



The Bull

Rather more repair work has needed to be done than first thought and the planned opening is now sometime in May.

Annual Parish Meeting

Please come along to the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall **Monday 8th May at 19.30**

The Meeting is an informal communication event for all the Village to exchange ideas on ways to improve life in Troston. It is a separate meeting from the formal Parish Council Meetings.



We could brainstorm an “idea tree” to cluster our thoughts and agree how to progress them - a visual neighbourhood plan. Next year we can see what has borne fruit. Drinks and nibbles will be provided to stimulate the grey cells.

The event will be a great chance to propose and hear about developments in our small Community.

Speakers have been invited to give a short talk and attempt answers to your questions on:

- What’s happening to our Primary Care Services at Ixworth Surgery?
- What does the Future look like for local farms after Brexit?
- With all the confusing changes, what school options do my children face?
- What plans do we have for the new play area - and equipment?

Do you have topics you would like to hear more about? Please let me know:

graeme@Lmrinternational.co.uk or note through the letterbox of Church Cottage.

“Lofft Day” Saturday 2nd September

The aim of the day is to have an event that will be fun for all age groups. The hope is that together we can foster the memory of a remarkable family that strove to build a better community. Most importantly, however, is the ambition to get together and make Troston an even friendlier place in which to live and bring up a family!

But what events should we organise? The next planning meeting 19.30 Tuesday 21st March in the Village Hall.

At the initial planning meeting the following ideas were discussed:

History Tour of the Village - perhaps in Costume! With "I Spy" picture quiz for younger children. Tree naming.

Children's Craft Making Activities like silhouette cutting, peg-doll making, samplers, mask making, designing a possible village sign, painting scenes from Capel Lofft's life etc.

Flower and Visual Arts Displays on the theme of "My Village My Garden." Perhaps a photography Show - "My favourite view of the Village"?

Dramatic Story Telling - Family Tales from the Era? Modified M R James stories? Perhaps in the Wood?

Back in Time for Lunch and late afternoon/evening BBQ - perhaps in the Bull Garden?

History Wall in the Village Hall using extracts from "The Book" and events from the era of the Loffts.

Games of the time: hoops, spinning tops - plus wooden games from the Village Hall Store.

Selected reading of Robert Bloomfield's poems (and from contemporaries like John Clare, Wordsworth, Coleridge) - and our attempts at writing odes to vegetables - award of "The Turnip Prize".

Songs (appropriate to the 18th Century?) - from the RAF Choir.

Please come to the next meeting with your ideas to make Lofft Day a fun day.

Troston Social Club

The curry night on the 3 February was enjoyed by all. Thanks to chef Richard Walker, and David and Sonia for running front of house.

The quiz on the 3rd March was a great success and everyone enjoyed the interval refreshments thanks to Jane Harland. David and Sonia were the question masters and the interval quiz was set by Roger Anderson

We plan to host an IT morning on Friday May 5th at 10-30 to 12-30. Come down to the Village Hall and sort out your IT queries with Peter Johns. Bring phone, tablets, laptop (and your passwords!). Tea/coffee & biscuits. No charge.

A summer picnic is planned for July and a quiz in September. Slips will be sent round but watch the notice boards.

From Anne Walker

Woman's Institute

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

12th April OUTING - Visit to Hillcrest Nurseries at Stanton.

10th May Annual Meeting & Resolutions. 19.45 at Troston Village Hall.

14th June Troston Hall at 6.30 pm. Garden Meeting by kind invitation of Jenny & Paul Hewes. Please bring some refreshments to share. If the weather is good there will be a chance to play croquet.

12th July Open Meeting - Talk from East Anglian Air Ambulance.

9th August Social Evening to be arranged, possibly at the Bull.

13th September Husbands Welcome "Tales of a Tapestry" Jane Shepherd will tell us about The Bayeux Tapestry: Stitches, history and other interesting facts.

11th October Patricia Fojut will teach us to make boxes suitable for Christmas.

8th November "Nothing like a Dame" Harry & Susan Parsons will talk about their life in Am-Dram!

13th December Claire O'Riordan will demonstrate making a Christmas Table Decoration and you can make one yourself (a charge will be made for materials).

For further information please contact Carol Littlewood on 01359 269769 or 07833 577291 or email: carolhony@gmail.com. Or Sonia Farnaby on 01359 268667.

