



Most of the items in this newsletter are based on the Parish Council Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012. Please get updates on what's happening – or not, by coming along. The next meeting is in the Village Hall 7.30 pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Our Pub and Playing Fields**

Before any more discussion with Greene King, Parish Councillors felt they needed to fully understand the Borough's planning policy. Christopher Spicer, our Borough Councillor, kindly arranged a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June with Ian Gallin, the new Joint Chief Executive of St Edmundsbury, and Stephen Burgess, the Chief Planning Officer.

Firstly clarification was required on how many houses could be built within the settlement area, bearing in mind, Troston is designated as an infill village. Although the Planning Department's "2031" document, clause CS4, states only 5 or less can be built within a settlement area, Mr Burgess said he considered this to be *for guidance only*. The numbers were not "set in stone" and development proposals were viewed as a total package of housing, amenities and improvements. The Borough's policy on affordable housing is about 20% of the total of a development.

Asked about the status of the playing field, Mr Burgess said that it was clearly classified as being an open space, for recreational purposes. Having a one year licence, meant Greene King could give the Parish Council one year to vacate the playing field. But Mr Burgess said that should they do this, they would not obtain permission to build on the playing field unless they provide an alternative site, equal to existing or better and to be within the Village.

Further, when asked about the possible removal of the football area to make way for new homes, Mr

Burgess said this could be outside the housing settlement boundary - although permission for change of use of any agricultural land would have to be sought. The children's play area, however, must remain in the centre of the Village.

With regard to affordable housing, Councillor Spicer, suspected no housing association would want to take on just one property. Greene King had proposed to build a number of affordable homes on agricultural land adjacent to the Village but it was both the Parish Council's view and that of the Borough that affordable homes should be within the whole development and not set apart. If proposals were put forward for affordable homes outside the settlement boundary, a housing needs survey would have to be carried out.

Alas, plans for the reopening the pub still seemed remote. The meeting was unanimous in feeling the rundown condition of the premises did not reflect well on the Village as a place to live. A strongly worded letter was to be sent to the Managing Director of Greene King, asking for his help. It was thought that a petition from the Village to have the Bull reopened might add weight to the letter.

In conclusion, Ian Gallin said he appreciated the situation the Village was facing, and he did not regard the re-opening of the Bull as a separate issue. The Pub, playing area and new housing are one issue – and needed to be tackled as one package of improvements to the village.

### **County Councillor's Report**

Councillor Hopfensperger reported that Suffolk County Council are considering issuing oyster type cards to use for transport relating to school, college, work experience and other educational activities.

On reducing the potential for further accidents near Paddock Way, she said the Parish's proposals had been discussed. Depending on budget constraints, it was agreed the County Council

would place sets of dragon's teeth before the painted "30" in the road. In addition they propose to create a gateway by placing 1m high white picket fencing on the verges next to the "30" signs. They also propose a junction sign to make drivers more aware of the side road.

Alas, whilst welcoming these measures, the Parish Councillors felt that this would not cure the situation, as the heart of the problem is the old oak tree on private land which obscures a clear sight of oncoming traffic.

### **Borough Councillor's Report**

Councillor Spicer spoke about the Fuel Poverty Scheme which commenced last autumn. People will be given cash in place of vouchers. This scheme will continue until the end of this year. This is not Council Tax payers' money as this initiative is financed by the big energy companies who are mandated to meet energy efficiency targets.

If anyone knows of someone who would benefit, they should contact Councillor Spicer on 01359 230800. Apparently

- More than 1 in 4 Suffolk homes do not have any cavity wall or adequate loft insulation.
- Cavity wall insulation can reduce your bills by £135 per year
- Loft insulation can reduce your bills by £175 per year! This should be at the depth of 12 inches.

### **Welcome to the Brecks**

You may have seen the new road signs near the Village welcoming people to "the Brecks". These are part of a campaign to the National Lottery for investment in our area of some £4 million to promote Breckland as a great place to live and visit!

*From Nigel Pitcher*

### **Safer Neighbourhoods**

A public meeting was held in Ixworth on the 13<sup>th</sup> June with the Police on priorities.

Number one priority seemed to be enforcing speed limits, in particular with reference to Great Barton. Second priority was to prevent and detect offences of burglary and theft. Patrols were to focus on targeted areas, liaise with Neighbourhood Watch, and highlight crime prevention & awareness.

It was noted that the recent blackout in the Village was due to the theft of electricity cables. An operation aimed at reducing the sale and movement of stolen scrap metal is being introduced across Suffolk this month.

