



Impact of NHS Changes

It was thought that the Parish Annual Meeting, on Monday 13th May, would be a good forum for the Village to learn more about the impact on us of the April changes to the NHS. Dr Matthew Lockyer of the Ixworth Surgery kindly agreed to attempt to explain the changes and answer questions.

He said none of the Partners felt they could genuinely explain the potential impact. But the increasing demand for medical care, the continuous discovery of new treatments and medication, and growing sophistication of ways to tackle illness meant that costs were growing at an unlimited rate. As the country struggled with the debts it had mounted up some difficult choices had to be made. The three major political parties all agreed the cost of the NHS would need to be limited. The Coalition is seeking some £20 billion of savings.

It is not just about money. There was much evidence to suggest that care in the UK for heart attacks and chronic illnesses were not at the vaunted level claimed, and most of Western Europe offered better success rates. The centralising zeal of past governments had created a bureaucracy and need for ever more detailed performance indicators that consumed resources and time. The changes were intended to involve local GPs more in deciding priorities and acting as the voice of the patient. The intention was to remove layers of management and form-filling. It was thought in some areas the private sector could provide better quality services at a lower cost - as they would not need to support such an overhead of civil servants.

The changes in April have made the NHS more hands-off from central government bureaucracy and reduced the interventionist role of the Secretary of State. In our area, various committees have been formed of GPs, hospital representatives and laypeople to give advice on priorities and resource allocations. This is expected to lead to variations in priorities and treatment across England. The changes will also attempt to connect Social Services and Health Services more closely – but this will take management effort and some good sense to genuinely co-ordinate efforts.

Some people feel strongly there was no mandate for these changes in the manifestoes of the individual political parties, and the Coalition has forced through changes with little debate. Others claim the evidence for the need for improvement, relative to the rest of Europe, is out-of-date. Also the nature of the savings to be made, and where, has become controversial. The fear of privatisation, loss of jobs, the workings of internal markets and the judgement needed in competitive tendering has all contributed to a sense of pending chaos.

The impact on the Ixworth Surgery has been that several senior partners are now considering early retirement. More of their time will need to be spent on committees and administration rather than with patients. More junior doctors will need to step up. As budgets are cut invidious decisions will need to be made. There is also a fear that poor performing hospitals (Ipswich?) will take budget from the better hospitals (Bury) to fund needed improvements. On the plus-side, however, the Ixworth Surgery has been able to provide new services like physiotherapy, and improved support for dementia care. Feedback from local people on the services they receive, like out of hours cover, would be most welcome.

(Please email your views on what is working well, and not so well, for me to collate the Village response to Dr Lockyer – graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk).

Planning & Village Developments

The Bull Site: Thanks to the efforts of Christopher Spicer, Ian Gallin Chief Executive, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, visited Troston to give us advice on council policy with regards to any housing development in the village.

There have been a couple of meetings with Greene King since then and we have been led to believe a planning application will be made in July. (To cynics, no year was mentioned!) There will be a problem in supporting any housing development unless power lines that are crossing the proposed football pitch on the new site are removed by the developers. The provision of adequate recreational facilities is of course integral to the development as a whole.

Custom Bikes Site: A draft proposal to clean-up the site and build three houses was received. Councillors had no objections in principle to developing the site - but thought the proposed communal parking and access to the road needs to be connected to the plans being proposed by Greene King.

Keeping the Village Tidy

The Council wanted to thank Karen Gradidge for her efforts in keeping the playground tidy despite the weather, work commitments and illness. We feel sure the village would want her to know she is much appreciated.

It was raised at the Parish Meeting that some front gardens look particularly in disarray – and perhaps “dirty plot notices” could be sent! There were suggestions that the village should enter the “Villages in Bloom” competition to motivate residents. What do you think – can we be bothered to work together in making the village more attractive - and combat the impression of the derelict pub? **Come to the next Parish Meeting to express a view Monday 1st July at 19.30**

From Nigel Pitcher, Parish Clerk

Rural Entrepreneurs

The Government has just launched a £20 million business training scheme to bring new skills and business knowledge to rural areas. The funding will go towards meeting 70% of your training costs. Courses will be held in local colleges and cover subjects such as business management, accounting, marketing and computing skills. The courses range from one day workshops to qualification courses. For more information visit www.defra.gov.uk

Please give feedback to the Parish Council if the scheme is helping you or not so we can at least lobby on your behalf for improvements.

Honington School

This year is the school’s 150th Anniversary and we hope to put up a display that reflects the life of the school. If anyone has photographs, reports, newsletters or anything which would help to make this a real event for the children we would be very grateful. Let us know if you can help by ringing 269324.

