



Who mends the pot holes?

Who is easy to answer - Suffolk County Council Highways Department, when is more problematic.

Following recent wet and cold weather, water below the surface has frozen and cracked many roads. Delays of up to **two weeks** are to be experienced in organising repairs. Please use the online “report a pothole” service to specify the size and location of the defect. www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport

Graham Newman, the council’s cabinet member responsible for roads and transport, said “Depending on the severity of the hole and classification of the road we can then prioritise our efforts”.

When the council is notified of potholes, it reports them to contractors Kier MG who are tasked with repairing them.

Under the original contract, the more dangerous potholes, such as those deeper than 100mm or with sharp edges, on strategic and distributor roads had to be repaired in 24 hours. This led to a number of temporary patches that soon led to further problems later, costing the Council and Kier more money. The revised contract now stipulates a range of response times depending on severity.

Mr Newman said: “This approach reduces the overall risk to road users and the nuisance of roadworks as we repair each pothole just the once as a permanent measure.

Whenever a response time is not met the council deducts money from the payments it makes to Kier MG for providing the service”.

A spokesman for Kier MG said: “The amendment to the contract was a decision by Suffolk County Council following discussions with us around ways to improve productivity and public perception. If you have a problem contact Graham Newman - not us”.

What can we do to about the dog mess?

Alas, there have been a number of complaints about dog mess - please pick up and place the poo-bag in your grey bin.

For a trial period a dog-waste bin is to be placed on Church Lane to see if this helps. Some Villagers, however, feel the only solution is to begin the regrettable path of bringing prosecutions.

Dog walkers caught without a bag to clear up their pets' mess face £100 on-the-spot fines.

Under new rules, offenders who fail to pay the £100 within seven days face prosecution in a magistrates' court and a fine of up to £1,000. The new measure is being adopted by St.Edmundsbury under a law passed last year, the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime And Policing Act, which empowers councils to create a Public Space Protection Order to tackle problems linked to dogs, litter, alcohol or any other local scourge. The fines are given out by dog wardens or other council enforcement officials.

What’s happening about the Bull?

It seems the purchase of the pub is on hold until the building work on the new homes on

the adjacent plot is near completion. The Developer has asked to use the pub carpark for their equipment.

The Developer's solicitor is also seeking the Parish Council's permission not to build the agreed pedestrian access to the new estate alongside Siesta. The Council believe this access is important as it provides a safer way for children to get to the Younger Children's Play Area than walking round to the Bull carpark and entrance by Custom Bikes.

What's happening to the Brown Bins?

The collection of garden waste is in disarray at the decision of St. Edmundsbury Borough Council to charge for this service.

To distinguish people who have paid for their brown bin to be empty, from those who have declined to pay, St. Edmundsbury are to send to paid up residents a magic-marker pen to write an invisible *secret code* on their bin. Refuse collectors are to be equipped with special goggles that can read these marks.

From Jo King

When is the next Lottery draw?

Thank you all for your tremendous response in buying tickets. We will hold six draws in the year with the proceeds after prizes going to projects to improve the amenities of the village.

The first draw will be at the Village Quiz night on the 11th March. Good Luck!

From Richard Walker

Church News

Spring is upon us! It is such a lovely season of new beginnings and we are very excited to have a spring wedding here in Troston, on

Easter Saturday. We wish Neil and Victoria a long and happy married life together. In May baby Samuel Farnaby will be baptised in St Mary's bringing new life back into our historic church.

It is unfortunate that we can no longer hold weekly services in church but we will be there on Easter morning 27th March at 11am for our celebration with Holy Communion so do join us, you would be most welcome. Other services in the local villages are posted on the village noticeboard as well as those at the church.

St Mary's annual general meeting will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 27th April at 7:30pm and is open to all to attend.

Rural Pastimes

Euston Rural Pastimes will be held 12th June this year. The main attractions are the spectacular Knights of the Dammed jousting display team and the exiting Scurry and Trials team where ponies of all shapes and sizes take on a timed obstacle course. It promises to be another great family fun day out.

Help is always required to make this such a successful event, so if you could help with the setting up, taking down or on the day for a few hours, please contact Jane Harland on 01359 268144. You would be supporting an extremely worthwhile cause with 40% of the proceeds going to St Nicholas Hospice, 40% to the local churches and 10% to local charities.

