



### **Parish Council Meeting**

The Parish Council met on Monday 5th September. Paul Warton was co-opted onto the Council and Peter Riddick expressed an interest in joining too. He will be co-opted at the next meeting unless there are further volunteers - in which case an election will be run!

The two vehicle-activated speed signs near Honington Camp are both inoperative. Honington Parish Council have agreed to purchase one replacement - and Troston have been asked to purchase the second. Of the 581 registered voters in the Troston Parish, 256 are in the Honington Camp area. We are considering this request but would like the units checked to see if a repair would be a cheaper alternative.

There was a complaint that a tall tree on Church Lane is causing concern to a neighbour. The matter will be passed to the relevant authority to consider.

Permission from the County Council to move the grit bin on Forge Corner has been refused. They have also not yet taken action to tackle flooding on Paddock Way.

A request has been made to plant memorial oak saplings in Troston Woods. Walnut saplings have been offered for the Woods and Playing Field. The allocation and seeding of wildlife areas on the Field were discussed.

It was agreed to erect notices on each side of the Playing Field to encourage dog poo pickup, as the incidence of uncollected poo is increasing.

The memorial bench on the Playing Field cannot be installed at the moment as the ground is too dry and hard.

Concern was expressed about the cracks in the new balance beams. We will ask for advice from the manufacturers..

It was agreed to re-establish the Village Lottery to raise funds for improvements.

The meeting discussed what measures the village could take to alleviate hardship amongst vulnerable villagers during the oncoming economic crisis. It was felt that if a request for volunteers was made in the newsletter, with responses to the Parish Clerk, she could put like minded villagers in touch with each other. A group could then coalesce to discuss and act. If you are interested please contact Vicki.

*From Pete Johns, Parish Councillor*

### **Church News**

The church remains inaccessible as the work continues inside. The steps up to the bell tower are in place and the louvres have been replaced in the tower (these are visible from the outside). The toilet is in situ although not yet plumbed in, and the servery area cupboards are being installed. We have been given a date for the

organ to be taken away, we are crossing our fingers that the promised date is honoured. It is hoped that the work will be completed, and the bells installed, before the end of October. Thank you for your patience.

As always, there is a short Morning Prayer Service each 4th Friday of the month at 9am. This may be inside or outside depending on the weather and the accessibility of the church.

### **Ride and Stride**

The Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Saturday 10th September is a sponsored event (although a donation would be accepted). Cycle or walk to see as many of our beautiful churches as possible to raise money: half for our churches, half for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust who then help with grants to maintain our buildings. Do consider riding or striding, or sponsoring those who are, or help with welcoming those who are taking part! Sponsor forms are available on the notice board, on the church gate, or from Jane Harland.

Please contact me 07957611576 if you are able to give an hour of your time to welcome visitors to the church.

*From Jane Harland*

### **Remembering**

A service will be held at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday, 17 September at 3pm, for all who have experienced the death of a child, whatever their age and whatever the cause.

### **Village Hall**

We are pleased that our regular bookings for Pilates, Dance Classes and Coffee Mornings are so well supported and that we have a steady trickle of other hirers. The new oil tank has been installed and we intend to put screening round it. As the external doors are in poor condition they will soon be stripped down, repaired and painted.

Financially our outgoings exceed our income. With price increases to accommodate we are grateful for the Government grants received to tide us over while bookings build up. We hope that more residents will want to use the Hall in the future. For all enquiries and bookings, please contact me:  
sandsbishop@icloud.com

*From Sue Bishop*

### **Afternoon of Music**

An Afternoon of Music at St Andrew's Church Sapiston. Grant Vicat on his newly restored Argent 18th Century Organ will be accompanied by the Blackbourne Singers, violin and solo voices at 3pm on Saturday, 17 September. Refreshments. Donations will go to the Churches Conservation Trust and Ukraine.

*From Carol King*

## **Men's Breakfast**

Full English Breakfast with a Speaker in Great Livermere Village Hall 8.30 - 9.45 every fourth Saturday of the month. Only £3 a session.

Please confirm you will be coming to save food waste by ringing or texting me 07860 868 828. The next breakfast is September 24th and the speaker Dr Martin Belsham on "Men's Health".

*From Tony Redman*

## **Farm News**

On the 22nd August, the Government announced a boost for farming innovation with a £16.5m fund for research and development in agriculture. The projects receiving funding include artificial Intelligence technology to optimise welfare in pigs, agri-robots to help speed up vegetable harvests and automation to increase fruit crop yield.

On the 23rd August, the National Drought Group agreed further steps to manage drought both now and in the long term. The group agreed further action to manage the current drought and work to reduce the risk of drought next year.

On the 27th August, the Government announced it will ban the sale of peat from 2024 for horticultural purposes in order to protect precious peatland.

## **Killing Kites and Buzzards**

What a wonderful sight to see kites and buzzards wheeling over Church and Common Lane - but where have they gone? The sound of a (gamekeeper's ?) whistle to attract these beautiful birds to come closer has been heard.

It is illegal to kill wild birds without a licence from Natural England and anyone who suspects a wildlife crime should report details to the police.

Under guidelines on general shooting licences approved in England on 3 January 2022, however, gamekeepers are able to legally shoot crows, magpies and jackdaws to defend pheasants, grouse and partridges. Birds of prey can also be targeted to protect livestock or pets.

The High Court has recently considered the issues surrounding the granting of a licence to kill kites and buzzards in order to protect against serious damage to livestock.

The Court believes that where game birds are either in pens or are significantly dependent on people they are classed as livestock. For example, where a bird remains in close proximity to a release pen and will often return to it for shelter or to roost at night, and is dependent on food put out by the gamekeeper then it is considered to still be livestock even if it is free-living. As pheasants are released at a relatively young age, they will be dependent on the gamekeeper for several weeks at least.

