



Parish Council Meeting - 7th May

Diana Bilverstone was elected as Chairman and Sue Rose was elected as Vice Chair.

Andrew Speed, our West Suffolk Councillor, confirmed funding is available to Troston enabling the purchase of a new VAS, to be ordered shortly and will be solar powered. The existing one will still be in operation charged and moved regularly by Councillors Paul Walton & Des Pugson.

Rebecca Hopfensperger, our Suffolk County Councillor, report covered a number of topics - in particular potholes and weed treatment.

- **Potholes** are the bane of people's lives. The bad weather this year led to a 105% increase in reports. SCC response is not always as quick or as good as we might hope. There has been a commitment by Highways, however, to improve their service not least by introducing the "dragon patcher" which fixes potholes quicker and to a higher standard, and secondly the use of the Road Mender Elastomac which can patch larger areas of the road at the same time.
- She encourages anyone to report highway defects online on the highway reporting tool. If you do not think there is any action being taken you can report it to clerk with the report number and she can escalate the matter. For emergencies you should contact 0345 606 6171.
- **Weeds** have been a subject which again has caused some concern. Troston verges will be receiving weed treatment the w/c Monday July 15th weed, but please allow +or- five working days due to weather. The regular weed treatment on our highway network will continue using a variety of methods, with plans for glyphosate being considered only when appropriate – the ambition still remains to reduce the use of glyphosate as far as possible.

Graeme Norris reported on Ixworth Patients Association and will continue to report regularly on the vital services provided on a purely voluntary basis. The Parish Council will include discussion of a donation at the annual finance meeting in November.

We are grateful to have had a tree donated to the village in memory of Peter Edward Demant (26.02.41 - 24.06.22), by his wife Marian Demant, daughter Bev Cunningham and his grandsons Sam & Isaac Cunningham, of Forge

Corner. The variety is Liquid Amber, which turns a beautiful red in the Autumn, which should be a highlight in its position on the far side of the playing field.

Following advice from the Parks Infrastructure Manager the service gate to the children's play area will be padlocked.

The issue of parking within the village was again raised by a member of the public, the advice given remains the same; if a vehicle is obstructing the highway, it is a matter for the police - the Parish Council are unable to assist further.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day on June 6th it is planned the "not forgotten" silhouette soldiers will be sited in the village.

As always, if you have any ideas or issues you would like to raise, please contact the Clerk; trostonpc@outlook.com

The full minutes for the meeting will be available as on the website <https://troston.onesuffolk.net>

Date of the next meeting **2nd July** - at 7pm in the Village Hall.

From Sue Rose, Vice Chair Troston PC

Where's the King's Head?

I understand our Parish Council can apply for a free portrait of His Majesty The King under an £8m government-funded scheme. But where would we put it? Any suggestions?

Oliver Dowden, the deputy prime minister, said "Displaying this portrait will serve as a reminder to us all of the fine example set by our ultimate public servant and the deference he is due from his loyal subjects."

The anti-monarchy campaign group Republic, however, called the initiative a "shameful waste of public money at a time when local councils are cutting public services, when schools and hospitals are struggling - to spend even £1 on this nonsense is £1 too much."

From Olly Cromwell

The WI

We meet at Honington & Sapiston village hall IP311RU, 2nd Tuesday of every month arrive from 19:00, meeting starts at 19:30 to 22:00.

We are a friendly group of women that meet monthly with education at the centre of our meetings, but friendship, fun and campaigning are very important too. Our evening programme has huge variety, with something for everyone with activities such as crafts & cookery and talks on a huge range of topics from British Sign Language to the real Basil Brown, plus a refreshment

break and the opportunity to catch up & get involved in regional and national events and campaigns.

More information about what is happening regionally in the WI Home - Suffolk West WI (swfwi.org.uk)

Come and try us out and see what you think! Contact Tricia on 01359 268442 or email honingtonandsapistonwi@gmail.com

From Joanne Hoyle

Church News

Apologises for the church being closed for the time being, scaffolding has been erected in readiness for the north and south walls of the nave to be decorated.

The services will be taking place as usual but be aware that it may be a little dusty.

- Sunday May 12th Holy Communion at 11am.
- Sunday May 26th T@3 at 3pm (a short informal service followed by refreshments).
- Friday May 31st Morning Prayer at 9am.

Everyone is most welcome to join us at any or all of these services.

From Jane Harland

Remembering Uncle Leonard

We are about to commemorate the D Day Landings on the 6th June 1944. The largest amphibious invasion in military history that led to the liberation of Europe from the Nazi Regime.

"Of all the people who lost their lives, my uncle, Leonard Turner, was the only person from Troston who was killed. I would like us to think of him. He lived in the cottage which is now the site of 13 Church Lane.

Leonard's ship, the wooden mine-sweeper H.M.S. Gairsay, was sunk during the night by a one-man submarine off the coast of Normandy. He was just 22 years old. These German submarines were one of Hitler's "secret weapons" to stem the liberation of Europe and either carried a torpedo or a cluster of remotely controlled midget motor-boats with an explosive charge in the bow. That fateful night they sunk the destroyer "Quorn", two transport ships, a landing craft - and, near the end of the engagement, as dawn began to break, the Gairsay.

