



### Village Social Club

Happy New Year! The party in the Village Hall was great fun. Please look out for the next event on the notice board.

*From Anne Walker amwglide@gmail.com*

### Bit of a Pickle

At the end of November Eric Pickles, the Local Communities Minister, had a wizard wheeze. He could boost the economy by ending the need for developers to make a (£106) contribution to affordable housing and recreational facilities from small scale projects.

As a result, Planning Officers can't secure a public open space contribution on the proposed two houses next to the pub on the Ixworth Road.

However, having clarified this point with Greene King's agent, it has been confirmed, in relation to the proposed eight houses on the football pitch, that the floor area proposed is in excess of 1000sq metres and that, therefore, there is no change to the level of £106 contribution that the Parish is seeking. Nor is there or will there be any change to any other factors, for example the requirement to provide the public open space before the loss of the existing, or the requirement to relocate the power cable.

*(In essence, the children of Troston will forgo about £6,700 which could have been spent upgrading the swings and climbing frames so the Developer can achieve a bigger profit on this multi million pound project! Nice one Eric.)*

*From Dave Beighton, Planning Officer*

### Affordable Homes

Although not disastrous for Troston, this is disappointing news. The need from local young people for affordable housing continues to increase as demand for rural living soars, and migration from high income urban households adds to the demand.

Low income families living in rural areas now face a difficult future, often having to move, leaving support and employment networks behind them. Recent analysis by the Rural Housing Alliance found that in 90% of Suffolk, property prices were on average eight times local incomes.

This unsustainable affordability gap is destabilising many villages, driving out low income households and starving local services of employees and customers. This is not a new crisis, but one that continues to get worse. Maintaining a balance of income earners, household types and age groups is crucial to keeping villages vibrant and active. Developments of affordable rural homes help to achieve this balance and diversity.

*From Peter Moore, Chairman Rural Housing Alliance*

### Bull Site Development Hearing

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January, the planning applications to develop the Bull Site were approved by the Borough's Development Control Committee. They agreed to the six key conditions requested by the Parish:

1. It is essential the high-voltage cable is either placed underground or around the field.
2. The proposed ploughed field is transformed into a level and grassed safe area for children to play, and a full sized football pitch established.
3. Promised play equipment is installed, and what little £106 money we can now seek is earmarked to enhance the amenities provided by the village to meet ten new homes.
4. Landscaping, fencing, and in particular safe access, are completed promptly so the new play area is attractive and secure.
5. Clear boundaries are defined so the pub can be sold without further delay.

6. No building on the main site begins until the new play area is completed and useable – not just started!

*From Graeme Norris & Peter Hay, Troston Parish Council*

### **Village Lottery**

The Village lottery has got its licence, constitution and bank account. Some £200 for tickets from parishioners has already been collected. During the coming weeks, Councillors will be “knocking on doors” to sell more tickets. For an annual stake of £15 there will be prizes of £50, £25 and £15 every two months – plus a bonus prize every six months.

The draw will be at the Parish Council Meeting or perhaps Social Club Event. There are about 260 eligible participants in the village and we need most of the village to take part to make the lottery worthwhile. The first draw is planned for March to give time to sign-up as many villagers as possible. Please sign-up to be a winner!

*From Richard Walker, Parish Councillor*

### **Broadband Delayed**

As to be feared, the promised delivery of faster broadband to Troston has been delayed. According to Peter Ingram who is project managing Better Broadband Suffolk:

"Work on cabinets in the Honington area is progressing, but Openreach have encountered some delays in getting traffic management schemes approved to work in the highways. We had hoped to get EAHNT2 ready for service three months ahead of the contracted schedule (ie by the end of March 2015), but it is now likely to be ready by the contracted schedule of end of June 2015".

*From Alan Bennett*

### **Get a Dish?**

Openreach has not only an exclusive contract but also tax-payer subsidies. They have failed to meet contracted targets for coverage. It is frustrating because the targets are not ambitious enough, in

terms of coverage or speed of internet to be provided - and they have not even met it.

It is a good idea to consider alternative technologies such as satellite to deliver access in many rural areas. The quickest, fairest and most cost-effective solution is the voucher scheme piloted in Wales to offer those living and working in the countryside a grant to buy a satellite solution.

*From Charles Trotman, Advisor to Country Land & Business Association*

### **Church News**

The church looked beautiful for Christmas, thanks to the kindness of villagers who decorated it with flowers and candles, making it a lovely setting for the Carol Service, and the Christmas Eve Service, where we were treated to a solo of “In the bleak mid-winter” by Lilly Wright.

The £44.50 collection from the Carol Service was donated to the charity *Embrace the Middle East* who aim to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Middle East. They do this by partnering with local Christians who provide health, education and community development programmes to those in need - regardless of their faith or nationality. *Embrace the Middle East* is a non-governmental, inter-denominational charity helping the refugees we see daily on our televisions.

Following the Remembrance Day service in November, the £40 collection was donated to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The January service will be “café church” and held in the village hall on **25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 10:50am**; you would be most welcome to join us for a hot drink and a bacon sandwich before a less formal family communion service. Please see the notice boards for alternative services in nearby villages.

