



January '14

### Social Club – Quiz Night

The Sports and Social club has got off to a good start with 20 people attending the inaugural meeting. So far we have had a social get together in November and a New Year party in December.

The next **do** will be the Quiz, so get a team together for a fun evening on the 31st January 7 o'clock for a 7.30 start. This event will be great for a family team. And as it is the Chinese New Year then come and sample the delicious buffet of Chinese food served during the interval. Contact David on 268667 so he can arrange the order.

So now we need some ideas for the next few events and all suggestions are very welcome. One suggestion we have had is for a walking group. If you would like to be involved with this please let me know.

From Anne Walker 01359269360 and [amwglide@gmail.com](mailto:amwglide@gmail.com)

### Parish Council Meeting:

#### The Bull

The estate agents, Fleurets, tell us the freehold of the pub has been sold, subject to contract, to a private buyer for about £175,000. Not expensive for a three bedroom property. If the prospective owners intend to open as a pub is unknown – could be just an addition to a “land bank”.

### Borough Council Report

Christopher reported his meeting with our local Planning Officer, Mr Dave Beighton, about our concerns about the development of the Children's Play area we lease from Greene King. He deduced from their conversation that Mr Beighton thought:

1) Officers had not actually given us any Policy Guidance over the past 3 years; they have just “*listened sympathetically*”. Christopher suggested to Mr. Beighton that it felt more like we had been “led up the garden path”.

2) He could not support his predecessor, Steven Burgess' insistence on demanding an identical recreation area and he considered that the adjoining arable field would meet “like for like” criteria.

3) It was right for him to ask Greene King to withdraw their proposal and to resubmit in three separate stages; the first for two houses on the Ixworth Road frontage, the second for eight houses on the Recreation Area ( 6+ 2 social ) with relocation of the Children's Play Area, and the third for a football field land allocation on Livermere Road. He considered that this phasing was “*good planning, provided social housing and was better commercially for Greene King*”.

4) The Parish Council may now wish, upon receipt of the second application, to insist on a full size football pitch with the electric cable placed underground. This would be fiercely opposed, however, by Greene King and we should not expect support from Borough Planners.

5) If we were successful in achieving the above, the Parish Council would still have to consider the cost of laying down a full size football/cricket pitch (no team would contemplate otherwise) plus the building of a pavilion.

6) The alternative is to accept Greene King's offer of land on the adjoining field and grass it down as an Open Recreational Space.

Councillors thanked Christopher for his efforts on our behalf. After expressing alarm about the confidence the Village could have in the planning process, the Council agreed to meet Greene

King's representatives to continue to seek a coherent and integrated development that provided an equivalent or better play area. A ploughed field and a fenced, much diminished, play area, could surely not be regarded as equivalent. A strongly worded letter is to be sent to Ian Gallin, the Chief Executive of St. Edmundsbury Borough Council. Alas, a glib response is expected - which will be listened to sympathetically.

*From Councillor Christopher Spicer*

### **Questions from Villagers:**

#### **Can we have a new Village Sign?**

At the previous meeting, ideas for a new village sign were requested – so far, the only suggestions forth coming have been:

- What looks like a green figure doing something unspeakable to a bull.
- A ghost town – with a skeleton wielding a scythe slashing hedgerows.

On a more positive note, a catalogue from the Harry Stebbing Workshop, who have produced very stylish signs for many of the local villages, was circulated for comment. (Thanks to Maureen Goddard). Each sign is an original work of art illustrating the unique character of each village. Beautiful workmanship that would grace any village but costs range from £2,500 to £4,000 or more – depending on complexity and material. The topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.

#### **Can we have a Dog Bin?**

A bin for dog waste was requested. Apart from the smell, pets can pick-up parasites and pass them on to humans. Indeed, tapeworm and roundworm eggs can remain infective in the ground for years and can be picked up by your pet whilst just sniffing. Tapeworm can be also picked up by eating the “intermediate host” like fleas. The

proposal is for a bin, attached to the Give Way sign, at the beginning of Church Lane. They cost about £200.

It was agreed that before we can proceed, the location must be accepted by the Borough/Suffolk County Council and they must agree to make it part of their weekly collection. At the moment every dog walker should see it as their duty to pick-up waste and put it in their own black-bin.

#### **Can we do more to support vulnerable residents?**

The Council were asked if they would consider nominating a Parish Councillor or Neighbourhood Watch member to ensure the safety of vulnerable villagers at times of emergency – like the recent loss of telephone service.

It was thought that immediate neighbours, who you know might be a more practical solution. They could access the house via knowing the code to your key-safe. Perhaps walkie-talkies, much cheaper these days, could be given to selected neighbours?

The Council does not have a list of villagers who may feel vulnerable through illness, or what ever. Previous attempts to maintain a list had received no response – should we try again?

#### **Can we move the Notice Board?**

The new village notice board was temporarily placed in some solitary splendour inside the bus shelter. The proposal is that it is located by the post box - where the old board still stands. Agreed by everybody present.

#### **Should we have a village lottery?**

In the past the village raised money for useful amenities by holding a lottery. To proceed the Parish would need to apply for a lottery operating licence issued by the Gambling Commission. The conditions are:

- The proceeds of the lottery do not exceed £2,000,000.
- The purchaser of a ticket must not win more than £25,000.
- At least 20% of the proceeds are spent on a purpose for which the Council has power to spend money.

