankie Wicks on 711222.

LIBRARIES

Milton Road (613143)  Mon Closed
Stowmarket  Tues 9.30 am - 7.45 pm
(behind the church)  Wed & Thurs 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
                   Fri 9.00 am - 7.30 pm
                   Sat 9.30 am - 5.00 pm
                   Sun 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

There are also libraries in Needham Market (720780) and Debenham (01728 861940)

Mobile library:

Visits both villages every four weeks on Friday morning. Times are as follows -

Forward Green (Village Hall car park)  12.10pm -12.40 pm
(Lunch served by volunteers one Friday each month 12.45pm in Earl Stonham Village Hall.
Also Coffee & Cake Morning once a month from 10.30am in Earl Stonham Village Hall.
Stonham Parva church  1.30 pm - 1.40 pm
Stonham Parva Magpie pub  1.45 pm - 1.55 pm
The van is based at Ipswich Library - ring 01473 583702 to find out which Friday it is due.

**Toy Libraries:**

Stowmarket Toy Library meets every Wednesday at the Family Centre in Violet Hill Road (next door to the Health Centre) from 9.30 am until 11.30 am.

Needham Market United Reform Church - see church for details

**TOURIST INFORMATION**

Mid-Suffolk Tourist Information Centre (676800)
Museum of East Anglian Life
Stowmarket
Information on the local area and other parts of Britain. Agent for National Coaches.

**Travel Agents:**

Thomas Cook (613566)                  Co-op Travel Agency (775050)
Meadow Centre                        Tavern Street

The Tourist Information Office in the Meadow Centre acts as an agent for National Coach services.

**Museums:**

Museum of East Anglian Life (612229)
Stowmarket
Covers a large acreage in the centre of the town - includes water mill, windmill, farm transport and farming implements. Friends’ Association holds regular lecture evenings.

Ipswich Museum (01473 213761)                  Christchurch Mansion (01473 253246)
High Street                               Christchurch Park
Ipswich

Moyse’s Hall (01284 757489)
Cornhill
Bury St Edmunds

**COFFEE SHOPS**

Lime Tree Cafe                Winchester Bistro
Market Place                    Old Fox Yard
Tall Orders                        Greggs
Bury St                             Ipswich Street
Alder Carr - Barn Café  
Alder Carr Farm, Creeting St Mary
RECREATION

Stowmarket Leisure Centre (674980)
Gainsborough Road
Stowmarket

Includes a 25m swimming pool, training pool and baby's splash pool, Play World, indoor bowls, gymnasium, Images workout gym, Athena health suite, tennis courts and football pitch. Numerous courses available for all ages and covering many sports and interests. Open Mon-Fri 7.00am-11.00pm, Sat 8.00am-6.00pm & Sun 8.00am-9.00pm

Stowupland High School (674827) Sun 9.00am - 5.00pm
Community Sports Centre & Gym (Badminton, Aerobics etc) Sun 10.00am - 2.00pm
Weekday Evenings 5.00 pm - 10.30 pm

Stowmarket Golf Club (736392)
Lower Road
Onehouse
(on the western side of the town)

Vibro Club (Vibration Training Studio) (710389)
Stonham Barns

Cinema:

Regal Theatre (612825)
Ipswich Street
Stowmarket
Also has live shows occasionally and hosts Stowmarket Music Society concerts.

Theatres:

New Wolsey Theatre (01473 253725) Theatre Royal (01284 769505)
Civic Drive Westgate Street
Ipswich Bury St Edmunds

Both theatres have a reputation for excellent productions. The New Wolsey is a modern theatre, whilst the Theatre Royal dates back to 1819 and is a National Trust property.

One smaller theatre worth a look is The John Mills Eastern Angles Theatre which is based in Ipswich just off the Bramford Road but which also visits the outlying villages including Creeting St Mary.

Car Boot Sales:

Needham Lake, Needham Market on Saturday mornings
Stonham Barns on Sunday mornings.
ANIMALS

Vets:

Stowe Veterinary Group (613130)
56 Bury Road
Stowmarket
Also at The Mustard Pot, Needham Market

Cedarwood Veterinary Practice (676966)
Needham Rd
Stowmarket

Haughey & Thurston Veterinary Group (673366)
63 Old Street
Haughey

Grooming Parlour

Larling Grooming Parlour (in Quintons) (615980)
Unit 27, Maitland Road - Lion Barn Industrial Estate, Needham Market

Stowe Vets also has a Grooming Parlour and Pet Shop

Feed:

Milpets (675947) Stow Feeds
3 Ipswich Street Old Newton
Stowmarket (For Bulk buys)

Quinton's (701534)
Unit 27, Maitland Road, Lion Barn Industrial Estate, Needham Market (also Larlings Grooming - see above)
Has most things needed for small and larger animals, with many items available in bulk. Also sells gardening things and dishwasher salt.

