



### **Rural pastimes**

Good news - Rural Pastimes is back! This year billed as EUSTON RURAL PASTIMES CHARITY DAY but as usual in aid of St Nicholas Hospice and our local churches and charities.

Lots of the old favourites will be there including the iconic carthorses, sheepdog trials, dog agility and a family dog show. The veteran tractors include a tractor run as part of the event while the classic cars will go on a treasure hunt before returning to the Park to be on display.

The Flower Festival will be in the Church (Open on Saturday as well as Sunday).

There will be trailer rides round the Estate to enjoy as well. A Tea Tent, of course, and other refreshments will be available. Plenty of space to picnic if you wish.

The Date: SUNDAY JUNE 12th. Entrance is FREE! There will be a bucket collection. Please come along.

*From Rev Sally Fogden*

### **Festival of Suffolk**

The Festival of Suffolk is being led by the Suffolk Lieutenancy with the aim of shining a spotlight on all aspects of Suffolk life and to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The events that are taking place across Suffolk and can be viewed on the Festival of Suffolk website: [www.festivalofsuffolk.org](http://www.festivalofsuffolk.org).

The UK has a long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations through lighting beacons. West Suffolk Council has a beacon in the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds and arrangements are being made for the Chair of West Suffolk Council to light it on Thursday 2 June at 9.45pm.

Military parades will also take place in Bury St Edmunds on Thursday 9th June. A Sunset Ceremony will be led by the RAF Honington band and will include the Navy, Army and Cadets. The RAF will also be exercising their Freedom of the District with a Parade through Bury St Edmunds town centre, to mark their 50th Anniversary. The Freedom Parade will start at 6.45pm and the Sunset Ceremony will start at 7.25pm, ending with a fly past at 7.45pm.

*From Carol Bull, West Suffolk Councillor*

## **Village Hall**

During this year the Committee has worked to maintain the Village Hall so that it is ready for hire as people feel able and comfortable to engage in events again. Use of the Hall is beginning to build up as events such as private parties, Pilates and Coffee Mornings recommence. It is good to see our community enjoying the facility.

Financially, expenditure has far exceeded income as running costs still have to be paid, even when the hall is not being used. We have been very grateful for Government grants received during each lockdown to cover costs and do necessary repairs and improvements. We have to move the oil tank in order to meet statutory requirements and we have also focused on developing the outside areas.

We have welcomed Mrs. Anne Guest to the committee as our new secretary and my thanks go to all of our members for the part they have played in sustaining our Village Hall.

With plans for the Queen's Jubilee being hatched, remember your Village Hall is available to villagers, FREE OF CHARGE, on this special occasion. But it's on a first come, first served basis, so please contact Sue Bishop to ensure your booking: 01359 269 467 Usual hiring rules apply.

*From Brenda Burridge*

## **Free Summer Activities**

West Suffolk Council is delivering a range of free holiday activities aim at supporting the most vulnerable families and children. Those on free school meals, pupil premium or where there is an identified need outside of these criteria can apply for free holiday activities and healthy food at a range of venues and offers across the district. For any more information including support to book spaces please contact Hana at families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk

*From Simon Brown, West Suffolk Councillor*

## **Traffic Speeding**

As requested by the Parish Council, my team has visited Troston. Alas, there are always cases of inconsiderate parking. There is no record of injury collisions, however, in the last five years in our database. There appears to be no significant pedestrian activity throughout the day warranting warning signs.

Speeds are typical for a rural village, but relatively high at the entrance to the play area – but not sufficient justification to move the 30 mph speed limit sign further out along the Livermere Road. The road is straight at this point and drivers have clear visibility. Vehicular access to the play area meets the current visibility criteria to enable vehicles to enter and leave safely.

Based on the above, there does not appear to be a significant justification for further action by us.

*From Keith Sampson, Traffic Regulation Officer*

## **Ixworth Surgery**

Medicine shortages, staff isolating, and increased demand are all affecting the surgery this year. I'm pleased, however, Ixworth has remained open to patients and has offered a similar number of appointments as we did pre-pandemic. On top of this, staff at Ixworth have administered over 17,000 COVID vaccinations and 3,000 flu vaccinations since January 2021.