Operation Tornado is a joint initiative between the police and scrap dealers in order to deter and detect metal thefts by making it easier to trace those selling it. Sites who are part of the initiative will request evidence of identity from all persons disposing of metals for cash payment in the form of a UK photocard driving licence or a UK passport supported by a utility bill with the seller's current address. Failure to produce identification of this nature will mean that no transaction will take place.

### **Environment Margin Notices**

As you walk around the fields near the Village you will have been alerted by "Environmental Margin" signs. The aim is to protect vulnerable areas which had been left for birds and mammals - and to discourage people walking their dogs.

Field margins are one of the key European agri-environmental measures, and are considered to help maintain biodiversity in farm landscapes. Too many semi-natural habitats have been lost with field enlargements or have been degraded in terms of flora diversity by adjacent intensive agricultural practices.

Some campaigners had raised the concern that field margins, which allow some of the land to remain unplanted, could act as an extended reservoir for species deemed to be weeds and

increase their dispersal into the crop fields. Recent scientific research, however, reported by the BBC this month, has discovered that set-aside land resulted in a "sharp decrease" in the number of weeds encroaching into the cropped area.

It seems a large number of weed species require the disruption of soil tillage to survive – they are not able to germinate on the surface of the soil; further as there is no tillage, seeds are more sensitive to predation (from birds etc) and *abiotic* stress (or lack of water, frost etc to us lay people).

## **Our Church**

It's good to be back in this 'green and pleasant land'. As I write, Jeanne and I have just returned from visiting our son, daughter-in-law and grandson in North Carolina, where this past Sunday, the temperature was exactly twice what it was in Bury St Edmunds (or so on-line weather reports told us). You probably read about the terrible wildfires and massive power outages in the U.S., while we were being drip-fed information about the rain and flooding here!

School holidays are right around the corner, and I wish everyone a relaxing and refreshing break, whether you are heading off to sand and sun, having an adventure here in the UK, or just staying at home and resting. (In a couple of weeks, just getting into London may become an adventure!) Before you head off, I hope you will join us for the Festival of Archaeology on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July in St Mary's Church.

## **Sunday Services**

8 <sup>th</sup> July	11.00	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> July	11.00	Morning Worship
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	11.00	Family Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> July	TBA	
5 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00	Mattins
12 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00	Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00	Common Worship
26 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00	Team Communion at Ingham

*From Rev. Doug Neupert, Asst. Priest*

Reminder for your diary, 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 recent important refurbishment and building works are successfully complete and the Hall seems to have taken on a new lease of life. The Hall committee felt that these improvements were essential in order to raise the profile of the venue and encourage further interest in bookings. Our funds are stretched to the limit but we await finalisation of grant aid from various sources - hopefully, shortly.

I cannot understate the value of work, time and effort carried out by Nigel Pitcher, in his own time, to secure grant applications, provide guidance, give advice and tackle endless paperwork. Without his input and good humour we would not have had the confidence to embark on all the recent improvements. Nigel. A big thank you.

We are also grateful to John Cutmore for the supply and installation of a new doorway, with disabled ramp leading to the rear walled garden. It is beautifully designed and enhances the aspect on entering the front door. Thank you, John. We are thrilled and delighted.

The main hall floor has been sanded, cleaned, re-sealed and protected with three coats of preservation. It now has a lovely sheen to it and the whole place feels refreshed and light. The work was carried out by Colin Anderton of Ely who came with recommendation from the church surveyor.

Sixty new cushioned chairs have now arrived and add colour and style to the Hall's ambiance. The original coloured plastic seats are being stored.

However the Committee are prepared to provide 40 for sale (ie leaving 20 as reserve) to any interested party. We are open to offers and will take the highest bid over £5 each. Speak to me on 01359 268134.

### Open Evening

The Village Hall will host an **OPEN EVENING** with refreshments and nibbles on Wednesday 7 to 9 pm July 18<sup>h</sup> - all villagers are invited. This would be a great opportunity to get some names on the petition to reopen the Bull?

**Please come along** and give us your support and approval. It is YOUR HALL and the Committee comprising volunteer villagers who devote considerable time and effort to maintaining the high standards achieved by previous committees. Further volunteers are welcome to bring new impetus and ideas for the future.

*From David Corrie*

### Women's Institute

There was an excellent turnout for the June WI meeting when the Troston WI ladies, together with friends and families visited Fullers Mill at West Stow. The Mill opened especially for us and we were allowed to wander around the beautiful grounds, were given a history of the mill by our host Bernard Tickner and then finished the evening off with tea and cakes in the cafe. The rain just about managed to hold off and a good time was had by all. A big thanks to all the visitors who joined us on the evening - we always enjoy your company!

