



Objectives

The aims of this occasional newsletter are to try to keep residents informed of what the Parish Council has been discussing, and to give updates on items of local interest.

Annual Parish and Council Meetings - 14th & 21st May 2012

The Chairman, John Benton, opened the annual meeting by saying how disappointing it was that no members of the public attended.

In John's report, he paid tribute to Lynne Fugle and Amanda Pinchen who had left the Parish Council and welcomed Brenda Burridge, Graeme Norris and Peter Hay to the Council. It was great for the Village that Martyn Smith is now looking after Heath Wood. The Jubilee oak has been successfully planted, and Martyn has plans for coppicing the hedges and further planting. Volunteers to help would be appreciated.

John also thanked Karen Gradidge for looking after the playing field and for keeping the bus shelter clean and tidy.

The loss of the Bull, of course, was a great disappointment. Points of view from the Village Meeting had been sent to Greene King, but nothing further had yet been heard about their plans for the playing field.

The Parish Council accounts had been audited. There was a balance in hand of £8007 to be carried forward for the year 2012/13. It was also great to see that the Village Hall's finances were in good shape, mainly due to extra bookings. As at 31st December 2011 the balance in hand to be carried forward was £5129. New chairs and tables were to be purchased and a disabled access was soon to be commenced.

There are plans to station about three gliders at RAF Honington. Some concerns have been expressed about the possible noise from the planes which tow the gliders into the air. The Council were told there should be no cause to worry about this as they have to fly to the north.

Parish Councillors wondered how they could encourage people in the Village to become involved with parish matters. We would like to hear from local children and their parents on their thoughts and ideas. The next meeting will be on the 2nd July at 19.30 – so please come along.

Finally, on behalf of the Village, John paid tribute to Diana Potter who had died suddenly. She had done so much for the Village Hall and for other activities in the Village, and everyone's deepest sympathies went to Geoffrey over his sad loss.

New Chairperson

Councillor Roger Anderson was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year and Councillor John Benton, Vice-chairman.

The Bull

The Village meeting on the plans for the Bull was attended by approximately 60 parishioners. The consensus of opinion sent to Greene King was:

1. We do not feel it appropriate to create two separate zones for development and therefore we would like to see to see the properties that are designated as social housing located in close proximity to the other five houses proposed.
2. Villagers strongly believe that the layout of the site meant that the proposed properties were too close to the following adjoining properties: Siesta, King William House and, in Livermere Road, Smithies Cottage.
3. It was thought that the best location for the children's play area (subject to it

occupying the same surface area as the present play areas currently in use, ie approx 250 sq metres) would be adjacent to Siesta and King William House. This would have the following beneficial effects:

- a) distancing the new dwellings from these existing properties
 - b) affording better access to the play area from the road (ie similar to the current access)
 - c) ensuring that the play area is more easily overlooked by householders to ensure the security of small children.
4. Villagers drew attention to the high power overhead cable crossing the area of the proposed football pitch and the need for this to be moved. As a matter of interest, it was also felt by some villagers that use by teams of a full size football pitch could help the business of the pub.
 5. The village would require confirmation that the play area would be fully functional immediately after it needed to be moved - together with any additional play equipment that it was agreed to be installed – at Greene King's expense. Agreed fencing should obviously be in place before the commencement of any development.
 6. It was re-emphasised that the village would ask that Greene King transfer the freehold of the play area and the football field to the Parish Council
 7. On the matter of the Bull, in the event of it being sold, we would ask for written assurance that, as already indicated by Greene King, there would be a covenant

making it clear that it should remain a public house.

From Nigel Pitcher

Our Church

Our Lambing Afternoon in April raised £89 for the church, in spite of the bad weather. Many thanks to all who attended.

Blackbourne Team Rector Rev Phillip Garbett chaired the Easter Vestry Meeting and Annual Church Meeting on 30 April at the village hall. The following were re-elected to the Parochial Church Council: Mrs. Jeanne Neupert, Mrs. Jane Harland, Mrs. Audrey Ringrose, Mr. Keith Ringrose, and Mrs. Susan Sollohub.

