



What's the latest news on the Bull?

At long last, Greene King have corrected their plans to show the right of way for pedestrians from Ixworth Road, alongside Siesta Cottage, to the junior play area.

As to the land behind Smithies Cottage, we now learn Burgess Homes have earmarked this for further housing in the future. The Parish Council, however, will be given a licence to occupy it in the meantime as part of the playing field. (It is far from clear that planning permission would be granted for more houses - but there has been a request for more affordable housing for local families).

As your solicitor, we have pursued your concern about the timing of the opening of the recreational areas and, in particular, the junior play area. Back in April, 2015, the Parish Council was asked to allow the current play area to be closed to facilitate the necessary environmental and archaeological surveys, with a view to the junior play area being moved that autumn. The Parish Council reluctantly agreed to this in the spirit of goodwill and to help speed along the development. The play area was then dug up and, alas, it has been totally out of use for over a year! However, Greene King tell me they will strim around the play equipment - but take care, it is at your own risk.

From Alistair Ponder, Gross & Co

How do we report Potholes?

The link to report a pot hole directly to SCC is now on the homepage of the website. The direct link is : <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/
report-a-highways-issue/

From Linda Harley, Parish Clerk

When is the next Lottery draw?

The next draw will be at the Social Club get together 19.30 4th August. Please come along if only to celebrate with the lucky winners!

Money raised by the Lottery has enabled the village to buy a notice board to advertise village events and a card table. Please let me know your ideas for further purchases for the village.

From Richard Walker

Should we buy a defibrillator?

The village is considered too small to be given a defibrillator. The cost to buy and install a device is about £1,000 - then an annual maintenance fee. The Parish Council discussed the merit of having a machine, training and the best place to locate it. Some thought by the time villagers had picked up the machine the ambulance would have arrived - from recent experience it came in under 10 minutes. A decision to buy was postponed.

Troston Wood

Thanks to the efforts of local volunteers the rubbish and barbed-wire that had been dumped in the wood has been removed. Paths have been re-established. Please come and enjoy - but please don't dig trenches across the paths to make cycle-cross jumps! Presumably the spade (and fire-wood?) that was left behind is a donation towards the repairs?

Suffolk County Council say they are considering making a footpath along the road from the village to the Wood.

With the help of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, a survey has started of the different trees and plants in the Wood. The effort is aided by a grant from the Suffolk Community Fund and Ridgeons to encourage young families to take an interest in conserving wildlife and enjoy the countryside. Matching funds from St. Edmundsbury have been obtained by our Borough Councillor, Simon Brown, to buy picnic tables and organise green-wood craft workshops to learn the art of bodging “rustic” furniture.

From Martyn Smith & Brian Winfield

Troston Bird Survey

It would be great to also begin a survey of the birds of the wood and surrounding fields. Of course, it will take a year to get a fairly complete picture because currently some breeding birds will have stopped singing! I would not expect anything too dramatic but a Great Spotted Woodpecker or Sparrow-hawk would be nice.

Do we have some bird-watchers in the Village who would like to take part? Perhaps we might try a survey of the butterflies and dragon/damselflies also?

I'm not the world's best but with volunteers we should be able to produce some idea of what is using the wood so that any works can take this into account.

From Steve Bishop

Any interest in allotments?

The requirement is that there are at least six people who are committed to the scheme.

Planning permission is not required for allotments on land previously used for agriculture.

Are you interested? Please contact Richard Balaam 07885 286180

French Conversation?

Despite the results of the Referendum, the group resumes on 7th September.

We try to keep the class fun and very informal. The standard is very much for beginners who want to practice. New members always welcome.

From Sue Bishop

Church News

Oops, sorry! In the last newsletter, it told you that we were very grateful to Mr Peter Kenney for keeping an eye on the condition of the church fabric; unfortunately, I made a mistake in the name of his company. Peter runs Capability Landscaping and Capability Refurb from 1 Paddock Way, telephone 01359 268613.

There was a steady flow of visitors showing an interest in our church on the day of the open garden, many of whom were delighted to have the graffiti and wall paintings explained to them in such an fascinating way by Rev Tony Redman and Mr Matthew Champion. Thank you Tony and Matt for giving your time; and thank you to those who left donations towards the upkeep of the church.

Café Church will be in the village hall on the 24th July and the 28th August at 11am, but come a little earlier and have some breakfast.

Friday Morning Prayer in the church – a simple said service (no singing) July 22nd at 9am.

For services in the surrounding villages please check the village or the church noticeboards.

