



Ukraine Crisis Appeal

I feel sure most of us feel gravely concerned about the fighting in Ukraine and plight of refugees as they flee to try and find safety.

A number of individuals and charities are stepping up to try and help the desperate people of Ukraine. Do think of us if you are considering making a donation: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a well established organisation with staff on the ground to coordinate a sustained delivery of aid. We will continue to respond to existing and emerging humanitarian needs as they change over time. This sad situation will continue for a long time - forever for some.

We are part of the Disasters Emergency Committee, which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response. Please donate today if you can.

Go online to the British Red Cross or call 0300 023 0820

From Dominik Stillhart, ICRC Director of Operations

Bird Flu

Alas, a highly contagious variant of avian flu (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in birds at a site near Elmswell on the 26 February 2022. All the birds have been humanely killed. A 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone has been put in place around the premises. The virus mainly affects birds but it can also affect humans and other mammals.

If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline 03459 33 55 77. Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find.

From Paul Derrick

Farming Matters

Like most people I welcome the Government's recognition of rising food production costs and promises of funds to help farmers have "a bright future". I am particularly concerned, however, about the situation in the pig sector. Last year a shortage of butchers left farms in Suffolk overflowing with piglets, and led to a mass cull.

This year, according to the National Pig Association, there is estimated to be at least 200,000 piglets which may have to be destroyed. This, truly, is an utter disgrace and a disaster for the pig industry. This problem was created by the government's poorly designed change to immigration policy. The shortage of abattoir workers was a result of Brexit and made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is also a looming crisis for fruit and vegetable growers. There is a real risk of further food inflation and of British growers going out of business. I appreciate the

desire to create more employment opportunities in farming. The willingness to develop the necessary practical skills, and long hours makes it difficult to recruit and then retain British workers when there is no shortage of other employment.

From Minette Batters, NFU President

Village Hall

I'm happy to report a very positive trend in bookings for our Village Hall, as parties, meetings, coffee mornings and exercise classes are gradually returning to some sort of normality.

Maybe you are planning an event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and would like the peace of mind that a covered space offers? We also have a safe enclosed garden and picnic tables so, whatever the weather decides to do, your event can go ahead.

Perhaps you are interested in setting up a new group? To discuss hall availability and costs do look at our website. Although there are currently no mandatory Covid measures, we have left the basics in place, should hirers wish to use them.

We are grateful to Mrs Anne Guest who has recently joined the committee as Secretary. Thank you and welcome!

For all enquiries and bookings, please contact me: 01359 269 467

From Sue Bishop

Church News

As of this week, the church will be closed to visitors as the builders will be in starting on the work to re-hang the bells. The project will also include installing a toilet, a community area and a servery.

There will be a short service as usual at 9am on the 4th Friday of the month.

We are also expecting to be able to hold a Family Service on Easter Sunday.

From Jane Harland

Easter Concert

Monday 18th April at 2.30 pm St.Andrew's Church Sapiston IP31 1SA. This is the first opportunity to hear the rare 1774 Argent Chamber Organ, rebuilt and played by Grant Vicant, accompanied by vocal and instrumental soloists.

Free entry.

From Giles Smith

Dinner Dance

Martin and Annette Waterman would like to invite you all to a Royal British Legion dinner dance at Honington & Sapiston Village Hall on 26 March 2022 from 19.00 until midnight.

Ticket price is £25.00 to include: guests greeted by piper Susan Gothard; a delicious five course meal; the amazing magician Ben Young; Toast Master will be our very own Ian Patterson-Parker; dance the night away with the fabulous DJ, Ian Lawrence; Dress code: Gents, Black tie or Lounge suit: Ladies, cocktail dress.

Tickets to be paid for in advance and are non-refundable - exceptions for covid lockdown or severe illness. All proceeds go to the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal. Tickets available from Martin and Annette Waterman: 07932 937592 or 01359 268073. Email: waterman640@btinternet.com

RAF Honington - 85 Years

RAF Honington will celebrate eighty-five years since it opened on 3rd May 1937 to face the looming war in Europe. Alarmingly, we now face another!

The first RAF bombing raid of the Second World War was mounted by Wellington bombers stationed on the Base on 4 September 1939. In June 1942, the airfield was transferred to the USAAF flying B-17 Flying Fortresses. An additional facility, called Troston Airfield, was constructed to the west of the main runway as a specialised depot for the repair of badly-damaged aircraft. Crippled planes were instructed to crash land at Troston on return from operations, particularly if their landing gear could not be lowered.

In addition, the 364th Fighter Group, took up residence at Honington in February 1944, arriving from Santa Maria, California. Converting from Lockheed P-38 Lightnings to North American P-51 Mustangs in the summer of 1944.

The group patrolled the English Channel during the Normandy invasion in June 1944, and, while continuing escort operations, supported ground forces in France after the invasion by strafing and bombing locomotives, marshalling yards, bridges, barges, and other targets. The last mission by the 364th took place on 25 April 1945.

The RAF returned in February 1946 flying Douglas C47 Dakotas which and took part in the Berlin Airlift. Bomber Command arrived in 1949 flying Canberras and later the Valiants and Victors. The station then became home to Buccaneer bombers from November 1969 to 1971.

In August 1982 IX(B) Squadron was reformed at RAF Honington, becoming the world's first operational Tornado squadron. Equipment included the WE177 nuclear bomb - the concrete bunkers are still there.

It was announced in July 1992 that the Tornados would depart. The station relinquished its primary flying role and became the home of the soldiers of the RAF Regiment responsible for protecting the RAF at home and abroad. The airfield continues to support wider aviation training for helicopters and fixed wing aircraft ranging from attack helicopters of the nearby Army Air Corps to the largest strategic transport aircraft in the Boeing C-17 Globemaster.

Scout Group

This year we have been able to continue meeting face to face. The year so far...

Beavers have been using their imagination and planning to build machines from recycling materials. We have also been working on our air activities badge, this means making paper airplanes, learning the phonetic alphabet and finding out about different aircraft.

Cubs have been learning about Scottish games in honour of Burn's night and exploring the Chinese New Year. They have started their scientist badge with some cool experiments including changing the colour of flowers.

Scouts have been revisiting navigation skills in preparation for a hike they will be planning, and discussing the benefits and pitfalls of different elements of lifestyles, such as exercise and recreational drugs.

If you are Interested in getting involved either as an adult helper, or a young person please do get in touch. We are currently looking for people to help with the behind the scenes running of the group, such as treasurer etc.
1stHoningtonRAFScoutgroup@gmail.com. Many thanks.

From Jan Neary 07972 598691

Youth Worker Jobs

A local Charity has an exciting opportunity for two part time Youth Workers to make a difference and to be involved from the beginning in the planning and development of a new Youth Club.

Located in Ixworth we are looking to appoint a part time Youth Worker in Charge and a part time Youth Support Worker to help start up and run a new Youth Club in Ixworth.

Both positions require a dynamic, enthusiastic and flexible person with experience of working with young people. You must have the ability to provide ongoing support for young people and be able to plan, run and monitor group activities. This role will require you to work during the evenings.

For an informal discussion regarding either vacancy please contact Mike Jones on 07890842381.

Next Meeting?

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th May at 19.00 in the Village Hall.

Please tell me about items you would like to add to the Agenda: 01379 898 733 or email trostonpc@outlook.com

From Vicki Gay, Clerk to the Council