The annual Rural Pastimes event is on Sunday 10 June. As usual, Troston is tasked with managing the car park. If you are willing to work a shift or two, please contact me as soon as possible. You will receive a free entry pass to the event.

The monthly men's breakfast on Saturday, 16 June, features Chris Norburn speaking on 'Far-flung Experiences'. In July, Michael Vickers will present 'Balls, Bombs, and Bali'. The breakfast meetings start at 8.15 am and finish at 9.30 (plus washing up time!). All are welcome.

From Rev. Doug Neupert, Asst. Priest

A big thank you goes to all those who supported the Easter Coffee morning and egg hunt last month. The weather was not as good as we had hoped - but the children were not deterred from hunting in the church yard for their eggs. It was lovely that so many provided refreshments that Ann Grimwood organised. Thanks also for running the tombola and to Freya and her mum, Sue Bennett, for supervising the children's activities. A total of £107 was raised towards the church funds but more importantly. Those who came seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Church will be hosting a “cheese and wine” in September. The local churches are currently looking at what they are offering the community and this will be an opportunity for you to hear what is being considered and to contribute ideas.

From Jane Harland

The Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee was saddened, shocked and numbed by the sudden and unexpected death of one of its members, Diana Potter, and our thoughts and sympathies are with husband Geoffrey and his family during these difficult times.

For many years, Geoffrey and Di have devoted much time and energy towards the maintenance of our Village Hall for all who use it. Regrettably, Di will not be able to enjoy the fruits of the ambitious upgrade to its facilities, which she and the rest of the Village Hall Management Committee recently planned. Work started on Wednesday 23 May to install a better access/exit route between the front door and the rear garden, including a disabled ramp. John Cutmore will be carrying out the work. Furthermore, for additional comfort in the Hall, we have ordered 60 new cushioned chairs and two large folding tables. Of the original plastic seats, 20 will be retained, the remainder being offered for sale. Finally, on 30 May, the main Hall flooring is to be sanded, sealed and preserved, which will both protect and enhance the appeal of the Hall.

Unfortunately, Geoffrey now feels he is unable to continue with his duties as Treasurer, Bookings Clerk (and general factotum) without the support of Diana. He wishes to retire, and he will be deeply missed.

For family reasons, I am also unable to continue, and it is necessary that new individuals come forward and take on the responsibility of ensuring the Hall's future. The Committee meets just 4 times a year, but bookings and day to day maintenance are key responsibilities. The foundations have been laid for the future, thanks entirely to the efforts of Geoffrey, Di and other committee members, both past and present. I am

blessed with happy thoughts of days spent in their company, focusing on events and all aspects of Hall activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (01359 268134) and I will do all I can to help and advise anyone who is interested in getting involved with the Village Hall Management Committee.

From David Corrie

Women's Institute

This month, the Troston WI ladies joined up with Barnham WI to vote on this year's NFWI Resolution – “The Employment of More Midwives”. There is currently a chronic shortage of midwives in England and Wales so the NFWI is looking to call on the Government to increase investment in the training and employment of midwives to ensure a high level of service and standard of care. Both Barnham and Troston WIs voted in favour of the resolution and our vote will go towards the national vote at the Federation's AGM.

Now that we have the first signs of Summer beginning to show, the ladies of Troston are venturing outside for the June Meeting. We are going to Fuller's Mill at West Stow on June 13th at 7pm. This is a 7 acre garden through which the River Lark flows and meanders. The garden has many features including a dry garden, waterside planting, rare trees, shrubs, perennials and woodland walks. The evening is open to members and their family and friends and anyone else who would like to join us. Entrance is £3 for WI ladies and £6 for non-members. This includes entrance to the gardens and refreshments afterwards. If you would like to join us please telephone Jacquie Hedges on 01359 269069 or 07940 650511 so that we have an idea of numbers. We plan to leave the bus stop in Troston at 6.30 pm. Please come and join us, it is always lovely to see both familiar and new faces!