Cycle Ride

It's that time of year again when I ask if you would be interested in taking part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride. The main aim is to get families cycling from church to church and enjoying being out together on your bikes. Some like to see how many churches they can visit, whilst others take things a little slower and take in the countryside, perhaps taking photos or stopping to pick blackberries. You can do as many or as few churches as you like; you decide on your own route. If you hate the idea of sponsorship, you can just put in a donation. This year the event takes place Saturday 10 September, there is plenty of time to get into training. Contact Jane Harland: 01359 268144 for more information or a sponsorship form.

Tuesday Lunches

The 19th July will be the last Tuesday lunch until 20th September. If you haven't yet been to one, you would be very welcome to just come along. £3 will buy you a baked potato with filling and side salad, followed by a tea/coffee and biscuits. In winter months, homemade soup and bread is served instead of potatoes. Venture down to the village hall, alone or with friends, between 12:30pm and 1pm.

From Jane Harland

War Memorial

The church has a plaque in grateful memory to the young men of the Parish who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars:

Benjamin & George Balaam, Edward Barker, C.A. Blizzard, Frank Reeve, Sidney Rogers, Frederick Shaw and Leonard Taylor.

It would be great to learn more about these men, and add some words about them on the village website for future generations, so they are not just names on a plaque. I believe Frank Reeve was the village postman whose family ran the post office/village grocers at what is now Glebe cottage. If you have information, please contact Peter Scopes, Chapel House, Church Lane pete.scopes@gmail.com

Woman's Institute Events

We meet at Troston Village Hall at 19.45 except for our outings and social events. If you would like to find out more about Troston WI please come along and be assured of a warm welcome.

13th July: Garden Meeting at the Hall by kind invitation of Jenny and Paul Hewes. Please bring something to share.

10th August: Social Evening to be arranged.

14th September: Patricia Fojut and Sue Lord will be teaching members to crochet.

12th October: Sylvia Anderson of SA First Aid Training will talk and demonstrate how to do CPR.

9th November: Grace McAlonan from "Food Innovation Solutions" will talk about "The weird and wonderful world of the Food Industry" and possibly give us a taste test...

14th December: Christmas celebration, to be arranged.

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

Village Social Club

The picnic on the 1st July was great fun and enjoyed by about 40 people - the weather was kind to us. People brought a plate of picnic food to share and we sat in the Hall garden. It was particularly good to meet so many new families to the village. The raffle easily covered costs and thanks for the kind donations of prizes.

August 5th: Village get together bring your own drink 7-30 onwards. Short planning meeting to start with. Come and go as you please. Everyone welcome, come and go as you please

September 2nd: 2-30 to 4-30 Afternoon Tea in the village hall. Cakes and sandwiched All welcome £1 entrance.

Friday September 9th: Quiz 7pm for 7-30. Bring your own drink. Supper provided £4. Village lottery draw

Is anyone is interested in a Table Tennis Club? Contact David Farnaby on 268667

The Walking Group will meet: 3rd August; 31st August. See <http://troston.onesuffolk.net/home/events>

Suffolk Sport

Based on your views, Suffolk Sport are planning to use the Village Hall during the Summer to run a series of short sessions on activities like Dance, Tai Chi and Pilates to help you discover what you would enjoy doing regularly. They will provide any equipment and the classes will be free - I am still waiting for dates from the instructors.

From Maddy Knox

Mother and Toddler Group

I am starting a "Parent, grandparent, toddler and baby group" starting 8th September every Thursday afternoon during term time in the Village Hall. Learning the give and take of

playing with other children is so important for young children's social development.

The entry fee is £1 per parent. If you and your toddler would be interested in coming along, or have toys, play equipment or storage boxes you are prepared to donate, please contact me 07786923106 kaseyaustin1967@gmail.com

Friends or family are also welcome to join us for a play.

From Kasey Austin

Troston's Got Talent

On Tuesday 27th July I will be running a workshop in the Village Hall for children aged 7 to 14 on dance and musical theatre. It will be great fun - the cost will be £20 for the whole day.

For more information on the two sessions, and to book, please go to www.PrimaDanceAcademy.co.uk

From Clare Robinson

Your Village Hall needs you.

With weddings, christenings, birthday parties, the village picnic, and the regular groups, the village hall has enjoyed a busy spell. As usual, new visitors have been won over by its charm and character.

So, give Sue a ring (269467) to book an event or to get more information. Alternatively, you can use the web site.

The Village Hall Committee could do with a few more members. So, if you have an interest in our hall and keeping it running as a village amenity, then please consider joining us. Ring me on 269653 to find out more.