Seems a good idea, we can live with those conditions – who will administer it? The proposal will be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

### **Police Report**

There had been one crime of interest in the Parish – the attempted theft of an underground BT cable in The Street. It had been cut but not removed.

Because there was no slack in the cable to make a quick repair, it took BT a week to fix and another week to fix the failed fix.

Over the next few weeks I will be visiting schools to talk about road safety – and parking outside of schools.

Villagers were asked to keep their eyes open for fly tippers – paint pots and pipework had been dumped by Heath Wood. Be vigilant and report suspicious activity - phone 999.

*From PCSO Claire Teakle, Ixworth Police Station*

### **SAFE Key Service**

Suffolk Police are offering residents a lost key service. For £1 a month plus VAT you get a branded key fob offering a £10 reward to the finder courtesy of Suffolk Police, and a 24/7 emergency helpline. The money collected is fed back into local charities.

To find out more phone 08444 121 802

### **County Council Report**

Flashing speed signs are being rolled out this month. Each village will have a chance to deploy the signs according to priorities set at the police tasking meetings – the next one will be held at 7pm 11<sup>th</sup> March at Bury St Edmunds Police Station.

The issue of pot holes on Heath Road, and the responsibilities of the owners of the lorries parking there, remained unresolved. Seeking to revoke the operating licence for the site was to be considered.

*From Councillor Becky Hopfensperger*

### **RAF Honington**

About 400 soldiers of the Royal Tank Regiment leave in March/April. Later in the month we welcome the RAF Police Wing, of some 200 personnel, plus the training school for two police helicopters.

### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014. Please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk (01284 763 098) with any issues you would like raised at the Meeting so they can be put on the Agenda.

*From Nigel Pitcher, Parish Clerk*

### **Church News**

Happy New Year! It seemed very strange to be celebrating Christmas and seeing in the New Year thousands of miles from Suffolk. This was the first holiday season Jeanne and I had celebrated in the US since 1980! I understand there was a very good turnout at the Christingle and Carol Service, with a total of £88.20 raised for the Church of England Children's Society!

Also a very big "thank you" for all your support and generosity at St Mary's Gift Day and coffee morning. The £652.13 raised on the day and via the envelopes, has enabled us to meet our financial obligations for this year.

The January Men's Breakfast is on January 18th, 8:15 to 9:30, at Livermere Village Hall, with Mike Brefitt speaking on "Only a Winter's Tale". All men are invited.

Don't forget that Tuesdays are soup days at the village hall, 12 noon to 1.30, £3 for soup, bread, coffee or tea, and biscuits.

As BT have still not connected us, I can be contacted on my mobile, 07804700956.

*From Rev Doug Neupert, Asst Priest*

### **Women's Institute News**

In 2015 The National Federation of WI's will be celebrating its centenary - it will also be the 40th Birthday of our Village WI. To mark the centenary there has already begun a baton (like the Olympic Flame) relay which is passing through all the area's of England and Wales, it comes to East Anglia in the Autumn.

New WI's particularly in towns and cities are springing up with membership drawn mainly from ladies in their 30's and 40's, it is now time for the baton in Troston to be passed on to the younger generation, if we are to celebrate our 40th Birthday next year.

Therefore, we should like to invite you to the following meetings:

Open Meeting - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 19.45 at the Village Hall. Sue Bennett of Troston will be giving an illustrated talk: "An Introduction to Family History". Sue will discuss ideas for tracing your family history, using examples from her own research.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 19.45 at the Village Hall, we hope to arrange a 'WI ROAD SHOW', when the decision on the future on our WI will be made.

The membership fee for the year is £34.00 which includes a monthly Suffolk West Federation News Magazine, 8 copies a year of the 'WI LIFE' Magazine, monthly Village meetings and or socials and of course membership to the largest women's organisation in the country!

For further information please contact: Carol Littlewood on 01359 269769 or 07833 577291 or email [carolhony@gmail.com](mailto:carolhony@gmail.com)

### **The Village Hall**

Having a birthday party, family event or business meeting? Then our lovely, cosy Hall, which has a kitchen, might just fit the bill. Contact Sue Bishop(269467) or Cath Eaglen(269753) to view and/or book.

*From Sue Bishop*

### **Village of the Year 2013**

At the award ceremony in December, Troston failed to win. The prize went to Great Barton. The judges said: "*The effort that villagers of Great Barton put into bringing the community together is extraordinary... they have detailed plans to safeguard vulnerable people... they have a good range of play equipment well located for all villagers to access... gardens are well tended... they even have a computer help club for those struggling with modern technology...* "

The prize was £1,000 plus £100 garden vouchers, a firkin of Adnams ale and cash for a village party.

They also won the Suffolk Wildlife Award of £100 for protecting hedgerows and other habitats, while maintaining walks with sensible field margins.

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Thanks to all contributors. Hopefully their articles have been edited in correctly enough. Please send possible material for the next Newsletter to [graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk](mailto:graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk) or by post to Church Cottage, Church Lane, Troston, IP31 1EX or short phone message 01359 268 082.