



### Custom Bikes Site

A formal application has been made to develop four new homes on the site of Custom Bikes Garage. Traditional materials are to be employed to complement the area and fit in with the neighbouring dwellings. It was a requirement to maintain access to the existing garage owned by the occupiers of the neighbouring bungalow.



There is little documented history of the development of the garage and scant records of any health & safety inspections. A site walkover survey indicates there are no readily identifiable sources of contamination other than the below ground fuel storage tanks. These tanks and pipes will be removed (together with any grossly contaminated soils) as part of the redevelopment of the site.

Traffic safety concerns have been expressed about access to the site but are considered to be minor by Suffolk Highways.

*From D Sargeant, Goldfinch Environmental Services*

## 'The Bull is Opening!

With the government update gladly received on when pubs, shops and everybody can start the road to normality, we are extremely excited to announce that on April the 13th the pub garden will be open for drinks, with food available on the 14th onwards.

We have been working hard in the garden and are delighted to share the new kitchen garden, and undercover dining space with you all when we open. We have also started brewing on site, bringing back a tradition that stretches back at The Bull for over 150 years! To keep up to date please check our website and social media for updates and table booking (which are coming soon and we highly recommend)!

We cannot wait to see you all at The Bull, its been a long time coming, thank you for supporting us so far!

Roll on Spring...

*From Sam & Ben*

## Puzzled?



Which farmer has been awarded an environmental grant: the one on the left or the right? One looks to me to be preserving field margins, using a cover crop and grazing sheep - the other deep ploughing as close to the hedge as possible. Why do I feel ploughing such deep ruts is a deliberate “finger in the eye” to the village?

Back in time, certainly until the 1960's, there was a footpath connecting Troston and Great Livermere. Can we ask for a narrow permissive path between the villages? It would be safer for residents than walking on the road.

*From Doug Walker*

## **Livermere Road Field Margin**

We have ploughed up the environmental grass margin that borders the Livermere Road in order that it could be re-seeded, the tussocky grass had not fared well with the constant footfall that has occurred. Whilst I realise that the village will not be in favour of my actions, the grass margin is not a footpath or a permissive path. The environmental scheme cannot be adjusted to suit and I need to re-establish the grass margin in order to meet the scheme requirements.

When the scheme ends, Troston Farms will consider the best way forward for this particular environmental feature.

*From Edward Vipond*

## **Broken Pledge?**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have approved the use of neonicotinoid thiamethoxam for use again on sugar beet seeds throughout 2021 in England. This breaks a pledge made two years ago to maintain an EU-wide restriction on 'neonics' after the UK's departure from the EU.

Defra say that sugar beet is a non-flowering crop and the risks to bees from the sugar beet crop itself are assessed to be acceptable. It is recognised that risks could be posed to bees from flowering weeds in and around the crop - and therefore should be addressed with the use of industry-recommended herbicide programmes to minimise the number of flowering weeds in treated sugar beet crops.

It has to be recognised that the persistence and mobility of neonicotinoids in soils could result in residues with the potential to cause unacceptable effects to bees in following crops. Measures need to be put in place to mitigate the identified risks through the exclusion of flowering crops in subsequent cultivations.

## **Protecting Bees**

In my opinion the emergency authorisation of neonicotinoid for the 2021/2 sugar beet harvest is essential. Typically yields locally have reduced between 30 and 60%, largely caused by beet virus yellows.

As regarding the plans for the sugar beet crop at our end of the village, we've decided to give them up for at least one season, the low price, loss of key pesticides, ongoing debate around neonics, the difficulty of harvesting and soil damage in wet weather along with the enormous quantities of cane sugar now coming into the UK tariff free have conspired to make us re-evaluate the viability of sugar beet.

To think the viability of sugar beet is in question seems extraordinary given that it has been the mainstay of many farming businesses for years!

*From Andrew Maddever*

The sugar beet crop grown by Troston Farms during the 2020/2021 harvest wasn't treated with neonicotinoid seed dressing and as a result we had to spray a foliar insecticide twice during the season, this insecticide was applied following an aphid threshold (the vector of the virus yellows disease) being reached on both occasions. I am not in favour of such treatments as, no matter how careful you are in terms of timing some beneficial species will also be targeted, never a good thing.

Unlike Andrew I am continuing with the crop at Troston on the more fertile moisture retentive land within the farm. The seed will be treated with neonicotinoid seed dressing meaning no foliar treatments of insecticide should be required. There are several restrictions that come as a result of using this seed treatment, including not growing oilseed rape for 32 months following the sowing of the sugar beet, not a problem for me as I have given up growing oilseed rape due to the banning of the very seed dressing we are talking about. In addition only cereals are allowed to be grown for 22 months following the sowing of the sugar beet crop.