From Jane Harland

Woman's Institute Events

Wednesday 13th April 2016 – 19.45 at Troston Village Hall – Open Meeting (Husbands & Partners Welcome).

Fancy a holiday? If so come and hear about how the Holiday Property Bond Company (HPB) works. Their members have a share in all the properties around the world that they own.

Wednesday 11th May 2016 – 19.45 at the Village Hall. Annual Meeting and Resolutions. Come and enjoy with some cheese and wine.

Wednesday 8th June 2016 – OUTING: 6 pm. Gliding at Rattlesden Gliding Club, bring a picnic supper with you, husbands and partners welcome to join us and have a flight.

If you would like to find out more about Troston WI please come along and be assured of a warm welcome.

For further information please contact: Jenny Simmonds (President) on 01359 269219 or Sonia Farnaby (Secretary) on 01359 268667.

From Carol Littlewood

Keep the Village Tidy

You can get a **free** litter-picking stick and bin bags by phoning 01284 763 233 or going online at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/LWYL

Telecoms Mast

Parish Councils are being approached by a company Shared Access which works with mobile operators identifying clubs, playing fields that may be interested in housing a telecommunication mast. In return they install floodlighting or give a cash payment or £25,000-28,000 for a 20-25yr lease. The masts are between 12 & 15 metres in height and about the thickness of a telegraph pole.

From Fran Sewell

Some people who live near communication masts get sick, its similar to living under high tension wires. I personally wouldn't buy a house near a mast so if we put one up it will depress house prices.

From Anne Walker

French Conversation?

Absolutely all levels welcome, but essentially beginners, no stress just fun. Ring me on 269467 for more info about this friendly, relaxed group.

From Sue Bishop

Creative Writing

Come and get creative with the written word, get involved with collective writing projects, short stories, poems and spoken word.

Learn different writing techniques, share your stories and ideas and socialise with people who have the creative writing bug.

Open for complete beginners, those of you who have had some experience or even if you're an expert, everyone is welcome.

Wednesday 23rd March 18.00 to 21.00 at the Leisure Centre, Beetons Way, Bury St.Edmunds IP33 3TT

Find out more 01284 760760

From Artheads

Village Social Club

Suffolk Sport are keen to encourage physical activity to get all ages fitter. We plan to use the Village Hall during the Summer to run a series of short sessions on activities like Tai Chi, Pilates, Badminton etc to help you discover what you would enjoy doing

regularly. We will provide any equipment and the classes will be free.

A survey is to be sent out in the next few weeks to seek your ideas.

From Maddy Knox, Suffolk Sport

Village Hall News

Come rain or shine this spring and summer, our Hall is the ideal venue for those slightly larger events: christenings, birthday parties, family gatherings etc. Ring Sue on 269467

Bob Holden is retiring and so we are looking for someone to maintain the Village Hall. The duties are to keep the place tidy, check equipment is working, replace light-bulbs, mend chairs and organise the heating service. Please contact me if you are interested in knowing more about the role 269653.

We are also looking for another Committee Member.

From Brenda Burridge

Continued Challenge

The finances of Suffolk County Council continue to be a challenge as we face further cuts to meet the Government's deficit reduction programme. We have, however, introduced the Adult Social Care Levy to ease the pressure on social care and meet costs of the new national living wage.

Consultation closes on the future of our Fire and Rescue Service to reflect the more than 30% reduction in 999 call demand over recent years.

Efforts to improve education has been a priority for the Council and the percentage of Schools now rated good or outstanding is at

79%, an improvement of 5% compared to this time a year ago.

From Beccy Hopfensperger, County Councillor

EU Referendum

There is a difficult choice ahead. The EU has many flaws but breaking away also poses risks. Our economy is fragile and the world seems to face a troubling future where allies will be needed.

As your MP, I feel you should be aware of my views as a founding supporter of Conservatives for Reform in Europe.

We take a hard-headed view of EU membership. We see the advantages of a market without tariff barriers, but have deep concerns about the loss of sovereignty, the drive towards a European super-state, over-regulation, and levels of immigration. We are reassured that the Prime Minister's proposed reforms are the best we can expect and would address these concerns. We believe the EU is also beginning to recognise it needs to change.

A strong Britain in a reformed EU would have the best of both worlds: outside the euro, and protected from deeper integration, but able to access the single market; in the world's greatest trading bloc of 500 million people, but still outside the Schengen area and able to maintain our borders. We would need to be very sure about the alternative before throwing such an advantageous position away.