Apparently it was through the valiant efforts of the crew of the Gairsay firing light machine guns at close range, fifty-eight of the motor-boats and all the submarines were destroyed that night, before they inflicted more damage on the Allied ships.

A sad, and what must have been a very frightening end on a dark night to a brave young man - who deserves not to be forgotten."

Doreen can remember the day the dreaded telegram arrived. She was sent to fetch her grandfather who was driving the horses in the nearby fields. Her grandmother was devastated and never recovered from her grief.

From a letter from Doreen Newell.

Village Hall News

It is very pleasing that the Village Hall is beginning to attract a wider range of hirers again. In addition to the regular Pilates, Coffee Mornings and Games Afternoons we are now welcoming Baby Massage, all day Company training and a variety of private events.

Our charging arrangements have been reviewed and although our hourly charge remains the same we will now charge for setting up and clearing up time. Hirers continue to be pleased with the facility we have to offer. Essential services are maintained and grounds and building maintenance are carried out as required.

We have researched Acoustic Treatment providers and an order has been placed. We thank the Parish Council and our County and Borough Councillors for offering financial support for this project. We have welcomed Diana Bilverstone to our meetings to represent the Parish Council.

For all enquiries and bookings please contact me by email or phone 269467.

From Sue Bishop

Farm News

Suffolk farmers could see profits plummet after one of the wettest Springs on record. To add to their woes, commodity prices have fallen and the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) - which has helped many stay in the black up until now - is ending. With diminishing amounts of the farm subsidy to sustain them through the highs and lows of the weather and prices, they are facing a tricky year.

Indeed, a raft of new legislation is coming into effect on sustainability and the environment - and a looming election probably means more changes on the horizon.

According to Giles Allen, of Strutt and Parker, "Flood damage to farmland, crops, and infrastructure has caused financial strain and uncertainty for many farmers. The continuous periods of rain has disrupted farming operations - leading to delays in planting, harvesting and other essential activities."

Some are making the difficult decision to leave the industry, he said. They had already seen more farmland come to the market in the first three months of this year compared to the same period last year.

From Sarah Chambers

School News

We have been busy celebrating Numbers Day, World Book Day and Red Nose Day. We have held parents' evenings and also invited parents in to take part in experiments with their children to coincide with Science Week. Sports clubs on offer this half term are Football, Dodgeball and Multi-skills and some budding basket ballers took part in an inter-school competition at Beyton.

We recently had our school inspection... and the report has now been finalised and published. It is a very detailed report and we are delighted with how well the Inspector understood the strengths and vision of our community and what makes our school so special. The inspector said "Pupils, staff and governors live out the Christian vision in every aspect of school life. It is the universal motivating force behind everyone's shared commitment to high aspiration for themselves and for each other".

From Carol King

Cat News

Did you know that the UK Government has made it compulsory that all domestic cats (from 20 weeks of age) must be microchipped by 10 June 2024 or owners can face a fine. Presumably that means cats of all ages. How on earth will they police that?

From Jill Macready

Scout Group

This month all three sections have celebrated St George's day on a Sunday afternoon, with our annual district parade in Bury St Edmunds. A beautiful spectacle of flags, Scouts and Guides accompanied by a marching band.

Beavers have also been practicing and delivering some maypole dancing at Pakenham watermill, and beginning their gardening badge. Cubs started the

term enjoying the lighter evenings with some outdoor games, also looking at road safety. Scouts enjoyed a survival camp during the Easter holidays and enjoyed some outdoor cooking over the fire! Thankfully they all survived!

If anyone is interested in helping as a leader or as a trustee please do get in touch. There are many different ways you can help the group:
neary532@gmail.com

From Jan Neary

Healthy Together

People living with serious mental issues face one of the greatest health equality gaps in Suffolk. Their life expectancy is 15–20 years shorter than that for the general population - and this disparity is largely due to preventable physical illnesses.

To try to address this longstanding health inequality the NHS has commissioned the 'Healthy Together' project.

The project team are (Chloe, Sharn and Simon all of whom have personal experience of mental health issues) supported by Louise. Their job is to help people who have a serious mental illness, typically schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or any other disorder where psychosis occurs, with a physical health need. This could be an annual health check, GP appointment or hospital appointment. The support worker can accompany the patient, attend appointments with them and even give lifts where necessary.

There is a referral process. Your GP can refer - but people can self refer but consent is required from the individual concerned.

For more information contact Louise Biddiscombe on 01473 907087 or at louise@SuffolkUserForum.co.uk

From Josh Williams, Ixworth Surgery Practice Manager

Next Newsletter?

Please email me graemenorris46@gmail.com news items you think would interest local residents for the next Newsletter. The deadline is mid-day 5th July - thanks! Articles may be edited, of course, to fit the space available.

Any opinions expressed in these articles will be solely the author's and do not necessarily reflect my opinions or of the Parish Council.

From Graeme Norris, Editor