Our yields & sugar concentration were also lower than they normally would be which is a result of the virus yellow disease which is transmitted by aphid which land in the crop. Another relatively mild winter has been experienced meaning the aphid numbers will undoubtedly be high leading to the potential of high infection rates on any crop not treated with the neonicotinoid seed dressing.

Sugar beet as I'm sure villagers know doesn't flower, meaning bees don't forage on the crop, they prefer my sunflowers I'm sure!

*From Edward Vipond*



*YOU can make the difference*

## Can YOU Resist?

the urge to clean up **your** gardens until after temperatures are consistently above 10°C or 50°F degrees!

Many butterflies, bees and other pollinators are currently overwintering in the dead leaves and hollowed out stems of last year's plants.

If **you** clean your garden now, **you** will literally be throwing away this year's butterflies, bees and other beneficial pollinators.

 

## **Vaccination Update**

Our NHS Vaccination Hubs and GP Practices have been working hard to vaccinate people in Suffolk and North East Essex. Each type of site has a different way of inviting people for their vaccine and booking them in. In some cases people may be invited by multiple sites.

There is a limited supply at any one time and priorities are set to tackle areas with a high number of cases. There can also be delays as invitation letters are sent out by central government - and then batches of vaccine sent by another department to Suffolk - who then organise the logistics of giving the jabs. Hubs and GPs usually only get a few days notice to contact people - so when you get a letter, please be patient if a convenient venue isn't offered immediately.

Vaccination sites have been encouraged to ensure that no vaccine is wasted, so if there are vaccines left at the end of the day people outside of the top four priority groups may be invited at short notice to get vaccinated. But please do not just turn up hoping to jump the queue and pester staff!

So that we can make improvements to the process and learn for the future roll out of the vaccine, please visit the website to complete the survey

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SNEEVaccineExperience](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SNEEVaccineExperience) or call 0800 389 6819

*From Joshua Williams, Senior Practice Administrator, Ixworth Surgery*

## **Hospital Update**

Good news. There has been a gradual decline in covid cases being admitted to the West Suffolk. Bed occupancy is about 80% which is about normal for the Winter months and there is no press on capacity. There are three main reasons:

1. There are fewer patients needing to stay in hospital because there are no care homes, hospice places or community carers to look after them at home. Night-sitting carers have been made more available.
2. Designated "sheltered settings" have been found for patients who have had to isolate and can not do so safely in their own homes or are recovering from covid-19 and need support.
3. More beds have been bought and contract staff hired.

During the first wave, many surgical operations were cancelled as staff were reallocated to deal with the influx of covid patients. At the end of last year, the West Suffolk began to catch up as the number of cases decreased and operating theatres and beds were hired from private hospitals. Performance in providing cancer treatments is back on track.

This second wave has seen the hospital divided into two pathways so urgent non-covid patients are seen promptly. Indeed, the number of people coming to A&E has returned to the figure expected during the Winter. Last year the number of people reporting to A&E dropped significantly as people stayed safe at home and patients treated themselves...

Alas, elective surgery has been put-back where thought to be medically acceptable.

Of course, ICU staff have been under pressure but experience of the first wave has led to a better understanding of possible medication and treatment routines. My fear is that by the end of the year staff will be feeling burnt-out and will leave the profession.

## **Joined Up Service**

The NHS is a vast sprawling web of health and social care providers - not always providing a joined up service to patients. At the start of the year, our West Suffolk NHS formed a "Coordination Cell" which meets every week to identify opportunities to work together, support one another and create better solutions. The meeting includes the hospital, primary care, social care, hospice, community health, County and Borough Councils, and the Voluntary Sector. This group includes Public Health. At these meeting the partners work together, forming multidisciplinary teams to solve patients' problems.

Why has it taken so long to recognise we need a joined up health service?

*From Sophie Martin, West Suffolk Patient Experience Officer*

## **Domestic Abuse**

Covid restrictions and guidance around self isolation remain an extremely worrying situation for those experiencing domestic abuse. For some, home is not the safe place it should be and having little to no contact with the outside world can feel very unsafe.

Should any women, children and young people need any advice and support in relation to domestic abuse please contact Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid – 01284 753085

## **Dog Mess**

Again a dog owner in Troston was seen to allow their dog to poo within a few yards of the waste-bin on the playing field and not pick it up!

I understand residents do not want to get into an argument with a neighbour but letting your dog foul a public space is an antisocial act which must stop. I encourage you to take a photograph of the offender on your mobile-phone, if you can, so we have evidence and then report them to me on 01284 763233 or 01638 719374

*From Dominic Owner, Senior Enforcement Officer*

## **Church News**

Preparation for the refurbishment of the church has begun. Despite it being the worst snowy day of the year, one gentleman from Norfolk and another from Somerset drove to Troston to remove the bells and took them away for safe keeping. It is hoped that work in the tower will soon begin, in preparation for the rehangings of all six bells.

