



Village Lottery

A very big thank you to all who generously bought tickets. We now have enough money to break even and have a “bonus prize” at Christmas. All money left after awarding the prizes will go towards Village improvements – and I’m sure you can think of many items that fall into that category! If so, please let me know.

The first draw took place at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 2nd March. Winners were: Carol Littlewood, Mick Balaam and Peter Mathews. Cheques are in the post.

It is still not too late to take part, and now there will be an additional bonus draw – please send me a cheque for £15 made out to **Troston Parish Lottery** at Weathervane Cottage, The Street, Troston, and a “ticket” with your lucky number will be posted to you.

From Richard Walker, Parish Councillor

Women’s Institute News

We will be holding our new member’s evening in the Village Hall on the **11th March** at 19.45. Please come along and learn about our organisation and meet some of our members. Fun and friendship is what the WI is seeking to offer. The talk will be given Edward Crichton, the Fine Art dealer of Lacy Scott, on “*A day in the life of an Antiques Auctioneer*”. The rest of the programme for the year is:

- 8th April: Natasha of The Pink Powder-Puff will give us her “*Beauty Tips and Tricks*” and a demonstration.
- 13th May: Annual Meeting and Resolutions. Come and enjoy a glass of wine and some cheese. Visitors are always welcome.
- 7th June: Euston Rural Pastimes – the tea tent.
- 10th June: Annual Outing – place still to be agreed.

- 8th July: “*Discover the Joy of Drugs– A Bluffer’s Guide*” - Husbands and Partners also welcomed.
- 12th August: Social Event.
- 9th September: Wendy Saggars will be speaking about Social Work with Children and Families.
- 14th October: Troston WI 40th Year Anniversary Celebration.
- 11th November: Malcolm Crowe of Capricorn Crafts will talk about “*The work of a Toymaker including string puppets, wooden toys, games and puzzles*”.
- 7th December: Carol Concert at St.Mary’s BSE
- 9th December: Christmas Party.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, unless stated otherwise. Please come and join us.

From Carol Littlewood 01359 269 769

The Village Hall

Spring is in the air! With better weather and longer, lighter evenings just around the corner, go ahead and book our attractive village hall for that family/social occasion. Just £10 an hour for villagers.

Always happy to show you around - just give me a ring on 269467.

From Sue Bishop

The Bull Site Development

Despite promises by Greene King in January to put the pub on the market – still no progress. Indeed, although planning permission has been granted by the Borough to develop the children’s playing field, no compensation monies have been paid. There is a view that by delaying, a change in Government in May will lead to the scrapping of compensation to encourage house building.

Troston Parish Council thought it would be advisable to appoint a solicitor to look after the Village's interests. Gross & Co has agreed to scrutinise the transfer of the field to the Village and protect our rights of way across the new housing development.

From Roger Anderson, Parish Councillor

Paddock Way Safety

There continues to be concern about the safety of vehicles leaving Paddock Way. Although the mirror provides some help, the view of traffic on the Livermere Road is obscured by two large trees on a mound. The Borough's Highways Officer is aware of the issue but claims the trees are on private land. In his opinion the matter should be included in the speed-calming measures being considered as part of the Bull Site development. In the meantime, the Parish Council is unsure how to proceed. Perhaps we need People Preservation Orders as well as Tree Preservation Orders? Perhaps a petition would give the Council some leverage with the Highways Officer?

From Graeme Norris, Parish Chairman

Painting for Pleasure

Is Drawing and Painting a subject you last did at school? Would you like to try your hand again? If so, then this could be for you. Although not a formal class, tuition and help will be offered. Sessions will be free and easy and unlike a class you do not have to attend every week. You can arrive and leave at a time to suit you and either take part in a class project or work on your own.

Initially materials will be provided free, so that you can try different mediums at no cost. This will be a non-profit making, self-help group. It is proposed to only charge the absolute minimum to cover the cost of renting the hall and simple refreshments.

Everyone, young or old, is cordially invited to come to an Open Session on Wednesday **11th March**, from 10.30am, where you can see

samples of the kind of things you could learn and without any obligation to join. Please come and have a look, maybe have a go, have a cuppa and a chat to help me assess everyone's needs.

Alternatively you can ring me on 01359 268483 if you want more information or are unable to attend the open morning but may be interested.

If you're wavering, remember medical research has now proved that adults who take up painting and drawing in a social environment, benefit from increased brain activity whilst learning new skills!