The July meeting is to be held at the Troston Village Hall on Wednesday 11th July at 19.45 when our speaker Grant Elliot will be coming to give us a talk entitled "Monopoly - More than just a Game'. Please come and join us.

Visitors and new members are very welcome. For further details please contact:  
Jenny - 269769 or Jacquie - 260769

*From Jacquie Hedges*

## Honington School News

All the children enjoyed their Jubilee Celebrations - they took part in a "Street Party" on the playground and planted a commemorative Jubilee Royal Oak in the school grounds.

Each class has recently taken part in visits to Banham Zoo, Castle Hedingham, Colchester Castle and Bressingham Stream Museum. A visiting theatre group will be performing "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" in the school hall next week. They are looking forward to taking part in a number of Olympic-style activities in the last few weeks of term.

We finish on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July and we wish all those who are leaving a prosperous future and everyone a very happy holiday.

*From Brenda Burridge*  
**Heritage Group**

The church of St Mary, Troston, contains some of the finest medieval wall paintings to be found anywhere in East Anglia. Come along and learn more about the wall paintings, with a talk by the paintings conservator Dr Andrea Kirkham at 2pm 14<sup>th</sup> July, plus guided tours of the fantastic medieval graffiti inscriptions throughout the day. See if you can find the medieval Troston demon!

There will be hands on activities for children, tours, talks, a second hand books stall and refreshments from 12 noon to 4.30 pm. Thanks go to everyone who is helping, of course, and in particular to the expert assistance of Matthew Champion.

Please note there will be traffic cones along the left of Church Lane as you go towards the church to prevent parking there. We hope no residents will be inconvenienced. Signage will indicate main parking on the playing field and we will use the pub parking area if necessary. The parking area near the church will be earmarked for disabled people and event helpers

*From Sue Sollohub*

## **Medieval graffiti**

These days, if you read a magazine article or newspaper story that contains the words 'graffiti' and 'church' in the same sentence then it is unlikely to have a happy ending. Graffiti has become a word associated with vandalism and destruction. Why then should we be interested in graffiti?

If you enter one of the many hundreds of surviving medieval churches that can be found in the county just about everything you see will relate to the elite members of the medieval parish. The stained glass, alabaster tombs and monumental brasses tell us only about those who created them or caused them to be created. They tell a story of power and riches. The coloured glass of the medieval church window, and the dull brasses laid into marble upon the floor, do not carry images of peasants ploughing but of the local elite in all their finery. Donor images kneeling before the Blessed Virgin herself or martial figures lying stiff in coat armour. Where here is the voice of those who worked the parish land, who worshiped in this splendid monument to their betters?

By its very nature surviving medieval church graffiti is regarded as being outside of the mainstream of the study of image and devotion within the medieval church. Its creation lacks the legitimacy associated with wall paintings, monuments and stained glass and all too modern connotations associate it with destruction and defacement. However, it is this patent lack of legitimacy, this distancing from authority, that can allow it to be regarded, at least in part, as a reflection of the relationship between commonality and church. Graffiti can be, and was, created by all levels of society and it offers a unique and un-studied insight into the people of the medieval parish.

The study of medieval graffiti is also changing the way we think about how the inside of the medieval parish church may have looked during the middle ages. Today medieval graffiti is actually quite hard to find without the use of angled light sources and a great deal of time. Even examples inscribed in quite prominent positions

are often hard to see with the naked eye. A few faint lines scratched in the stonework. However, that would not have been the case during the middle ages.

The interior of a medieval church would have been a place of vibrant colour and paintwork. In particular, the lower sections of the wall, which were unsuitable for elaborate painted images, were often coloured with a single pigment. Reds, deep orange ochres and blacks were all relatively common—and it is in these areas that we often find graffiti inscriptions. Therefore, far from being hidden away, the graffiti would have been very obvious indeed, scratched through the pigment to reveal the pale stone beneath.

In some churches these inscriptions appear to deliberately avoid crossing over other inscriptions, even in very busy areas of the church, suggesting that they respected the earlier graffiti and were unwilling to destroy it. The result would have been a medieval church literally covered in pale inscriptions etched through the paintwork. The very fact that these inscriptions were tolerated, and even seen as part of the normal use of the church fabric, changes our view of how the inside of the medieval church may have looked.

So, take pride in our unique Village asset and bring your friends to see them.