From Jacquie Hedges

Euston Rural Pastimes

Event

Everyone is invited to the Rural Pastimes Event 10th June 2012. Donations of children's and adult's prizes for the Tombola would be greatly received – plus Lucky Dip items! Some help on the day on a two-hour rota would also be welcome. Please contact Ann Grimwood 20 Garden Fields or 01359 268132

A delicious two-course lunch will be available in The Old Kitchen, Euston Hall. Tickets are £10 and include wine and tea/coffee. Bookings must be made before 8th June by contacting Gill Farrow on 01842 763660. Hope to see you there.

From Ann Grimwood

Honington School News

We had beautiful weather for our Easter Fayre and a good turnout resulting in record takings – thanks to all who came.

If anybody is collecting school vouchers from Tesco and Sainsburys, please pop them through the school letter box in Malting Row so the school can benefit. Also, if anyone shops in Mill House Fabrics store in Bury, they will give the school credit, to the value of 10% of your purchase price, to be spent with them if you mention the school's name.

As you will be probably aware, the schools in our area are being reorganised from a three to two tier system. All the middle schools in the area will close. Thurston Community College, will be taking years 7 and 8 and they will have to use Beyton Middle School. Honington school will get a new hall and kitchen.

From Brenda Burridge

Heritage Group

Please note the date of the forthcoming British Festival of Archaeology Day at St Mary's Church Troston. This will be on Saturday 14th July, starting at 12 noon. An interesting programme will include talks on the celebrated medieval wall paintings and other features – the Church contains

an exceptional range of early graffiti. Enjoy tours of the Church and activities for children. There will also be refreshments!

From Sue Sollohub

Aerial Runway Accident

After the accident on the runway the supplier was contacted. As far as he is aware the equipment as installed conformed to all regulations and he could not understand how the children went back along the runway wire and knocked the others off the platform.

Simon Colin, Parks Infrastructure Officer at the Borough said that, while feeling sympathy for the child involved, after looking at the yearly independent report, the aerial runway did indeed conform to current legislation. He failed to see how these incidents happened and he wondered if children ran under the wire whilst someone was travelling along it.

From Nigel Pitcher

Safer Neighbourhood

Crime statistics for the last year (13th May 2011 to 2012) showed 12 reported crimes with a detection rate of 16% compared to the previous year's 19 crimes and a detection rate of 10%.

The priorities being tackled can be found at www.onesuffolk.co.uk and then follow the link to Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Villagers are invited to sign up to Police Direct which is a messaging service that provides up to date information about local crimes, bogus callers and traffic disruptions. This information can be sent to your computer, mobile phone or landline! To register contact Police Direct on 01473 613997.

From PC Simon Collins

Council News

Some £26 million in savings have been planned by reducing management levels, and merging back-office support facilities. Separate Social Care

Units had been combined to provide a more integrated approach to families facing difficulties.

The Adoption Service had been rated “excellent” by OFSTED in the way the views of all parties were fairly heard and considered in the best interest of the children.

Repairs to the road surface of Capel Close had been scheduled, and improvements to Jackdaw Corner had been allocated a budget.

On wider policy matters, there is some concern about the lack of balance and fairness embedded within the planning system. Developers can appeal local planning authority decisions but local councils cannot.

An Early Day Motion has been tabled in Parliament for a planning appeals Bill, which will be proposed by Suffolk MP, Peter Aldous (Waveney). It would make a significant impact if you could send your support for this Bill to Peter. Letters are a preferred but please also phone, or email:

Peter Aldous MP, House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

Phone 0207 219 7182

peter.aldous.mp@parliament.uk

The latest date that MPs have to make up their minds on which Bill to adopt is 17 June 2012.

From SCC Cllr Becky Hopfensperger

Paddock Way

Following the concerns expressed by the Village on the accident at Paddock Way, the Highways Department have investigated the problem. They agree that there are issues when exiting onto Livermere Road, and have considered the solutions the Council proposed.

They feel removing the Oak tree could be quite complicated, and it is not on highway land so before any work on the tree could be considered, permission would need to be gained from the tree owner.