From Sue Lord

Village Social Club

We had a steering group meeting on the 13 February 2015 to plan the year ahead. Anyone can come to these planning meetings – the more ideas we get the better. I will put the next one on the website.

We propose to have a talk in the village Hall on Genealogy - date to be arranged. Watch the whiteboard and the website. . Even if you do not intend to delve into your past this should be an interesting evening with local examples of ancestry.

The Pop Up Pub will continue to be held on the last Friday of the month.

The next Quiz will be on the **5th June 2015** with refreshments during the interval.

A Bar B Q is planned for one Sunday afternoon in summer.

We will have the special Halloween Pop Up Pub where the children can show us their outfits again And of course the village walks will continue on the 4 week basis thanks to Pat and Martyn. Check the dates of the walks on the village website www.troston.onesuffolk.net or call Pat or Martyn on 269632 . The next walk is on the 18th March meet at 9-50 in the village hall car park.

Planned dates for walks this year are: 15th April; 13th May; 11th June; 8th July; 5th August; 2nd

September; 30th September; 28th October; 25th November; and 23rd December.

From Anne Walker, 269360

amwglide@gmail.com

Mustang Sally

Enjoy the fun of Line Dancing classes every week - starting event Tuesday **17th March** (except every second Tuesday of the month when the W.I. meet). The first session is free and thereafter £4.00 per session, 7:30–9:00ish. Come along to Sapiston Village Hall and meet new friends, have fun, keep fit. Two left feet? Not a problem! All types of music played. For more details see mustangsallys.fr@hotmail.com. “See ya all there!”

From Sally Lanario, 01359 268260 or 0745 664848

Seeking Talent

The Theatre Royal Supporters Group in Bury are holding an amateur talent contest for its “Bury’s Got Talent” event. The winner will win £1000. The heats will be in June at the conservatoire in W.S. College with the final held in the Theatre Royal on 5th July. Note: Closing date is the 31st March for entries. For details email:

www.theatreroyal.org

Church News

Firstly, I would like to remind everyone that the church is open daily, both as a place of quiet contemplation and as a historic building of fascinating interest. Please remember that it's your church so pop in whenever you wish. 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

We have finally been granted permission from the Borough and the Diocese to trim the 5 lime trees opposite Church Cottage, this work will be starting shortly.

The annual general meeting of St Mary's Church will take place in the village hall on **23rd April** at 7:30pm. This is a public meeting and everyone is welcome to attend. It is a good time for you to hear what goes on and for you to raise any issues you may want discussed.

Mothering Sunday on 15th March is the first anniversary of Café Church and we will be marking it with a family service in the village hall. This will not be a communion service, it will begin with breakfast at 10:50am followed by a fairly informal thanksgiving service. Do come along, adults and children welcome together, or on their own!

Services in Troston for March and April:

- 15th March Mothering Sunday: Café Church in the village hall 10:50am
- 29th March Palm Sunday: a team service 10am at Barnham Church
- 5th April Easter Sunday: Troston Church 11am Holy Communion
- 26th April Café Church in the village hall 10:50am

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.

From Jane Harland

Can we make local democracy better?

St.Edmundsbury will be seeking further cuts in services to meet our budget limits in the coming years. We are seeking views on how we can engage local people more in making these difficult decisions – but streamline the process. One idea is to amalgamate or remove parishes.

What do you think? Please phone me 01638 719309 or email peter.heard@westsuffolk.gov.uk
We have set a deadline for responses of **30th March**, 2015.

*From Peter Heard, St.Edmundsbury Borough
Legal Services*

On the subject of merging Troston Parish Council with a neighbouring Parish, in my opinion I do not think this a good idea. You would not only lose the identity of the Village, with its unique concerns and issues but also not gain a stronger voice. The success you have had in getting a better deal from Greene King than was being offered is a good example. However, I have always recommended having the occasional joint session for specific matters of mutual concern – for example: preventing speeding, pollution, hare-coursing or burglary.

*From Christopher Spicer, Troston's Borough
Councillor*

Farm News

Mud on the road is an issue every year. The use of new contractors who seem to be unaware of their responsibilities (or don't care!) seems to be the problem. Next beet season, however, British Sugar have agreed with Suffolk County Council to take a significant control over the loading and haulage of sugar beet - which should go some way in alleviating this problem. A "Traffic Marshall" should supervise the loading and signal for the next lorry, parked in a lay-by, to then move up. If a road is blocked for more than 15 minutes the Police can be informed and HGV licenses revoked.