From Brenda Burridge

Calthorpe & Edwards Educational Foundation

This Foundation has existed for over 250 years to help young people under the age of 25 with study materials required for Further Education. In effect, this means any course that is NOT offered at Upper School/Community College. This includes NVQs that are not offered in schools.

The grant, which is usually limited to a maximum of 3 years, may be extended, at the discretion of the Trustees, by one year, but again no person over the age of 25. To qualify applicants must reside in one of 13 parishes:

- Category A (known as the five Inner Parishes) includes Ampton, Ingham, Gt. & Lt. Livermere & Timworth.
- Category B (known as the eight Outer Parishes) includes Culford, Fornham St. Genevieve, Fornham St. Martin, Gt. Barton, Ixworth, Troston, West Stow & Wordwell.

Should there be a waiting list, preference will be given to those from Category A. At present the annual grant, paid in three equal instalments is £250 per annum. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk: Mrs Rosemary Boswell, Chegwidden, Beauford Road, Ingham, IP31 1NW or e-mail rgboswell@care4free.net

Euston Rural Pastimes Event - June 9th

This is our 22nd year and we have two major star attractions: the Devil's Horsemen - a stunning display team – and, thanks to Paul Rackham, the first appearance of the Unique Holt 75, the last surviving WW1 artillery tractor. However, we do need you as well, not only to attend but also to help with setting up the week before, so please give me a call 01359 265 132. Helpers are also needed on the day, on a two hourly rota.

Lunches will be served as in previous years in the Old Kitchen at Euston Hall. Two courses with wine or fruit juice followed by tea or coffee cost £10, and bookings should be made with Gill Farrow on 01842 763660 by 6th June at the latest please.

Please, please could we have tombola prizes. Prizes for all ages are welcome.

From Ann Grimwood 20 Garden Fields

Local Carers' Group

If you are caring for a member of your family, or a close friend, you are invited to the Carers' Group who meet at the High Street Café in Ixworth. This support group, which originates from Ixworth Surgery, meets monthly, usually on the first Monday in the month at 2.15pm. Should you want to know more please contact Sue Nutt at the Surgery 01359 230252 on a Monday morning (or leave a message). Advisers from the Alzheimer Society and Suffolk Family Carers attend the meetings.

Our Church

A slip of the finger, and our copy for the last newsletter went into cyberspace. Nonetheless, we had a good turnout at our annual Lambing Afternoon on April 16, making over £70 for church funds. It was a lovely afternoon in every way. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Jeanne and I attended the farewell Choral Evensong for Bishop Clive at the cathedral last Sunday. Prior to coming to Suffolk in 1999 as Bishop of Dunwich, he had spent most of his ministry in London, including Hackney and Tower Hamlets. Clive has been very supportive of the agricultural community. He and his

wife Sue have enjoyed their years in Suffolk and are retiring to the hills of Wales. Obviously, they have found country life suits them!

Rural Pastimes is on Sunday, June 9, this year, and as usual, Troston is tasked with parking thousands of cars. If you can help, please contact me on 269614 or at doug.neupert@talktalk.net. Helpers receive passes to the show. It's a great day out!

Frankie Wright will be confirmed on Sunday, June 16, at St Peter's Church, Thurston, 4 p.m. Please remember Frankie in your prayers. All are welcome to attend the service.

From Revd. Doug Neupert, Asst. Priest

Troston Heritage Appeal

A mystery donation has forged a link between an American church and our medieval church in Troston.

Out of the blue, a donation reached the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust from St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Seattle. The American church has a grant-giving body, the "Cloud Nine" Committee which makes donations to worthy projects. The restoration of our dilapidated 17th century pulpit and later reading desk - parts of which have fallen off and are now considered unsafe for regular use - was considered worthy of American Aid.

Ms Hylton Hard, chairman of the Cloud Nine Committee, is trying to track down the person who gave the money. She understands that a member of their congregation spent a year in England and may have known someone in Troston.

The donation has helped raise the £2,000 plus for the restoration work. Other grants are coming from the Norman Scarfe Trust, Allchurches, and the Francis Coales Trust. Progress reports and photos will be sent to Cloud Nine members along with invitations to visit Troston.

Craftsman Joe Dawes is due to begin the restoration at the end of May.

