



Herr Doctor Helmut Claas, dies

Dear Helmut Claas, owner of Troston Farms and Chairman of the CLAAS group, died on January 5 at the age of 94. He made Troston home in 1961 and is fondly remembered by the village for his generosity and kindness. Sincere condolences are sent to his family.

After finishing school, he completed an apprenticeship as a machine fitter, before going on to study agriculture in Paris. He was a talented engineer and his agricultural equipment business became an international success with over 11,400 employees. His special skill was to not only design pioneering vehicles but also to then mass-produce them economically. In particular, his combine harvester, the LEXION, is regarded as the most efficient in the world.

Virus Update

With COVID-19 cases rising alarmingly in our area, there is a new website which aims to offer residents a single, comprehensive and accurate source of information about the virus and vaccinations - www.sneevaccine.org.uk

The new website will be updated regularly and contain the very latest information on the ongoing vaccination programme in order to give people clarity on this major situation including:

- Most up-to-date information on who is eligible to receive the vaccine
- Latest details of locations of vaccination centres
- Updates on progress of the local vaccination programme
- Accurate information on efficacy and safety of the vaccines
- Answers to regularly asked questions and concerns.

From Stuart Keeble (Director of Public Health Suffolk)

Virus Vaccination Delays

Lucky are the residents who are eligible to be at the front of the queue for the vaccine, and are registered with Woolpit or Swan GP Surgeries. They will have already received their second jab! Woolpit are also vaccinating patients registered with the Stanton and Botesdale GPs who are part of the Blackbourne Primary Care Network.

Until now, the two Suffolk hospitals and most GP Practices have been unable to vaccinate due to problems storing the Pfizer jab, which requires -70C freezers only available at Colchester Hospital. The first vials of the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine are set to arrive in Suffolk on Monday, with NHS staff at West Suffolk Hospital to receive a jab in the coming days. Vaccine supply, however, has so far been limited.

"At the moment, we are only able to start to vaccinate people who are 80 years old and over. Please be rest assured, that even if you are 80+ and haven't received a call from your GP surgery, you will eventually get that call. The position is that despite optimistic boasts from Ministers we still haven't had enough vaccines to vaccinate everybody in that cohort,

so we are having to do it on a priority basis i.e. the older you are, the more likely you are to be called forward first. If you have pre-existing medical conditions, that pushes you up the list as well."

From Emily Townsend

Vaccination Volunteer Stewards

We are seeking volunteers to act as stewards at the local vaccination centres across Suffolk which will be open seven days a week 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

People of all ages 18+ are encouraged to apply and we'll provide all the necessary training and PPE to keep you safe. The hours available are flexible and you don't need to have had any previous experience of working in health care. Additionally, there are a number of paid-for positions which could suit those who have some health care experience.

Anyone interested should email epunft.recruitment.covid-19@nhs.net

From Hayley Charman, NHS Public Involvement Lead

Financial Support

As of the 24th December, more residents on low incomes or benefits can now get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19. Previously Test and Trace Support payments could only be given to people meeting certain criteria. Now Councils across Suffolk have extended this, using their discretion, to help those on low incomes.

Visit *West Suffolk Council Test and Trace Support Payment* westsuffolk.gov.uk for details on how to apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

Additional help, including financial aid, is also available from Suffolk Support and Advice Service – especially for those who have never asked for help before. Contact us on 0800 068 3131 between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday or go to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Home, But Not Alone (0800 876 6926) offers help to those self-isolating and needing to access medicine or food.

From Becky Hopfensperger, Suffolk County Councillor

Ixworth Surgery

We have not been scheduled to receive any coronavirus vaccine for several weeks. We plan give the first jab to patients and staff in local care homes in the first cohort before moving on to the over 80's and frontline health and social care workers. After that will be the over 75 year olds and then the over 70's as well as the clinically extremely vulnerable.