## **Euston Rural Pastimes Event**

Unbelievably we had a window of sunshine in our awful summer, and with all the shows around cancelling, we were more than fortunate. The whole day was pure magic, from the staggering Flower Festival in St Genevieve's Church to a complete Euston Park full of attractions and visitors. The Imps drew huge crowds as well as the Sheep Show. Thank-you to Clare, Countess of Euston, who opened the show, judged the exhibits and gave the prizes out.

Every year it is impossible to mention everyone, who gave up their time and energy in making it such a success, so can I just say, a brilliant result and a big thank-you to all. We are indebted to

Euston Estate and the team of men who help erect the site AND more importantly took it down. We could not do it without the RAF, The St Nicholas Hospice Team, but mainly you for coming, helping and making it happen. Perhaps we are showing signs of age but seriously we need a bit more muscle next year to help set up the show - surprisingly it does not happen on it's own.

*From Ann Grimwood et al*

### **Community Oil Buying**

You may be aware that Suffolk ACRE launched a community oil buying scheme in January. It already has over 300 members who have on average made savings of over 5.8p per litre (including VAT) with an average saving per order of more than £50.

The scheme is open to everyone in the Village and the more people that join the greater the savings - it also helps the environment too by reducing delivery miles. Membership of the scheme costs £20 a year but for local co-ordinators membership is free.

If you would like to know more or are able to offer some help as a co-ordinator, please do not hesitate to give us a call on 01473 345300 or email [oil@communitybuying.org.uk](mailto:oil@communitybuying.org.uk). Further information about the scheme is also available at [www.communitybuying.org.uk](http://www.communitybuying.org.uk).

### **Textile Recycling Scheme**

Last year, the Suffolk Waste Partnership undertook a composition analysis of residents' refuse bins. The intention was to identify which potentially recyclable materials were still being sent to landfill. The information gained is helping the Council tailor waste services, increase the capture of recyclable materials and reduce our costs.

The analysis provided very useful evidence that almost 7,000 tonnes of potentially recyclable textiles is being sent to landfill annually. This in

turn is costing the tax payer of Suffolk approximately £660,000 in landfill charges.

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council waste officers, in partnership with colleagues from across the county, have now designed a simple and effective collection scheme whereby residents will be provided with a specially designed textile recycling bag that can be placed into their existing recycling bins for collection once a fortnight. This scheme aims to increase Suffolk's recycling rate and keep the SWP on course to achieve their aim to recycle and compost 60% of the county's waste by 2015.

Prior to the scheme launch, residents will be provided with all the information they require to partake in the scheme along with two of the aforementioned textiles recycling bags. Collections are then scheduled to commence from early July 2012. The aim is to work in tandem with both parish councils and charitable textiles collectors, one important element of plan will be to encourage residents to continue to support both their local charity shops and textile recycling banks.

*From SCC Cllr Becky Hopfensperger*

### **Troston Poor's Land Estate Update**

Over the past four years the Trustees have been investigating possible ways of increasing the income for distribution. As the Village are aware, this also included the possible sale of the land.

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 30<sup>th</sup> April it was unanimously agreed to offer the land on a Farm Business Tenancy to Troston Farms Ltd. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May they confirmed that they accepted the offer starting October 2012.

The Charity Commission have been kept informed with all the Trustees considerations and are in full agreement with the final outcome. The Trustees take the opportunity again of thanking Troston Farms Ltd for their very generous gesture, help

and understanding in making the new arrangement possible.

*From Vic Simmonds*

### **Narrow Escape**

Ted Haynes had just put his car into the garage and had gone through to his workshop, when storms led to a series of incidents which saw part of his house collapse on to his garage. The drama happened in Troston at about 2.30pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

“I have to admit I was scared,” said Ted, “I was feeling so lucky that I hadn’t been hurt that afterwards I went out and bought two Lottery tickets – but only one of my numbers came in.”

The wind had snapped a large branch from a willow tree near the Bull pub. The branch fell on to power cables which, in turn, pulled down an electricity pole, which then pulled down part of the brickwork of Ted and Sue Haynes’ house, where they have lived together for nearly 30 years.

While the freak incident left the village without electricity for several hours, it has caused ongoing problems for the couple, not least with their car insurance company which initially refused to let them have a courtesy car until their vehicle, buried inside, was recovered. Eventually, the insurance company relented and the couple were given a courtesy car.

In the meantime, neighbour Ian Whitaker-Bethel and his wife, who run Abbey Security, loaned them a vehicle. Ted and Sue would like to offer a deeply felt thank you to all their neighbours who rallied to their aid.

