



The Bull Site

Contracts were completed on the 31st October between Greene King, Burgess Homes and the Parish for the development of ten houses on the children's recreation area in exchange for Pear Tree Field. Work to bury the power cable is scheduled to start in the next couple of weeks - and the purchase of the Bull Pub is still on ...

Burgess Homes are obliged to replace the play equipment but only like-for-like. The Parish Council, with the help of the Village Lottery, have reserved some money over the last three years from the annual precept to help buy new swings etc. There was discussion at the Meeting of the Council on the 7th November whether to seek to increase the precept (*by about 35p per week on band D houses in the village*) to help buy and maintain better play equipment. A decision was postponed to the next Meeting on the 9th January to get the opinion of the village - please post your views to me at Church Cottage.

From Graeme Norris, Council Chairman

Honington School News

The children recently enjoyed a lovely Harvest Service in school and we were pleased to see members of the community joining us for this special occasion. There was great excitement later in the playground when a tractor visited from Euston Estate and the children learnt about the work involved with producing our food from the land.

To encourage the children to help others less fortunate, we received donations of shoeboxes with items useful for families and these will be delivered as part of the *Link to Hope* charity to Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.

You are all invited to come to our Christmas Fayre at school on Saturday 3rd December from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. There will be lots of interesting stalls, raffles and refreshments and the Military Wives Choir will be singing. Do come!

From Lauren Moore, Head Teacher

Toddler Play Group

Following a donation from the Parish Council, a set of new toys have been purchased for the Parent/Carer and Toddler Play Group. Mrs. Kasey Austin runs the sessions every Thursday from 1 - 3 pm in the Village Hall. There is a charge of £1.50 per session to help to cover costs. If you are able to come along with your pre-school age children you will be made very welcome.

Social Club

Next meeting is for cheese and mince pies on December 16th (note a week later than usual). Bring your own wine to go with it. All welcome, lets get into the Christmas spirit!

The quiz in September went very well thanks again to David and Sonia for organising it and calling the questions and particularly to Jane for our usual superb interval snacks.

We had a 'winter picnic ' (inside sadly) in November and everyone brought a plate of food to share. Super to see some of our new neighbours and the children kept us entertained. Great time had by all.

See you at the next 'do'.

From Anne Walker

Pilates

The pilates class has been an unqualified success - so many villagers have shown an interest that I have had to prepare a waiting list. I'm hoping to arrange a second session at 10.30 on Tuesdays - I will let those next on the list know.

Thanks, Rachel Marsh, Instructor

Woman's Institute

We would be delighted to welcome guests and possible new members to the following meetings:

Wednesday 9th November 2016 - at Troston Village Hall, The Street, Troston at 19.45. Grace McAlonan from "Food Innovation Solutions" will talk about 'The weird and wonderful world of the Food Industry' and possibly give us a mini taste test.

Wednesday 14th December 2016 – at Troston St. Mary's Church, Church Lane, Troston at 19.45. Tony Redman is going to give us a talk about the unique medieval wall paintings in the Church. Husbands and friends are welcome to join us for this interesting talk.

Refreshments are served after the talks and before the business part of the meetings. Do come and join us, if you would like further information please contact me on 01359 269769 or 07833 577291.

From Carol Littlewood

Troston Heath Wood

For over 20 years a small team of dedicated volunteers has helped to keep this area looking it's best so that everyone can enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of a natural woodland. Marvel at all the wonders of nature whether it be tree, bush, wild flowers, delicate mosses, birds, animals and even tiny insects. The team puts in considerable effort to keep the pathways clear and the area safe for you to enjoy.



Where X = Entrances, P = Natural Wildlife Pond (No Access), E = Education Area for Supervised Groups and H = Hollow where there was a pond but now overgrown.

The winter weather puts a particular strain on the fragile soil and the creatures that shelter in the Wood. In the interest of everyone, therefore, PLEASE do your bit to help by observing our woodland code:

No Bike Riding anywhere within the woods – it causes ruts and other damage to the paths and vegetation. Do not stray from the designated paths – please refer to the map and avoid cutting corners. Please do not move or remove branches which are marking the edge of the paths. Always take ALL your litter home. Please keep dogs on short leads and be sure you clear up any mess and remove it from the site.

From Pat Smith

Dog Waste

The experiment to see if owners would use dog waste bins if they were provided seems to have been a success. The Parish Council have decided to purchase more bins to be placed near the Wood and the rubble track off Church Lane.

