



Troston Parish Meeting—The annual Troston Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Monday, May 12 at 7.00pm. It's your chance to comment on any aspect of village life and there will also be an update on progress with the Parish Plan, which is being drawn up to tell the local authorities what changes people living in Troston would like to see in the area. Please come along and help shape the future of Troston.

Church News—Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the very successful Hen Party, which seems to have put Troston firmly on the map, and to those who supported our Lambing Afternoon. This month sees the Flower Festival and Songs of Praise (see item below), while June ushers in another Rural Pastimes Event, on Sunday, June 8th.

Troston is again in charge of car parking for Rural Pastimes, and we will need at least ten volunteers (who will get free entry) on the day. Please contact me at 269614 if you can help us.

Our team have run several highly successful Alpha courses in various parishes and we are going to run one for Troston jointly with Ingham in September. An Alpha course is a safe place where you can ask questions and learn about Christianity without any pressure. I will be putting more information in the newsletter as we get closer to the start of the course.

Rev. Doug Neupert, OLM

Church Services

Sunday, May 4 th	11.00 a.m.	Mattins
11 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
18 th	11.00 a.m.	Christian Aid Service
25 th	5.15 p.m.	Songs of Praise

Troston: Past, Present and Future—Views of Troston through the ages – including what it might look like in the future – will form the centrepiece of an inter-active display at the village hall on Saturday, May 17. It's part of the public consultation for the Parish Plan, and there will be loads to do and see, including old photographs and maps of the village, the much-coveted Troston quilt worked by local women, and the chance to fly over the village in a light aircraft (see accompanying leaflet for details). But most important of all, it will be your opportunity to comment on what you'd like see in the village in 10 years' time -- and that includes keeping it just as it is! And if you've got some old photographs of the village that could be included in the exhibition, we'll scan them in; please let Roger Anderson know on 01359 268337.

The village "drop-in" will take place on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Do try to make it and bring the kids (refreshments available).

Pauline Whitaker-Bethel

Lambing Afternoon—The Lambing Afternoon at Hall Farm raised £138 in aid of the Troston Heritage Appeal. Visitors from as far as Stowmarket and Newmarket braved the snow showers and cold to be entertained by frolicking lambs and their patient mums. Many thanks to all who attended.

Jeanne Neupert

Village Garage Sale—This event will take place on Sunday 4 May (Bank Holiday weekend) as long as there is a reasonable number of participants to make it viable. Publicity and newspaper adverts need to be organised at least a week before the event, and if numbers are too low it will be cancelled. Look out for signboards on the approaches to the village to know whether or not it is going ahead. Those who didn't send in a prior booking can still participate, the cost on the day being £12.00. A collector will call.

Troston Church Flower Festival—Make a date with the flower festival at Troston on Sunday, May 25th and Bank Holiday Monday, May 26th. Enjoy beautiful displays on the theme of Suffolk Saints, highlighting St. George and the Dragon, St. Christopher and St. Edmund, featured in the church's impressive medieval wall paintings.

A chance to learn about Troston's intriguing history will be given in a video of extracts from the Village Book and through a display of historic postcards. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

There will be refreshments from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 5.15 p.m. on the Sunday, there will be a Songs of Praise service, so please leave the names of your hymn choices in a box at the church in advance or contact the Rev. Doug Neupert on 01359 269614.

On both days from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., the organisers have teamed up with the opening of Church Cottage garden, opposite, under the National Gardens Scheme. The garden is on show to the public for the first time under the scheme.

The flower festival and refreshment takings will boost the Troston Heritage Appeal for the conservation of the wall paintings. The appeal group plans to make a £50,000 application to the National Heritage Lottery. PLEASE help make the flower festival a wonderful event by offering help with flowers, cakes and scones and assistance with serving. Please contact Susan Sollohub on 01359 269574 or Judith Brown on 01359 268538. Thank you.

Troston Hen Party-- Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the very successful Hen Party on Easter Saturday. There are too many people to name individually, but you'll know who you are! The overall refreshments plus donations raised over £900 for the wall paintings conservation appeal, and the tombola made £189 for church running costs.

It was a wonderful result especially considering the very unspring-like weather; even popular TV *Look East's* weather presenter Julie Reinger could not produce sunshine for us, but she spread the warmth of her personality, much appreciated by our visitors. And the church was warm.

Julie judged the Easter Bonnet competition won by Orla Jewby, eight, of Troston, and would like to return next year. The children also braved the cold to take part in the Easter egg hunt in the churchyard.

Francine Raymond's Hen Party at Church Cottage opposite attracted some 600 visitors to see an array of rare breeds poultry and plants. She rated it an excellent turnout, given the bad weather.