If you would like to learn how to ring church bells, please contact Neal Dodge [trostonbells@gmail.com](mailto:trostonbells@gmail.com) or 07941505831. It is great exercise for all ages - and fun!

Troston church is open for everyone for private prayer every day during daylight hours. It can also be a perfect place to have a bit of "quiet time", especially now when families are being cooped up together and solitude may be an impossibility. You are very welcome to use this space, it is there for everyone. Please leave your details or scan the QR code on the door and use the hand sanitiser provided.

Beautiful postcards of St Mary's, painted by Rev Tony Redman, are available at 50p each. Whilst the church is under COVID-19 measures you may purchase them directly from Jane Harland 07957611576.

The Blackbourne Ministry Team continues to hold a communion service in Ixworth at 10am each Sunday, which is also live-streamed on the Blackbourne Team Ministry Facebook page.

We are also continuing to hold other services on Facebook. <http://www.facebook.com/BlackbourneTeam>.

Morning Prayer	Monday to Saturday	9am	
Evening Prayer	Monday to Friday	8pm	
Communion	Sunday	8am and 10am	
Friday Prayers	Last Friday of the month	9am	Troston Church
Revd Karen Burton	07546 491388		<a href="mailto:revkarenburton@outlook.co.uk">revkarenburton@outlook.co.uk</a>
Revd Tony Redman	01359 269335 / 07860 868828		<a href="mailto:tony@theredmans.co.uk">tony@theredmans.co.uk</a>

(If Prince Philip doesn't make it, the church has a book of condolence ready and official photos).

*From Jane Harland*

### **Council Tax**

There will be an increase of 3p per week for a Band D property in Troston. This is in response to the increase in costs to provide services.

### **Honington Scout Group**

February has been another month on zoom for all sections. Beavers had the chance to meet with Beavers from Ixworth, Gt Barton and 6th Bury for a weekend of virtual camping. We had activities based around ice fire, with everything from ice fishing, ice cube towers through to cooking on an open fire! Beavers have also made American style pancakes and competed in a university challenge competition! Cubs have been practising their paper plane making skills and after participating in the big garden birdwatch. They have also enjoyed spooky stories around a campfire. Scouts have been exploring their creative side by learning how to draw a self-portrait and illustrating a poem. We also discovered which invisible ink works best, discovering the heating process for the lemon juice and grape juice is difficult with light bulbs! We have of course celebrated Founders day on the 22nd February, the birthday of our founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell.

We are always seeking adult help, so if you are interested, or if you know a young person who would like to get involved, please contact [1stHoningtonRAFScoutgroup@gmail.com](mailto:1stHoningtonRAFScoutgroup@gmail.com)

### **School News**

We were, once again, only open for critical workers children and vulnerable pupils, as per government guidelines and online learning is being provided for those children staying at home. Teachers have been inviting children to attend Zoom calls, where they can see and chat to their friends and teachers – this has been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! To keep in touch with the school community, Headteacher, Mrs Moore, has been reading a story online every day for the children to enjoy. We are certainly exploring every opportunity to stay in touch!

We have also set up a Go Fund Me page online for donations towards buying new laptops for our pupils. If you would like to donate, the link is <http://gf.me/u/zgcckx> We have already raised an amazing £1,000 towards our £2,000 target. Once again, thank you to those who have already donated – your generosity is very much appreciated.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children back into school from Monday 8 March.

*From Lynn Plampin*

### **Walking In Suffolk**

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Then [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk) is the website for you! With hundreds of walks to download and print for free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. So whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

### **Fly-Tipping**

There has been an increase in fly tipping in recent months. West Suffolk Council have recorded a rise in significant dumping incidents from 567 in 2018/19 to 630 in 2019/20. Please contact Customer Services if you spot rubbish left on the side of the road: 01284 757675. If you see someone tipping, don't hesitate to dial the police 101 - and take car numbers but be wary of approaching them as the culprit faces a substantial penalty.

### **Scam Texts or Calls**

There has been a spate of texts to mobile phones proorting to be from the Royal Mail claiming your parcel will not be delivered unless you pay £2.99 - they are a scam!

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online; [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or via phone 0300 123 2040.

*From Simon Brown, West Suffolk Councillor for Pakenham & Troston*

### **Next Meeting?**

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for **Monday 10th May at 19.30.**

If you would like to receive the Zoom login details, please contact me on 01379 898 733 or email [trostonpc@outlook.com](mailto:trostonpc@outlook.com) Please also tell me about items you would like to add to the Agenda.

*From Vicki Gay, Clerk to the Council*

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