From Carol Littlewood

Village Hall

Our pretty village hall continues to be a popular venue for small and medium-sized weddings. Wifi has been installed.

Please don't hesitate to mail or ring me (269467) if you want to make enquiries or book the hall.

Alas, there seems to have been no interest in the Play Group for pre-school children. There will be no more sessions.

From Sue Bishop

Mid-Wife at Community Centre

Following a grant from the Parish Council we can now offer a midwife service at the RAF Community Centre - just go down the

road opposite the Shops and Chippy - it's the building on the left.

This prenatal care for pregnant mums is open not only to service wives but also the local civilian community. For an appointment call Castle Hill Midwives 01842 767619

A fantastically well equipped Soft Play Area for 3-8 year olds is also open 10 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday.

Easter Egg Hunt

Please come to our Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade 11.00 to 14.00 7th April - also in the RAF Community Centre.

The hunt will start at 12.00. Bring a bonnet or make one here.

From Diane Saunders, Community Liaison

Farm News

Anglian Water will deliver a load of "biosolids" for spreading on Benefold, Long Field and Thorpe Close. This product is very high in phosphate and will benefit the land hugely. The lorries will tip anytime soon at the end of the rubble track, off Church Lane.

Lorry drivers have been reminded of the narrow nature and bends in Church Lane and to be aware of school children, dog walkers, runners etc.

Anglian Water have said they will put a curfew on the site before 9am and after 3:30pm

From Andrew Maddever

Honington School

All classes have had the opportunity to take part in "Forest School" outdoor learning this term. They have enjoyed exploring and challenging themselves in the local Wood.

Drum lessons started this term, which adds to our music tuition offering of piano, guitar and flute. Clubs offered in school this term have included Boxercise, Gym, Craft skills, Board games, On-line Maths games, Sewing, Choir and Film club.

Our Year 6 Class have been trialling a new project based around Pilgrims Progress with the sessions being run by members of the Discovery Centre from Bury Cathedral.

We have held SATs information evenings for Parents and Carers of children in our Years 2 and 6 classes - and Year 6 will also be having the offer of extra Maths and English at a lunchtime club.

Our Year 5 Class had a visit to Ixworth Free School to see their production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream-coat, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

We are collecting Sainsburys Vouchers for Active Kids. If you have any vouchers that wish to donate to us, we would be most grateful. The vouchers are used to purchase additional play and sports equipment for the children.

From Lauren Moore, Headteacher

Church News

Storm DORIS not only left the village without electricity but also lifted a number of tiles off the church roof. Scaffolding is being erected next week and repairs started as soon as possible.

We also submitted an application to trim the basal growth of the lime trees.

The annual general meeting of the church (APCM) will be held in the church **6th April at 19.30** - all are welcome to attend.

A Mothering Sunday service will be held in the Village Hall on the **26th March at 11 am** This will not be a communion service but will include refreshments. As St.Mary's is a festival church, we will be holding communion on Easter Sunday **16th April at 11 am** in the church. You will always receive a warm welcome at all our services.

Please see the noticeboards for more services in surrounding villages.

From Jane Harland

Hope

Easter falls at the end of the first week of next month. It reminds Christians that they are primarily people of the cross. They carry within them a certain hope in the resurrection life of Easter Sunday, which enables them to overcome the grief of loss and abandonment, which is the story of Good Friday, the day we remember the crucifixion of Jesus, the cruellest form of torture in the Roman world.

Jesus was an inspirational teacher in what is now Israel and whom many people believed then and since to be God's son. Despised by many whom he challenged about their personal life style at the time, and largely ignored by the western world since, the evidence for his life is more convincing than ever for those prepared to look, his teachings, music to anyone prepared to listen with an open mind, and the influence of his teachings on civilisation throughout the world arguably second to none.

We are hoping to run a course in the summer which will look at the basic claims of the Christian faith. It will involve food and drink in a warm environment. If you are

interested in taking part, please e mail me:
tony@theredmans.co.uk

Quiet Day

“Balancing the tensions of life - three inspiring people”. Led by Rev Jane Hall.

At Bardwell Water Mill by kind invitation of Angela and Michael de Lotbiniere 10.30 am to 4 pm Saturday 18th March.

Bring your own lunch - drinks provided.
Bookings: Caroline Redman 01359 269335

Rural Pastimes Supporters Club.