If you aren't a "committee person" but have some time to spare, then there are always practical jobs to do like tidying up the outside and routine maintenance jobs, so please get in touch. A person from the village we could pay to fix lights, mend chairs and regularly check all is well, would be great.

From Brenda Burrige

Honington School News

We would like to invite everyone to our Summer Fayre on Saturday 9th July from 11.00am to 2.00pm on the School Playing Field. Attractions include Zorbs, Real Ale and 'Pimmish' Tent, Beat The Goalie, Welly Wanging, and lots of exciting stalls. We would love to see you there.

Circular Walks & Curlews

Suffolk County Council are keen to establish some circular walks around Troston as they have managed to negotiate with the farmers around Ixworth and Sapiston. It seems there is a view, however, that this is not possible because Troston is home to Stone Curlews. Back in October 1914, according to William Payne's 'Birds of Suffolk' 'between 150 & 200 were seen on Troston Heath - the largest county record.

Stone Curlews are Schedule One birds under the Wildlife & Countryside Act and it is illegal to disturb them in any way (though agricultural land use disturbs them all the time); they are very susceptible to disturbance but will happily exist in proximity to people where there is a barrier (e.g fence) to stop close approach (e.g as on Cavenham Heath).

They nest on short grazed (rabbits) grassland, heath and bare arable land (particularly carrot and pea fields but occasionally potato or sugar beet fields also).

According to the RSPB Stone Curlew Officer, there are no recent records of sightings within Troston - the nearest birds seem to be on the Livermere pig fields (feeding rather than breeding probably) and rumours of sightings at the solar panel farm in Fakenham Magna.

Common Curlews, however, are present locally (I saw & heard 2 overfly Church Lane on Friday 3rd June) and are also very prone to disturbance. The habitat requirements are similar to Stone Curlew. These are birds of 'Concern' as their breeding numbers are diminishing rapidly and they breed in the Breck.

Join the Police

New volunteers are being sought to join the ranks of Suffolk's Special Constabulary to assist the regular police force.

Becoming a Special is an opportunity to develop existing skills or to learn new ones, give something back to your local community and become a part of a diverse organisation that fights crime in the county. It is also a good way to try police work if you are considering a career as a full time officer.

If you are 18 years or older, in good health and of good character, you can apply. You will get full training to become part of a team that deals with a variety of incidents and events across Suffolk. So if you have 16 hours a month to offer us, anytime of day or night and are interested in finding out more please come along to one of our events.

A 'roadshow event' will be held at Bury St Edmunds Library, Sergeants Walk, St Andrews

Street, Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 20 July from 8.30am to 5pm.

If you intend to go along to this event, please confirm your attendance by e-mailing specialsandvolunteers@suffolk.pnn.police.uk If you cannot attend but would like more information please go to our website www.suffolk.police.uk

Garden Open for Charity

Thank you for braving the rain and coming to Church Cottage. Hopefully you enjoyed the garden - and tea and cake. We managed to raise £432.50. All proceeds went to the NGS gardens open for charity supporting Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Trust and St.Nicholas Hospice.

Have you ever thought about fostering?

Suffolk County Council is urgently looking for new foster carers, in particular for teenagers. Over half of the children in care are aged 11 or over, yet fewer people come forward to offer care for them. Therefore many teenagers may not be living with Suffolk carers, and will be away from friends, school and their local community. This is where you come in!

In return, the county council provide a highly competitive payment scheme, where you can receive up to £606 per week per child. The scheme allows career opportunities as you develop as a foster carer, recognising your skills, experience and the type of fostering you are offering.

If you think you could become a foster carer, come along to an information drop-in session, visit: www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk or call: 01473 264800.

EU Referendum: What Next?

“A glorious opportunity to re-establish ourselves as an independent nation” or “a retreat into isolation, weak economic growth and decline in social services”?

The East of England voted overwhelmingly to leave the EU by 56.5% (1.9 million) to 43.5% (1.4 million). This was by a greater margin than the national figure of 51.9%:48.1% on a huge 71.8% turnout.

Our MP Jo Churchill has agreed to attempt to answer questions on what might happen next... What ever turns out, she believes we will all need to become more informed and politically active if we are to influence the critical decisions in our area created by our new circumstances.

An informal evening event (and buffet meal - no foreign food presumably) is being organised Friday 28th October - anybody interested in going along please contact Graeme Norris Church Cottage.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Thanks to all who came to the last meeting to raise concerns and contribute to the discussions. Their ideas and knowledge were most appreciated. The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30, Monday 5th September. 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