Alas, stock is being distributed very slowly to rural areas so we ask patients for patience - it is frustrating but please don't keep phoning us. We know there are concerns about postal delays - so please be assured that you will be contacted by the surgery by phone as soon as we have any stock available to administer your vaccination.

On a positive note, this year's flu clinics have been really successful with 85% of our over 65's receiving a flu jab and 73% of our under 65 year olds who are at clinical risk. We still have stock remaining so if patients are eligible for a flu jab and haven't yet had one, they can contact reception to book an appointment with a nurse at the surgery.

Unfortunately, we are still unable to perform aerosol generating procedures such as ear-syringing and spirometry.

The 'first point of contact' physiotherapists from Allied Healthcare are still accessible through the surgery.

Sarah Miller, our mental health link worker, is holding telephone clinics.

From Joshua Williams, Senior Practice Administrator

Become a Star!

Fame beckons - why not join our creative workshops for adult participants age 18 plus?

We have two zoom groups running on a Tuesday starting on 19th January both for eleven weeks. Participants will work together to create a new play or short story produced by Theatre Royal for digital performance. An example of the work produced last term can be found on

<https://youtu.be/-y8uz5QZjPM> <https://theatreroyal.org>

If you would like to book a place on this program, email me directly for further information **lucinda@theatreroyal.org**

We have two workshops running:

- Act Your Age Theatre Workshop – the Quarter session age 55 plus
- Adult Theatre Workshop – The Moral Steam Engine age 18 plus

From Lucinda Meredith, Producer Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds

Lower Farm Piggery

We have updated our plans for the development of the Piggery. A development of some 30 market and affordable houses that can provide the homes that the village needs - such as smaller properties for local first-time buyers or bungalows for older people.

As requested by the Parish Council, we have drafted our representations to exclude the meadow from the development, except for a possible link to the village and a permissive path. Despite the merits of this proposal in preserving the view over the meadow and maintaining "the look" of a rural community, this scheme does not readily match the Borough Council's *adjoining criteria* for edge of village housing developments.

We have included the possibility of developing the site of the Slaughter House and the land to the east of The Street.

From David Barker, Planner for Troston Farms

The Bull

Since getting the keys at the end of October there has been a huge amount of support for us so we would firstly like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to you all! THANKS!

Although the (let's face it, awful) situation we are all going through at the moment hasn't allowed us to open and welcome you all into the pub, we have been working and focusing all our efforts into making The Bull the best it will have ever been!

We have knocked through the dining room wall to give us an open kitchen so that you can all see our team working hard, smell the delicious aromas and see the hustle and bustle of the kitchen! The entire pub has been repainted and all the furniture and artwork changed to really make The Bull feel like a home from home for you all.

Naturally we are desperate to start using this local gem and share it with you but it looks like we will all have to wait a little longer.

HOWEVER! We are hugely excited to announce that during this latest lockdown we have invested in an artisan stone base pizza oven and will be offering handmade, stone-baked pizzas to takeaway with some inventive toppings as well as the good ol' classics!

Look out for updates on our website: www.thebullfreehouse.com our Facebook page or just give us a call on 01359 269820, we'll be happy to chat and update you.

From Ben & Sam

Census Day

The national Census will be held on **Sunday 21 March 2021**. All households will be asked to answer a set of questions, if possible online but a paper form will be supplied, about everyone in that household on that day. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) which runs the census in England and Wales, is independent from the Government.

Your details are protected by law and information published is always anonymous. The full record is held in a vault for 100 years before it is made available for genealogists. You will be sent an access code in the post and can fill your return in online as soon as it arrives, in early March. Guidance on completing the survey will be released in due course.

From Sally Easton, West Suffolk Senior Communications Officer

Speed Limit

Suffolk Highways have reviewed the Parish Council's request to move the 30 mph speed sign near the playing field to make the entrance safer. They can not approve extending the speed restriction further into open countryside.

Suffolk County Council's accident database has been investigated and there have been no recorded personal injury accidents within the past 5-years, therefore, there is no collision history to justify an extension.