In regards to traffic calming, they agreed with the suggestion about placing sets of dragons teeth before the painted ‘30’ in the road. In addition to this they suggested a gateway by placing 1m high white picket fencing on the verges next to the ‘30’ signs. They also thought a junction sign, to make drivers more aware of the side road, could be placed some distance before the ‘30’ sign. Of course, any works would need to be funded using the Quality of Life and/or Locality Budget - and there is no guarantee that budget would be allocated to such a scheme!

Further, the Highways Department reminded the Council that the Borough is no longer reviewing speed limit requests – and so the idea of a 20 mph zone through the Village was not feasible.

We were also informed the Village’s idea of placing a mirror to get a sighting of approaching cars would not be permitted. If the mirror is on private land, however, it would be outside the Borough’s jurisdiction. If it was on the highway – and is brought to their attention they will take action to remove it. However, unofficially, they turn a blind eye to them because they recognise that they do help – but legally, they have to take action if someone complains.

From Guy Smith, Assistant Highways Manager

Is there a business in you?

Setting up your own business is always a great adventure - if a little traumatic at times. The Borough Council is launching a scheme to help local entrepreneurs with planning, financing applications, accounting, legal advice and marketing support. The scheme includes “community enterprises” where the profit is invested back into the social service being provided.

For more information, please contact our Local Development Officer Kirsty Pitwood on 01284 757109 or the Suffolk Enterprise Agency MENTA for free advice on 01284 760206.

West Stow Anglo Saxon Village

See a group of noblemen and their attendants, in their very best finery, when they visit the village before travelling to see the king – 2nd to 5th June between 10 am and 5 pm (last entry 4 pm).

A re-enactment of law and order in Saxon times, walking hot coals plus combat lessons and archery, will be on the 9th and 10th June - again 10 am to 5 pm.

For the less blood thirsty, have a go at braiding, felting, quill making and leather work on the 30th June to 1st July; or enjoy the ancient tales at the Suffolk Eisteddfod on the 8th July.

Jubilee Picnic in Culford Park

A registered Jubilee Beacon will be lit on Monday 4th June in Culford Park just after 10 pm. Many activities are being planned, starting with a picnic at 5 pm, races, a band, disco and competitions.

Any profits will be donated to St Nicholas Hospice. For more information contact Bruce Murdoch on 01284 728554.

Thank You

Thank you to all contributors and distributors – only through your efforts has this newsletter been possible!

Please accept apologies for any miss-spelling of names, mistakes in editing contributions or not accurately remembering comments for articles.

Anyrate, don't hesitate to send in news items – they will always be gratefully welcome! Contact Graeme Norris at Church Cottage, Church Lane, IP31 1EX or email graeme@lmrinternational.

Local Contacts:

Clubs & Societies:

Women's Institute	01359 269219
Bowls Club	01359 269468
Book Club	01359 269614

Village Hall Bookings	01359 269468
Troston History Book	01359 268622
Troston Heritage Group	01359 269574

Schools:

Honington CEVC Primary	01359 269324
Ixworth Middle School	01359 230387
Ixworth CEVC Primary	01359230228
Thurston College	01359 230885

Health Services:

Ixworth Surgery	01359 230252
Ixworth Pharmacy	01359 234020
West Suffolk Hospital	01284 713000
NHS Direct	0845 4647

Chiropodist, Amanda Stoner 01359 268351

St Mary's Church:

Rev Philip Garbett	01359 234415
Rev Liz Jump	01359 269265
Rev Doug Neupert	01359 269614

Emergency:

Fire Police Ambulance	999
Electricity (power cuts)	0800 783 8838
Water (emergencies)	0845 714 5145
Environment	0800 807060
Police non-emergency	01284 774100 or 101

Government Officials:

Parish Council Clerk:

Nigel Pitcher 01284 763098

Borough Cllr:

Christopher Spicer 01359 230800

Suffolk County Cllr:

Becky Hopfensperger 07876 683516

MP for Bury St Eds:

David Ruffley 01359 244199

MP for West Suffolk:

Matthew Hancock 01638 565945