Euston Park Rural Pastimes is run by volunteers for charity. Since 1991 we have raised £496,000 for local worthy causes. The Supporters Club is looking for new volunteers to help make the next event a success: **11th June is the date.**

For further information please contact Tim Fogden on 01359 268923 or t.fogden@btinternet.com

From Tim Fogden

New Commander

Group Captain Dave Tait MBE MA has been appointed the new Station Commander at RAF Honington. He has seen operational service around the world including Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia and Northern Ireland.

Group Captain Mick Smeath is to be promoted to Air Commodore and become the Chief of Defence Staff's Liaison Officer to the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington in July 2017.

Please Drive More Slowly

Police were called at just before 11 am on Sunday 5 February to reports of a two vehicle collision on Bardwell Road. A

Vauxhall Corsa vehicle travelling towards Bardwell collided with a silver Ford Galaxy vehicle travelling towards Ixworth. I am sorry to say, the driver of the Corsa, a woman in her thirties, was treated by ambulance staff but sadly died at the scene.

Witnesses or anybody who has any information are asked to call the Serious Collision Investigation Team on 101 quoting CAD 127.

Mobile Phone Tickets

Last month Police in Norfolk and Suffolk issued more than 200 tickets to drivers caught using their mobile phone behind the wheel.

"We are using a number of tactics to carry out patrols including the use of marked and unmarked motorcycles, high-sided vehicles and officers on foot patrols."

Driving while using a mobile phone is one of the 'fatal four' offences which makes you more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a collision; alongside speeding, drink driving and not wearing a seatbelt.

Legislative changes which come into effect from 1 March will see the penalty for using a mobile phone behind the wheel rise to a £200 fine and six penalty points on your licence.

From Chief Inspector Kris Barnard

Try your Hand at Market Trading

Fancy a career change or turning your hobby into a successful business? Then why not try your hand at market trading for very little cost?

The council has invested in new gazebos and stalls and are offering trial businesses the chance to trade on the markets for four

weeks for £10 per week – the cost covers the hire of the gazebo, stall and insurance.

On top of this any trial trader will also be offered business advice on the grants and loans available that may help them turn their start-up businesses into a soaring success.

Cllr Peter Stevens, Cabinet Member for Operations at St Edmundsbury Borough Council, said: “Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and for many the market is the perfect place to grow their business. If you have a hobby or an idea, why not take advantage of this trial trader offer, put it to the market and see if it will sell.”

For a discussion about a market trial contact Sharon Fairweather on 01284 757093 or Sharon.Fairweather@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Lofft Day “Art Show” 2nd September

Early notice. We are encouraging all villagers to contribute to our flower and visual arts display in the church. Your contribution could be a bunch of flowers, a flower arrangement, a basket of produce (all taken from your garden), a painting or drawing of your garden or a photograph of your garden. This is NOT a competition and you can contribute as many things as you want, as a group or as an individual.

Contributions should be labelled and you should indicate if you wish any of it returned.

We have limited resources, and so it would help if you could mount any pictures yourself - just on some card or on the back of a tray.

I will be in church on Friday September 1st from 2.00pm until 4.00pm to receive

contributions ; or you can leave them in the church porch if that is more convenient.

From Sonia Farnaby

Game & Country Fair

The East Anglian Game & Country Fair will be held on the Euston Estate - 22nd-23rd April. Invite your friends to bring their caravan, camper or tent to enjoy three fantastic nights under the stars.

A great weekend of gun dog trials, horse boarding, fun fair rides, falconry, have-a-go stands, carriage driving, clay shooting, 4x4 course, fishing, terrier racing, cookery demos and food stalls.

Please come along. Ticket hotline 01263 735828 Save up to 25% with advanced booking.

Next Parish Meetings

The social Annual Parish Meeting is on the **8th May** 19.30 in the Village Hall. This is a chance to hear about developments in our community and suggest ideas. Afterwards, wine, cordial and nibbles will be provided.

The more formal Parish Council Meeting will be later in the Month - day and agenda will be on the Notice Board. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any issues you would like discussed - 01284 787 777 or trostonparishcouncil@btinternet.com

I'm trying to establish an email list to send out invitations and updates on village events. If you would like to take part please contact me. Don't worry, the Council comply with all the caveats on using information as required by the Data Protection Act.

From Linda Harley, Parish Clerk