Stowe Vets also has a ‘Farm Shop’ for animal feeds etc behind the main building.

Riding Stables / Clubs:

Mid-Suffolk Pony Club
Sec: Lori Eaton (01473 890658)

STOWMARKET SHOPPING

The Market operates on Thursdays and Saturdays - some of the stalls are only there on one of those days. Includes fruit and veg, meat, clothes, eggs, cheese, fish, crockery, stationery, embroidery supplies, electrical spares, plants. Bargains in fruit and vegetables can sometimes be had after 3.00 pm on Saturday, as the stalls are closing down.
Farmers’ Market often held on Fridays at Museum of East Anglian Life.

Farmers’ Market once a month at Alder Carr Farm, Needham Market.

WI Market St Peters Hall (next to library) Thursday 9.00 am - 11.30 am
Home made cakes, plants etc. Also coffee + cakes.

Early closing day is Tuesday but does not affect all shops (but some shops close all day). Some shops still close for lunch every day.

Car Parks:

Bury Street
Iliffe Way (by Asda)
Duke's Head - next to cinema

Supermarkets:

Asda
Meadow Centre
Small range of household goods as well as groceries.

There is a larger Asda on the slip road off the A14 Norwich Road, Ipswich.

Lidl
Bury Road near Stowmarket Caravans

Solar + QS
Combs Lane (next to the health centre)
*Free parking, Co-op Bank, household goods, pharmacy, toilets*

Morrisons
Milton Road

Tesco Mon - Sat 24 hours
Cedars Link Sunday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
+ Larger Tesco at Copdock Interchange of A14, Ipswich (+ Bury + Diss)

Sainsbury's has stores just off the A14 at Bury St Edmunds (this side) and at Ipswich (Hadleigh and Felixstowe sides) - the latter includes a Homebase.

Waitrose have a store in the centre of Bury St Edmunds. There is also a Waitrose & John Lewis Home store in Ipswich at Futura Park, Crane Boulevard (0845 604 9049)

Asda, Sainsbury, Tesco & Waitrose all deliver groceries ordered online.
Health foods:

Holland & Barrett
Market Place

Carpets:

Floor Dimensions Neville Taylor Carpets
34-36 Bury St Charles Industrial Estate

Kevin Tuffs (781837)
Stanwell Farm
Finningham
Will bring carpet samples to your home - National carpet fitting finalist

Peter Godden (781306) will fit or re-fit any carpet

Decorating:

Jewsons
Stowmarket

Curtains:

Heather's Co-op Instore
13 Bury St Tavern Street

Hardware:

QD Discount Stores Finbows Yard (sells everything!)
Ipswich St Finningham Road

Pauls Bacton
High Street Needham Market

Electrical goods:

B V Hicks Stannards
29 Ipswich St Tavern St

Dress materials:

The nearest (and some would argue the best) shop for this is The Fabric Shop, Church Lane, Eye.
Books and Stationery:

Stowmarket Book Shop (612544) Xpert Stationers (614223)
24 Bury St 15 Ipswich Street

Hold a range of paper, greetings cards and artist's materials. The Book Shop will also order books not in stock.

John Dayes
Needham Market Post Office
Artist Materials

Jewellers:

G Tydeman (612510)
Bury St

Florists:

Kings The Florists (672958) Edelweiss (612505)
38 Bury St 1 Market Place

House of Flowers (612631) Roots 'n Shoots Garden Centre (721965)
Fox's Yard Stowmarket Road
Ipswich St Badley

Market stall in Stowmarket on a Thursday & Saturday

Hairdressers:

John Michael (770864) Louise's (614934)
12 Bury St 18 Stowupland St - near snooker hall

Jon-Simon (612774) Top Notch (612565)
25 Bury St 19 Bury St

Power Cuts (674765) Charlie Milz Hair (674735)
Fox’s Yard 54 Stowupland Rd
Ipswich St (edge of Charles Industrial Estate)

The Salon (612774) Posh (613500)
9 Bury St Bury St

The Beauty Barn (711190)
Stonham Barns, Stonham Aspal
Barbers:

Combs Ford Barbers (770860)    Frobisher's (674605)
Combs Ford                        39/41 Stowupland St

Jon-Simon (612774)
25 Bury St

Outdoor Suppliers:

Outdoor People (675511)
Charles Industrial Estate
Stowmarket
Camping and hiking supplies, and official supplier of Scout and Guide uniforms. Calor Gas supplier.

Stowmarket Caravan Sales (612677)
Bury Road
Stowmarket
Caravans and all that is required to equip them. Calor Gas supplier.

Calor Gas is also available from Stowupland Shell Garage