As a public body, Natural England, must respect this judgement but we do closely scrutinise applications for a licence. Kites and buzzards are a native, protected species, still recovering in some areas from decades of illegal persecution. We know that the game-shooting industry relies on the killing of these birds in order to provide for excessively large numbers of game birds to be shot. Under the data protection act we can not divulge the names of people applying for licences or their stated reasons.

*From Dr Rooney, Natural England*

## **Scout Group**

Beavers went boating in July paddling around at Lackford Lakes, before jumping in before reaching the shore! Cubs have been camping, where they were able to tackle the climbing wall, lighting fires, pitching and striking their tents.

The Scouts have been practising their teamwork with some games and challenges. All sections have finished the term with our annual water fight. We managed to plan these for the 2 days of extreme heat, so the water fun was much appreciated by all.

August is traditionally a quieter month, however, we had a county-wide camp "Suffolk Punch". The Scouts and Explorers from across Suffolk were able to enjoy a 4 night camp with over 1000 people on site.

The Beavers and Cubs also joined us for a day. They were able to enjoy a selection of crafts and circus skills as well as a range of other adventurous activities. Our Beavers chose to have a go at tomahawk throwing, an obstacle course, and pedal go karts. In the afternoon we tried fire lighting and toasting s'mores, finishing the day with a circus show!

*From Jan Neary*

## **Ixworth Surgery**

Ixworth Surgery has joined Botesdale, Stanton and Woolpit to form the Blackbourne Primary Care Network (PCN) of GP Practices. The aim is to extend and improve the services that can be offered to all our patients. Funds will be made available to extend opening hours.

From October, PCNs will be expected to provide bookable appointments between 6.30 pm-8 pm weekday evenings and 9 am-5 pm on Saturdays. Saturday evenings, Sundays and Bank Holiday appointments are not in the new specification.

At the moment, Ixworth Surgery is open at the following times:

- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm
- Tuesday 7.00 am to 6.30 pm
- Not Good Friday, Christmas Day or bank holidays.

There is an out of hours service provided by NHS 111 from 6.30 pm to 8.00 am daily and weekends.

The Pharmacy is Open:

- Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm
- Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm

Child Health Clinics are held in:

- Ixworth Surgery 2nd Wednesday and 4th Wednesday of each month.
- Stanton Bluebells Children's Centre every Tuesday 1.30 - 3.30pm
- RAF Honington Community Centre 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month 10.00-12.00pm
- Thurston, New Green Centre 3rd Thursday each month 10-11am
- Woolpit Health Centre 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month 2-4pm

*From Josh Williams, Ixworth Surgery Practice Manager*

### **Saving the Planet**

We all know the urgency of taking action to tackle the crises of climate change. The Euston Estate is leading the way by planting Paulownia trees - you will have seen the newly fenced fields near the Jackdaw on the way to Knettishall and Bardwell.

Increasing tree planting is a key part of the government's net zero strategy. Farmers planting trees on their land is as old as the hills, but new varieties like Paulownia can also offer exciting and progressive solutions. No other tree can capture as much CO<sub>2</sub> as quickly as the Paulownia and its wood is known as the aluminium of the timber industry. These hybrid trees can absorb up to 10 times as much CO<sub>2</sub> during their 80-year lifetime as new mixed native woodland.

Paulownia trees are widespread in Asia, but the new Paulownia variety is an infertile hybrid which has been bred to grow in the Northern European climate and can tolerate temperatures as low as -22C.

The infertile trees are grown from cuttings, so there is minimal risk of invasiveness. They are deciduous and will be planted alongside additional mixed native woodland species, designed to UK Forestry Standards.

Meanwhile, the timber has multiple applications in light construction, reducing demand for imported timber products and managed plantations will include new native broadleaf plantings and grass swards to boost biodiversity, regenerate soils and improve water efficiency.

*From Camille Berriman and Nigel Couch of Carbon Plantations*

## **Cost of Living**

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting rural communities as deeply as any part of the country. In particular, the huge rise in fuel prices has had a particularly devastating impact on rural communities. Public transport in the countryside is poor and often there is little choice other than to drive to access essential services which means that there has been no way that many rural people have been able to avoid the steep rise in the cost of a tank of petrol or diesel.

Meanwhile government support for energy bills is focused on those on the mains gas grid. However, there is much less support for those millions of households who use oil and other fuels to heat their homes and are required to pay upfront. These households have seen prices rise by more than 90 per cent year on year.

Unlike electricity and mains gas supply, which are regulated and offer consumers a level of price and supply protection, the alternative fuel market is currently unregulated, leaving consumers exposed to higher fuel costs, with oil prices fluctuating daily.

*From Tim Bonner, Countryside Alliance*

I have raised a number of these points with the Minister from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy – particularly the gap in the percentage of homes the government believes are suitable for heat pumps and what other studies have shown and the fact we are being treated less fairly than other areas when we produce much of the nation's energy.

I also pressed the Minister on what other technologies are being looked at, including bio-fuels and hybrid approaches. It is important that a sensible and fair transition away from fossil fuel heating is achieved for rural areas like ours and this is something I will continue to work on.

*From Jo Churchill, MP*

## **Bloody Actors**

The Green Room Players are performing their comedy "Bloody Actors" at Honington & Sapiston Village Hall 19.00 - 21.30 Thursday the 22nd of September.

Entrance fee is £5.00 per person - this includes cheese and wine. There is also a licensed bar. Come and join us for some fun and entertainment.

*From Annette Waterman*

## **Next Meeting?**

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8th November 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*