Village Heritage Festival

Please don't forget to note 20th July, the date of the Festival of Archaeology at Troston Church, 2pm to 4.30pm. Well known regional historian Clive Paine will talk on Troston's famous 'eccentric' son, Capel Lofft, a radical lawyer, minor poet, backer of the Honington poet Robert Bloomfield, American Independence and more, at 2.15pm.

The festival is a great opportunity to learn more about our exceptional medieval wall paintings and early graffiti, and this year the impressive 17th century pulpit plus reading desk will have been restored to glory! Look out for refreshments, good secondhand books, plants and so on. Offers of cakes and scones very welcome.

From Sue Sollohub, chairman, Troston Heritage Appeal Group

Women's Institute

Please note the following WI Meetings:

- Wednesday 12th June - Garden Meeting. By kind invitation of Jenny Hewes, we are meeting at Troston Hall at 6.30 pm for croquet if dry or Bananagrams if wet. Please bring a plate of food to share or a bottle!

- Wednesday 10th July - Outing. Walking tour of Bardwell, with Joan Smith, refreshments may be available at the Dun Cow. Depart Troston at 6.15pm.
- Wednesday 14th August - Social Meeting - t.b.a.
- Wednesday 11th September - 7.45 pm Village Hall. 'Myths about Japan' - Mary Grace Browning is coming to discuss modern Japan with us.

New members are always welcome, if you would like further information please contact: Jenny Simmonds (Secretary) on 269219 or Carol Littlewood on 269769

From Carol Littlewood

The Village Hall

Following our AGM, a revised committee is now in place, including several new members whom we thank for their interest and support.

Mrs Val Holden Chairperson, Mrs Cathy Eaglen Treasurer, Mr Nigel Pitcher Secretary, Mrs Sue Bishop Bookings. Members are: Mr David Corrie, Mr Peter Fairweather, Mr Jacques Grotier, Mr Rob Holden, Rev Doug Neupert and Mr Geoff Potter.

The hard work and dedication to the Village Hall by David Corrie has been outstanding, having shouldered, single-handedly, the burdens of Chair, Treasurer and Bookings for some considerable time. We are grateful for his continued support as a committee member and thank him sincerely for all his efforts.

Our regular bookings continue. Two wedding receptions and private functions have also been booked.

From Sue Bishop

Troston Poor Estate

As the Village knows, Skid Parish died in December, after a period of ill health. He had been a valued trustee for 25 years who brought good advice to our meetings. Our thoughts go to Maureen his wife.

Our thanks also go to Olive Preston, who resigned after 28 years and we are very grateful for her guidance, and Jack Barnard, who left the village two years ago, but is still a trustee and auditor of the yearly accounts for which we thank him most sincerely. He has been Auditor since 1996.

From Vic Simmonds

Wildlife Watch

Otters have become a major tourist attraction in Thetford, with daily sightings drawing people from all over the country. They are the descendents of the three captive-bred otters released on the River Blackbourne at Ixworth Thorpe in 1983 by the Otter Trust.

There will be regular monthly guided bird identification and song walks at Lackford Lakes with Paul Holness. Bring or borrow binoculars, plus £3.00 donation to Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Saturday 8th June 10.30 to 12.30, Wednesday 12th June 11.00 to 13.00, and Saturday 29th June 11.00 to 13.00.

There will also be a midsummer mammals guided walk on Friday 21st 10.00 to 12.00 noon, with the site manager Will Cranstoun.

On Saturday 30th June 10.00 to 14.00 there will be a junior photographic workshop (10 to 16 year olds). Learn the basic skills required for wildlife photography with expert tuition. Bring your own camera, no matter how old – but please book 01284 728 706.

From David Addy lackford.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Gardening with Bill & Ben

The crowns of your perennials are now forming, it is time to identify where the gaps are, note the surrounding plants; when they flower, height and colour. Then we can fill that gap! Offer of the month tomato plants three for £1.20 Please come to our nursery or visit our stall Sunday Monday 26th – 27th may at Bury's Whitsun Fayre.

From Anita & Ian Jessop, Bill & Ben Nursery, Fen Road, Pakenham IP31 2LS

Have a “good hair day”

After seeing your latest News Letter asking for possible contributions, I would like to advertise my Hair Salon “Strands” in Ixworth. I have over 20 years experience in cutting and styling ladies & gents hair. Our opening hours are Tue, Wed, Thu, 8.30 – 19.00 and Fri 8.00 – 18.30. Appointments not always necessary. So for a Professional & Friendly service phone me on 01359 230300

From Sarah Farrow

Contributions Please

Please send possible contributions to the Newsletter to graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk or by post to Church Cottage - For example: where is a good place for Sunday lunch with the family?