### **West Stow Anglo Saxon Village**

Come face to face with characters from the villages long past 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Watch skilled handlers demonstrate the wonder of falcons and owls 26<sup>th</sup> July.

Meet an Orc, an Elf and a Ranger at the ring Quest Weekend 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July

### **Swifts at Troston Lodge**

To close on a happy note, people may remember that last year I wrote an article in the newsletter about the swifts nesting in the roof of Troston Lodge. Happily, they returned again this year despite the appalling weather. They were, however, about a week late – I spotted the first one on May 10<sup>th</sup>. I reckon we’ve got about six pairs nesting in the roof, which is about the norm. In early June, I also spotted a pair of red kites wheeling in the sky above Heath Road. With their distinctive, deeply-forked, tails they are indeed a splendid site!

It would be fun to hear more about the birds and animals in our fields – and gardens...

*From Roger Anderson*

### **Thank You**

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

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](mailto:graeme@lmrinternational).

### **Local Contacts:**

#### ***Clubs & Societies:***

Women’s Institute	269219
Bowls Club	269468
Book Club	269614
Village Hall Bookings	268134
Custodian, Troston History Book	268622
Troston Heritage Group	269574

#### ***Local Shops:***

Jackdaw 269453  
 Honington Camp Post Office 269215  
 Jin Fu Chinese Restaurant 269933  
 Kingfisher Chip Shop 268976

**Schools:**

Honington CEVC Primary 269324  
 Ixworth Middle School 230387  
 Ixworth CEVC Primary 230228  
 Thurston Community College 230885

**Health Services:**

Ixworth Surgery 230252  
 Ixworth Pharmacy 234020  
 NHS Direct 0845 4647  
 Amanda Stoner, Chiropodist 268351

**St Mary's Church:**

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

**Emergency:**

Fire Police Ambulance 999  
 Electricity (power cuts) 0800 783  
 8838  
 Water (emergencies) 0845 714  
 5145  
 Environment 0800 807060

**Police:**

Police non-emergency 01284  
 774100 or 101

**Government Officials:**

Troston Parish Council Clerk 01284  
 763098  
 St Eds BC Cllr Christopher Spicer 230800  
 SCC Cllr Becky Hopfensperger 07876  
 683516  
 David Ruffley MP (Bury St Eds) 244199  
 Matthew Hancock MP (W. Suffolk) 01638  
 565945

**Local Trades and Services**

Local trades-people who would like to be listed would be welcome. The idea is to provide a simple directory of services – not pages of paid adverts. Naturally, all names will be given in good faith, with no responsibility for the quality of goods or services delivered. Please email updates, corrections or requests to [graeme@lmrinternational.co.uk](mailto:graeme@lmrinternational.co.uk) or leave a message on 268082

A14 Aerials 01359 234973 /  
 07876015674  
 Accounting Advice (Sophie) 01359 231609 /  
 07595913100  
 Allison's Mobile Hairdressing 01284  
 724598 / 07752382590  
 Austin Electrical 01359 268262 /  
 07879417420  
 Bell Flower Nursery 07879644958  
 Bond Gardening 01842 753261 /  
 07500560512  
 Bumper Car Taxi 01284 733933  
 Carpentry & Joinery 01449 674119 /  
 07866478469  
 Chimney Sweep 01359 232335  
 Claire's Hair 01359 269293

Elite Fencing 07761651567	01359 221128 /	Strands Hair Styling Ixworth 230300	01359
Evan Markell Gardening	07545157737	Traditional Flintwork 268500 / 07870320354	01359
Fix A Leak 07703256356	01359 269415 /	Yoga with Julia	07775758438
Forestry & Grass	07867971868		
Game Electrical 787255 / 07860676415	01284		
I G Garden Services 268279 / 07831838059	01359		
Jay's Window Cleaning 241075 / 07745499323	01359		
Just Hair 232007	01359		
Kim's Cleaning 750677 / 07979082212	01842		
Lawn Mower Doctor 230187 / 07951152665	01359		
Martin's MOTs 230536 / 07808508864	01359		
Mays Accounting 269005 / 07760199434	01359		
Mobile Holistic Therapy 810133 / 07877321531	01284		
Pilates with Min 268769 / 07921452180	01359		
Roofing 268786 / 07932761754	01359		
Sally's Catering Events	01359 259923		
Squeaky Clean Windows 810679	01284		
Stowlangtoft Hall Nursing 230216	01359		