It is time to weigh up the benefits as well as the costs of EU membership carefully, and focus on the real risks which leaving the EU could have on our future.

From Jo Churchill MP

Police Report

As part of a cost reduction programme Ixworth Police Station is to close and the Community Support Officer for Troston has been made redundant. For non-urgent matters dial 101, but if you believe a crime is in progress dial 999.

Bury St Edmunds will have a new locality Inspector, Matt Dee, who will be hosting a presentation for you to find out more about these changes, and to answer any questions.

This event will be held at the Morton Hall Community Centre, Wednesday 30th March 2016, from 1900 hrs

Neighbourhood Watch

Be a good neighbour - keep an eye open and spot suspicious behaviour. Note dubious phone calls or emails and alert your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Martyn Smith 07923 267 661

Action Fraud

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime.

Contact us any time of the day or night; the service enables you to both report a fraud and find help and support. We also provide advice over the phone by calling 0300 123 2040.

Visit www.actionfraud.police.uk for more information.

Course for Carers

“Don't feel you are alone - there is help out there.” Suffolk Family Carers is an

organisation which aims to offer support and information to anyone caring for a friend, family member or neighbour with any kind of illness, disability or frailty. We provide a variety of free courses to help you manage your emotions and take better care of yourself, balancing caring with other commitments you may have, and coping with day to day challenges. These sessions are a great way to gain useful information and meet others in a similar situation.

Please contact 01473 835 446 or cwc@suffolkfamilycarers.org

Easter Message

Easter is celebrated this month. Arguably the most important Christian festival, but Easter is set by the most complicated set of rules.

Archbishop Gregory decided in 1582 that Easter Sunday should be on the Sunday after the next full moon after the day when most astronomers can agree that the daylight and darkness are of equal length (called the vernal equinox). That is unless the full moon occurs on a Sunday, in which case the date is put a whole week back, which is why the date for Easter can be anything from 21st March to the 25th April.

In the east however, the churches of the Coptic and orthodox tradition still work on the Julian Calendar, set in the 4th century BC, which runs currently 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar, due to the difference in the calculation of leap years, ours being calculated in the west as whenever the year is divisible by four and the Julian's in the east taking leap years every fourth year.

Although setting the date is complex, the message of the season is simple: God so loved the world that he sent his son to show us a

new way of living which is uplifting and life building.

From Rev. Tony Redman

We need help! Please can you help us?

You may already be aware that the last few years have been difficult ones for our Church community. The building and churchyard will be there for years as they have for the last eight hundred odd years. The problem is lack of people to look after and run the Church.

We are now a very small Parochial Church Council of three from this village and a Treasurer who now lives in another village a few miles away. As far as doing things is concerned we are down to one able bodied person and are just about coping with one service a month in the Village Hall and the Tuesday lunches. We are very grateful to one couple who regularly clean the Church, and to the Parish Council for their financial support in looking after the lime trees and the grass cutting. Money-wise we are struggling to keep our heads above water with a few regular donations, Tuesday lunches and our share of the Rural Pastimes proceeds. Our share to the Church of England is approximately £5000 a year. Could you help in this direction?

What we also need are some younger people to get involved with running the Church. One immediate need is for someone to take on walking around the Church building about once a fortnight to check for any defects in the building and problems in the Churchyard.

The massive commitment of a few people to looking after the cleaning and floral

arrangements in the church building has continued for many years. However, you may feel that you have gifts in these directions that you could offer on an occasional basis (e.g. for the occasional 'spring clean' or to prepare for a special occasion). We would appreciate it if someone would offer to clean the brass, perhaps once a month.

We could very soon end up with a very important historical building which is the pride of our village but with nobody to look after it.

We are having our Annual Parochial Church meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm. There is formal business to be dealt with at this meeting but if you feel able to get involved in any way please come along to see what we can do together as a village community to get things on a more stable basis for the future.

Should you be unable to join us for the meeting, please contact one of us with your ideas and suggestions.

- Jane - (Secretary) 268144
- Keith & Audrey - (PCC members) 268320

Next Parish Council Meeting

Thanks to all who came to the last meeting to raise concerns and contribute to the discussions. The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30, Monday 9th May 2016. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any issues you would like put on the agenda - 01284 787 777.

From Linda Harley, Parish Clerk