Permissive Path

How to make the route from the Village to the Wood safer? A flashing speed sign has been ordered near the bend to give some warning to cars. The Parish Council have also asked SCC to improve the verge from the Village, past the old slaughter house to Sun Ray Cottage on the Troston Honington Road. Then seek a permissive path from opposite Sun Ray Cottage along the field edge to Heath Road.

At the moment Troston Farms fear that the desired permissive path will encroach on their claimed environmental margin (and grant?).

Keep Reporting Potholes

The link to report a pot hole directly to SCC is : <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

From Claire Dickson, SCC Footpath Officer

Lofft Day

I'm delighted to report that the village has been awarded £1,300 by the National Lottery's Celebrate England initiative to hold a fun event to honour our most famous Troston family.

Celebrate England said it would make money available for any event that would bring people together around a project that "celebrated local people or places that are meaningful to the local community". So a group of us came up with the idea of celebrating the Lofft family, who were hugely important to Troston in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In particular, Capel Lofft was nationally known as an important civil liberties campaigner and literary patron, especially to Honington poet Robert Bloomfield.. Later on, other members of the Lofft family did much to improve the lot of Troston residents. They were an example to us all!

So the aim is to hold a fun day some time next year, probably in September, all centred around Georgian England. It will finish up with food, drinks and entertainment in the village hall and, earlier on, we're thinking about such things as a fancy dress competition for the kids, architectural walks round the village and poems by Robert Bloomfield, not to mention Regency romps for the grown-ups.

Now we've got the money, let's work out how best to spend it. If the idea appeals and you want to help make it happen then please email me at rogerjanderson@btconnect.com or give me a ring on 01359 268337. This really is a community thing and the only purpose is to have a good time!

From Roger Anderson

Mobile Phone Signal

Last week I was pleased to participate in a high level meeting to discuss the roll out of Broadband throughout Suffolk. The meeting was hosted by Dr Dan Poulter MP and Matt Hancock MP and included Suffolk councillors and business leaders as well as top level executives from both British Telecom and Openreach.

The meeting focussed on the rollout of the second phase of the Superfast Suffolk Partnership's £30 million investment to bring further coverage to our county.

One of the items that was discussed related to the availability of mobile telephone signals within Suffolk. An indication was made at the meeting that areas of Broadband 'not spots' could be well served by mobile technology. I know that many of you spoke to me of issues around poor mobile and/or broadband coverage when I visited Troston a few months ago. I fed this information back to the Minister.

There is obviously a great deal of work required in order to facilitate 100% coverage in Suffolk, through a combination of Broadband and/or mobile technology. To that end, I would be very grateful if you would provide me with some feedback on the availability of reliable mobile signal around Troston.

Please email my Constituency Office Manager (lesley.canham@parliament.uk) with your thoughts and I look forward to hearing from you.

From Jo Churchill MP

Church News

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner, and that preparations are already well underway. A community choir has been formed again, following its resounding success last year, with the intention of singing at Livermere on Saturday 17th December and again at Troston at 7pm on Christmas Eve. We are very lucky that the choir are to sing here in Troston and it will make our carol service very special.

As a reminder, Rev Tony Redman holds a Morning Prayer service at 9:30am on the 4th Friday of the month. There is no singing in this service and is more of a short service of quiet reflection; you would be made very welcome.

Forthcoming Services

25 November	Friday Prayers	St Mary's church Troston	9:30am
27 November	Café Church	The Village Hall	11am
24 December	Communion with Carols	St Mary's church Troston	7pm

Rural Pastimes

Euston Park Rural Pastimes 2016 raised just short of £20,000 despite the poor weather and the many parties celebrating The Queen's birthday. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way, and to those who came along to support this local charitable event. St Nicholas Hospice received £8,000 of the proceeds and Troston church gratefully received £1,600, which ensures that we are again to pay our annual quota to the Church of England again this year.

From Jane Harland

Short thought for Christmas

This December, the world is a far more uncertain place than it has been in recent years and it is easy to get depressed about the future of the world in which we live. But Christmas is one of those anchor moments, when most of the world can stand back and say, at a moment back in history, God stepped in and encouraged us to change the way we think about other people, through the birth of his son Jesus, giving us hope. His birth was such an earth shattering event that the whole of time is worked out from that moment.

Don't let doubt get in the way of applying what you know of Christ's teachings to your own life. Be thankful of what you do understand, rather than fearful of what you don't understand. Never let the things which seem impossible from a human point of view discourage you from trying to make a change for the better. Always live in hope. Rather than cursing the darkness for being dark, light a candle wherever you can to appreciate its light.

From Rev Tony Redman

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 January 2017. 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