Dr Parbhakar left us in January to pursue his interest in Occupational Health. We are very happy that Dr Lesley Letellier has joined the practice as a salaried GP for 6 sessions a week.

Despite appointments being in such high demand, we continue to have several appointments where patients have not attended. For example, last month, more than 80 patients did not attend their appointment, this resulted in some 20 hours of wasted appointment time.

Patients who are aged 75 or over, live in a care home, or are immunosuppressed are eligible for a spring booster around six months after their previous dose. We are holding regular clinics at the surgery which are bookable via the National Booking Service or by contacting the reception team at the surgery. We will also be finishing our household vaccinations over the next few weeks.

Five o'clock Closing?

Some Newspapers have reported the intention of GP Practices to close at 5 o'clock...

This rather scurrilous claim is based on a discussion item added by Avon Local Medical Committee to the agenda of their annual conference - where it will be debated. I think certain newspapers, who seem to have an agenda against general practice, have picked it up and are saying every GP wants this. I doubt it will go beyond a noisy debate to enliven the conference!

I can assure Ixworth's patients we are not even thinking about such a move. We are more concerned with how to meet the increase in core hours that seems to be on the way in October.

*From Josh Williams, Operations Manager, Ixworth Surgery*

## **Dog Poisoning?**

There have been urgent warnings on social media claiming several dogs have been poisoned on Knettishall Heath. One post read "When I was out walking our dogs this afternoon a woman stopped me. She said someone's dog had been poisoned and they didn't know if it would make it through. Beware everyone. Please pass it on".

Suffolk Wildlife Trust have tried to contact the person who placed this message but have failed to trace them. Local vets also report they have not had to treat any poisoning cases - except for the sad death of an eight-month old puppy in

Rendlesham (26th May 2021) who ate a Star-of-Bethlehem flower growing in the owner's garden.

Radio Suffolk, however, did report an incident in Eye 18th December 2019, when Mark and Gillian Chenery said their dogs ate what looked like chocolate marshmallows laced with painkillers. The dogs had their stomachs pumped and were unharmed. They also reported there were wooden blocks in the nearby carpark with screws sticking out intended to puncture dog walkers car tyres.

## **RAF Honington**

With 1 Sqn RAF Regiment now deployed on routine ops in Cyprus, the Station seems very quiet but we will enjoy hosting visitors from several countries in a wide variety of training events throughout the Summer.

Airfield activity will start to increase at weekends with the return of Air Cadet Gliding starting in June this year – they will also provide gliding to cadets in academic holiday periods.

We are keen to enjoy as much support on the 9th June as RAF Honington parades the 50th anniversary of our Freedom of West Suffolk. Start 1830. After the Parade there will be a large scale Sunset Ceremony on Angel Hill, BSE at 1930.

RAF Honington Families' Day will be 28th July and will take place on the sports pitches outside of the wire. Whilst we do not see a big security issue we are being very cautious that it is not widely advertised. Local people only - so Troston, please feel warmly invited!

*From Sqn Ldr Mark Fixter*

## **Scout Group**

Last month we made preparations for the St George's day parade in Bury St Edmunds which was held on 24 April. A large display of scouting from across the district parading from the Abbey gardens to St Mary's church. As one of the first events to get cancelled in 2020 it was an opportunity to show the public we are still here and raring to go!

The Beavers had a chance to show us their inner Robin Hood as we all had a go at archery - with many hitting the target! Then finishing the term for Easter with an Easter egg hunt, the Beavers had to take their plastic eggs home and return them the following week to exchange for treats!

The Cubs did some Easter crafts and learnt about who St George is! They have also had a chance to hit the target with the air rifles. The Scouts planned the next term's varied activities and enjoyed some silly songs around the campfire followed by s'mores!

If you are interested in helping, or your child getting involved please do get in touch with me 07972 598691! We have spaces available in each section!