From Francesca Clarke, Community Liaison Engineer

Church News

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.

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
Revd Karen Burton	07546 491388	revkarenburton@outlook.co.uk
Revd Tony Redman	01359 269335 / 07860 868828	tony@theredmans.co.uk

We are all very sad to learn of the death of Herr Helmut Claas, who was a significant benefactor to the church and the village. In 2019 he donated a generous sum of money to the church allowing us to rehang the bells and create a community area.

It is disappointing that a global pandemic delayed our intention to fulfil his dream.

From Jane Harland

Village Hall

The Village Hall is cleaned fortnightly and has all the notices and processes in place for safe use - when the lock-down comes to a close. We don't feel we can make any plans yet as we don't know what unpleasant surprise may be round the next corner...

The lottery is still on hold. We'll get it going again one day.

From Brenda Burridge

Dog Mess

I like to think most dog owners are responsible people. Alas, there have been complaints again about dog poo on the football pitch. It would be a shame if dog walkers were banned from using the playing field - particularly as it is difficult to enforce.

Dog mess can lead to Parvo, which is a potentially fatal disease which is transferred between dogs, but the key health issue with dog faeces is that it can lead to toxocariasis in humans. The symptoms can be particularly nasty. They can include seizures, stomach upsets, sore throats, breathing difficulties such as asthma, and eye problems - possibly blindness.

The Toxocara Canis parasite lives in dogs' digestive system and its eggs can remain active in the soil for many years, long after the dog mess has been washed away by the rain. If the eggs are then ingested by someone, like a child playing on the grass, they then hatch into larvae and thus lead to toxocariasis. So, you don't necessarily have to pick up dog faeces in order to become infected – you could just be playing on ground which had dog faeces on it years ago and still contains active eggs.

From Graeme Norris

Dial NHS 111 First

According to our Ambulance Service, almost 40% of 999 calls during the last six-months did not require urgent attention. The 111 service could have better dealt with the call.

This year Suffolk has launched an updated **Dial 111 First** service to improve the way that patients access urgent care. The aim is to ensure that they receive the right care in the most appropriate setting first time. The service allows NHS 111 staff to book and refer

patients directly into a variety of services out of hospital - including GP Primary Care, Minor Injuries Clinics and Community Pharmacies - and within assessment areas within acute hospitals. NHS 111 will also be able to book and prioritise patients into the West Suffolk Emergency Department when it is best for their needs.

Obviously, patients in potential life or death situations should continue to call 999.

From John Troup, West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group

Policing

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore has just published his proposals for increasing the policing element of the council tax precept by 30p a week. If the plans go ahead, this extra funding will see in the region of 70 additional police officers recruited to the force in the next financial year. We will also be able to recruit 27 civilians who will provide specialist support for officers in the form of digital and intelligence expertise which is urgently needed to keep pace with the changing pattern of crime - in particular online fraud. He would like to hear your view:

The details are here: [pcc-proposes-more-officers-for-the-county-through-policing-precept](#)

The survey is open until 9am on Thursday 28th January. We would be really grateful to learn your views.

From Sandra Graffham, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Wildlife Friendly Village

Wildlife populations have declined by almost 70% in less than 50 years, and flying insect populations by up to 75% in less than 30 years. We can all do our bit to help reverse this trend. Some residents have already planted flower beds in spots around the village.

If you are interested, perhaps you are studying biology at school or college, why not contact your Parish Clerk if you are prepared to form an interest group to survey the green spaces around the village? The idea would be to highlight more areas that could be used to promote biodiversity - for example the playing field edge from Pear Tree Close to Garden Fields?

Let's also reduce excessive grass cutting. Grassy verges and long grass are excellent habitats for all kinds of wildlife. Promote **No Mow May** - the goal is to provide early season foraging resources for pollinators that emerge in the spring.

From Sophie Flux

Next Meeting?

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for **Monday 1st March 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 Please also tell me about items you would like to add to the Agenda.

From Vicki Gay, Clerk to the Council