### **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to the Poppy Appeal when I did a house to house collection in November. I collected £112.41 and

together with the £40 from the church collection, Troston's contribution was significant.

## **Tuesday Soup Day**

Tuesday lunches have restarted with a bowl of soup and fresh bread being offered at a cost of £2:50 and a hot drink with biscuits at a further £0.50. There is no need to book, just drop in and join us, everyone is very welcome; that's every Tuesday 12noon to 1:30pm in the village hall.

Any enquiries regarding weddings, baptisms and funerals should be made to the team rector of Ixworth, Revd Phillip Garbett on 01359 234415 or email phillipgarbett@btinternet.com

*From Jane Harland*

## **Women's Institute News**

Members voted to have their New Year celebrations at our January 14th meeting.

Unless otherwise stated, we meet at the Village Hall at 19.45. When we have talks, we have our speaker on first for approximately 45 minutes, followed by refreshments and then any business for our WI is discussed. We try to finish by 10pm. Guests are always welcome and new members joining in October this year can have 15 months for the price of 12 months.

*From Jenny Simmonds, 01359 269 219*

## **The Village Hall**

Are you planning a party or family event? Wondering how everyone will fit in your home? Well, like several people, hire our Village Hall and enjoy the party - without all that upheaval at home. I'm also always happy to show anyone around - just give me a ring on 269467.

*From Sue Bishop*

## **Farm News**

Sorry about the closure of the Ixworth Road a few weeks ago - please accept my apologies. The field was exceptionally muddy and rather a lot was transferred to the road as we loaded our beet lorries.

This is the first year that we have used this contractor, and I was unaware that he had neglected to put up signage to warn of delays as my previous contractor did. I will mention this to him and ensure that any future movements are signed appropriately - hopefully it shouldn't be a problem for a couple of years as the beet are being grown on the farmyard side of the road next season.

*From Andrew Maddever*

## **Police Report**

Alas, over the Christmas period there was more than the usual number of petty burglaries: Troston - Woodside View - on 15/12/14 a man's white Carrera Valour mountain bike was stolen from the front garden.

West Stow - between 1.45pm to 4.45pm 18/12/14 whilst vehicle parked on a dirt track near Country Park offender has broken rear nearside quarter light and taken handbag from within the boot.

Ickworth Park - between 8am 20/12/14 to 10.30am 21/12/14 a sheep in a field has been skinned butchered and the meat removed leaving behind the skin and carcass.

Pakenham - between sat 20/12/14 & 22/12/14 an attempt was made to remove diesel from an empty tank in a farm yard.

West Stow - during the morning 22/12/14 a window of a car parked on the Icklingham Road was broken and a search made of the vehicle a quantity of cash being taken.

Bardwell - during the afternoon of 22/12/14 a brightly coloured extensive set of Christmas lights in a garden were cut and stolen.

Great Livermere - overnight 22/12/14 entry was made to a shed after forcing gates to property and a quantity of apples stolen.

Great Livermere - overnight 23/12/14 a Sat Nav and sunglasses were stolen from an insecure vehicle.

Plummer Close, Ixworth - 24/12/14 residential property was entered after the garden gate was forced and a double glazed patio door was smashed. Jewellery was then stolen from within.

West Stow - 30/12/14 during a 40 minute period whilst visiting the Country Park, a red Peugeot 206 with registration V326GRB has had the nearside passenger window smashed and fishing equipment stolen from within.

Brand Road, Great Barton – 31/12/14 during the hours of darkness, damage has been caused to an outer pane of a double glazed window on a residential property in an attempted burglary.

If you have any information in relation to any of the above crimes please contact 101 or Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800555111.

*From Cheryl Peace, Community Watch Liaison Officer*

### **Hare Coursing**

Four men made guilty pleas to hare coursing offences following an incident in Ixworth in early October 2014. They were each fined £175 and all four were banned from attending Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire for the purposes of hare coursing. A fifth man failed to attend court as required to answer a similar charge and the bench have issued a warrant for his arrest.

*From Rebecca McDaid, PCSO 3314 Ixworth*

### **School News**

The children thoroughly enjoyed performing in their Christmas productions and having such an appreciative audience. "Troston's got talent."

Children return on 6<sup>th</sup> January for the Spring term. We are holding interviews for the post of Headteacher again this month to appoint my successor.

*From Brenda Burridge*

### **Postal Service at Risk?**

The Charter for the Royal Mail states it must deliver letters and parcels six days a week to every address in the UK at a uniform price.

Royal Mail has sent letters to Suffolk businesses warning that competitors who cherry-pick more profitable postal routes are putting postal deliveries to rural communities at risk. The government's watchdog, Ofcom, insists that this is just scaremongering.

Indeed, Ofcom said Royal Mail's productivity was actually improving, although the rate of progress was flat on the previous year and below the company's own targets. Ofcom's Chief Executive Ed Richards said: "We have considered all the evidence and have concluded that there is no present risk to the financial sustainability of the universal service – this is just an attempt to get more subsidies!"

### **Village Website**

Do visit the Village website <http://troston.onesuffolk.net> to keep up to date, suggest improvements and use the links to post any activities you might be planning. Any problems or queries please contact me.

*From Daniel Jaime 07871499112*

### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30 2nd March 2015. Please don't hesitate to contact me (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*