From John Benton

Police Report

Another busy period with a mix of relatively minor to very serious incidents. Your help in preventing and catching perpetrators is vital.

Pakenham: 11th Jan. Compost and earth removed from a terracotta pot outside dwelling and the pot taken!

Great Barton: 12th Jan. A bird-scarer and gas bottle have been removed from a field by unknown offender.

Troston, Ixworth Road: 24th Jan. Between 9pm and 5am 500 litres of heating oil siphoned out from an insecure top lid which was open on a heating oil tank in rear garden of dwelling.

Great Livermere: 24th Jan: Front and rear number plates from a vehicle have been removed.

Ixworth Thorpe – 26th Jan. Person stopped by Roads Policing officer for not wearing a seat belt. Smell of cannabis in the car, small amount surrendered, verbal warning given.

Stanton - 29th Jan. Police called to premises on Stanton Industrial Estate, after a cannabis growing operation was found in one of the units. Two persons arrested and are on bail.

Great Barton: 1st Feb. Between 1.15am to 9.15am thieves entered rear yard of Public House via unlocked gates, entered walk in freezer and fridge and large quantity of food taken, bolt forced off cellar doors and upon entering alarm activated - nothing drinkable taken from cellar. (?)

Troston, Church Lane: 14th Feb. Overnight heating oil stolen from a storage tank to the side of a residential property. Access to the tank was gained by forcing the lid.

Great Barton: 22nd Feb. A two foot long wooden carved direction arrow at end of drive removed.

Troston, Ixworth Road: 25th Feb. Vehicle driven into metal roller door causing it to detach from fixings damaging the door allowing access to building. Front and rear number plates stolen.

Road Side Scam

Villagers are urged to be aware of a potential roadside scam involving men claiming to have broken down.

The warning follows a number of incidents last week whereby drivers have been flagged down by men from a supposedly broken down car. Motorists are either asked for cash so they can purchase fuel, or offered jewellery in exchange for cash. The “gold” jewellery is just cheap polished metal – and not worth what they are asked to pay.

Armed Robberies

Police are appealing for information after two armed robberies. Officers are linking the two robberies which both took place Saturday 31st January.

The first happened at around 7:10am when two men entered the post office as it was opening in The Street, Badwell Ash and demanded money, with what is described as a pistol, from a member of staff. The member of staff ran from the premises and was followed by the offenders - who left in the direction of Hunston although they did not take anything from the store.

Both men are described as white and wearing balaclavas and the first was described as around 5ft 8in tall, wearing a dark blue hooded with green/yellow gloves, dark trousers, black shoes and carrying a white cotton bag with a pin hammer. The second is described as wearing a black and grey hooded with grey sleeves, black trousers and carrying a small black handgun. It is believed that they were driving an old dark blue Peugeot.

The second incident took place at around 7:35am at the post office in The Street, Stanton. Two men entered the store armed with a small handgun and a hammer and stole £100 and 200 cigarettes which they put in a white bag. The two men are described as white and both wearing balaclavas. The first is described as around 5ft 9in tall, of slim build. And the second is described as being around 5ft 7in tall. It is believed that they were driving a dark blue old style Ford Fiesta or Peugeot.

A report was then received that a blue Peugeot 306, registration **V167 KWK**, was stolen from outside a property in Oakey Lea, Bradfield St George and officers are keen to hear about any sightings of the car since it was taken.

DCI Jim Gooding said: *“I urge anyone with information, or anyone who may have witnessed the incidents to get in touch. We are also keen to hear from anyone who had sighting of the Peugeot after it was stolen, or anyone who has seen anything suspicious in these areas.”*

If you have any information that could help police, please contact Bury St Edmunds CID on 101 quoting CAD 72 of 31 January call or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

From Cheryl Peace, Community Watch

A Big Thank You

After a long career, our Borough Councillor, Christopher Spicer, will be retiring from political life, and will not seek re-election in May. The Parish Council thanked Christopher for his efforts on behalf of the village and the insight he brought from long experience of getting the Borough to take action.

Alas, after 17 years in Troston, Councillor John Benton and his family will be leaving in the next couple of months. The Parish Council thanked John for his willingness to always step up and help the village when high winds uprooted trees or ditches flooded and needing pumping. We wish John every success in his new job.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30 4th May. 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