*From Jan Neary*

## **Sequence Dancing**

The Sequence Dance Club meets at Honington & Sapiston Village Hall every Monday 6.30 to 7.30 for beginners and 7.30 to 9.30 for Intermediates.

Sequence dancing is a form of Ballroom & Latin danced in a sequence around the room, we are a friendly and sociable club and would like to welcome new people to dancing a variety of dances which keeps us fit healthy and active. Do come along - it is great fun! If you would like more information please phone us 0779 985 8968

*From Peter & Jackie Fairweather*

## **Lower Farm Piggery**

A development of some 20 market and affordable houses on the site of Lower Farm Piggery was first proposed by Troston Farms in 2017. The plan was to build a range of smaller properties for local first-time buyers and bungalows for older people.

At consultation meetings, some villagers said they were concerned about the impact of more homes on the rural feel of the village and the increase in traffic. Others commented on the possibility of developing the site of the derelict Slaughter House. Most were pleased that the occasional smell from the piggery would end. The proposed plans became part of a wider consultation by West Suffolk Planners on preferred sites for development around Bury St. Edmunds.

After two years of consideration, the plan has been rejected. Troston has been designated a "Type B" village in the settlement hierarchy with only a limited range of services and facilities. Only small-scale infill developments of five homes or less within the designated housing settlement boundary will be permitted. It has to be said that villages with fewer assets than Troston have been given permission for large developments - why?

Rather disappointing to many - a derelict slaughter house and then piggery doesn't add to the appeal of the village - but a final consultation is to start on the 26th May for a month to give an opportunity for any last thoughts...

For this forthcoming consultation with the village, I suggest that we take the Village Hall for a couple of hours early one evening and that Troston Farms show people their ideas.

It would be good to discuss villagers' concerns again and other issues that a development could address: for example traffic calming, a tennis court, employment opportunities for local people, permissive paths across the meadow and to the Wood.

*From David Barker, Planning Advisor*

## **Grass Cutting**

The verges are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. This year we have divided the district into three areas, and we aim to cut approximately one third of the amenity grass in each area, each week. You can find information on this webpage [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/grasscutting](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/grasscutting) which we will continue to update.

In addition to the amenity grass areas, that are on a three-week cutting cycle, there are other areas that are cut less frequently to encourage greater biodiversity. The various types of land we maintain can also be found by using My West Suffolk which provides a mapped image of the different areas under the Tree and Grounds Maintenance tab.

As usual, this is subject to weather and other caveats such as capacity.

*From Mark Miller, Suffolk County Council*

### **Community Transport and Befriending Service**

We offer a range of community transport services under the common identity of Connecting Communities. Connecting Communities provides affordable and accessible transport to those who would otherwise find it difficult to use public transport. We support those who are at risk of both social and rural isolation, ensuring they can access key services, employment and maintain connections within their community.

<https://communities.suffolkonboard.com/book-a-journey/west-suffolk/>

We are keen to further develop our services, ensuring that existing and future funding is secured, in particular as we work towards securing our funding streams from June 2023 from Suffolk County Council. We would welcome your support in championing our work.

If you would like further information or meet to discuss our services further do please get in touch: 01638 608022 email: [caroline@thevoluntarynetwork.org](mailto:caroline@thevoluntarynetwork.org)

*From Caroline Robinson, Managing Director*

### **Annual Village Meeting - 9th May**

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council's finances were in good order to meet planned expenditure with an annual precept of £14,000 and about £6,400 of reserves.

Our largest item of expenditure is for village maintenance - some £10,000. The big items are cutting the grass on the playing field, emptying waste and dog-poo bins, maintaining the children's play equipment and repairing benches.

After some years as Chairman, Dr Graeme Norris, announced he would like to resign from the role. He thanked fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support. Mrs Sue Rose was elected the new Chairwoman.

### **Next Meeting?**

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th July 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](mailto:trostonpc@outlook.com)

*From Vicki Gay, Clerk to the Council*

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