



**Edward Vipond - Farmer of the Year!**



At the prestigious Farmers Weekly presentations in November, Edward won not only farm manager of the year, but the overall top spot chosen from the winners of 15 categories.

He says he is still in shock at the result. But the recognition comes after decades of hard work striving to learn every aspect of the job to which he has dedicated his life. For the past six years Edward has managed Troston Farms – meeting the challenge of finding crops that can flourish in our changing climate on fields that range from heavy clay to light sandy soil. Edward is a keen advocate of keeping land in good agricultural condition and responsible environmental stewardship.

The business has expanded to just over 1,400 hectares. There are some 80 hectares devoted to nature, including plots of wild bird mixes and nectar rich margins for bees. Troston Farms is owned by Dr. Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser, who lives in the village and is Chairwoman of the Claas Agricultural Machinery Group.

Well done Edward!

*From Barbara Eeles, Reporter Bury Free Press*

## **Burglary**

Detectives are appealing for information following a burglary at a property on Common Lane in Troston.

The robbery occurred between 11pm Thursday 30 December and 6am Friday 31 December. Entry was gained by forcing the front door and a handbag containing cash stolen. A vehicle was vandalised. The cart-lodge was entered and a number of tools were stolen.

Can you help? Did you witness anyone acting suspiciously in the area at these times? Anyone with information about this crime should contact Suffolk West CID Team 3, quoting crime reference number: 37/73956/21 via –

- Website - Complete an existing report update form
- Phone - Call 101

Alternatively contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111

## **Need to improve**

Later this month I will need to make a decision about the policing element of the council tax precept. I am planning to ask the Police and Crime Panel to support my proposal to raise the policing element of the precept by £10 a year (for a Band D property) which will fund major improvements to the contact and control service.

In all my conversations with the public, including the recent consultation on my new Police and Crime Plan, the one thing that comes through loud and clear is the public's dissatisfaction with the 101 service. It is absolutely crucial I address these concerns.

*From Tim Passmore, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner*

## **The Bull**

The pub is now closed so the team can take a well deserved holiday. We will respond to emails upon our return, our phone will also not be monitored during this time.

Thanks so much for your support in 2021, we very much look forward to welcoming you back again very soon.

*From Ben, Sam & The Bull team*

## **Custom Bikes Go Ahead**

The results of the recent chemical laboratory test show that soil samples from the site are safely below their respective guidance values - except for a limited indication in one exploratory drill-hole. This small area can be dealt with by installing a hydrocarbon resistant ground gas membrane when constructing the floor of any new dwellings. The results also show that existing soils are suitable for retention on the site in the proposed areas.

From a soil contamination perspective, the site may be considered safe for the proposed development of four homes. Validation tests conducted during the development, however, will need to be satisfactory.

*From Matthew Axton, Environmental Health Officer*

## **Village Hall**

Our Village Hall is available for hire for all your party, meeting and celebratory needs. All hirers are advised to follow Government Covid guidelines with regard to face, space and ventilation. Covid measures equipment is still in place for optional use. Should the weather allow, there is plenty of outside space. Picnic tables and garden furniture are included in the hourly rate.

Contact Sue Bishop by email or phone (see Village website for details).

## **Church News**

Finally we have some good news regarding the reinstallation of the bells, all the paperwork and permissions are now in place and work will begin shortly. It's very exciting after such a long time of anticipation, to know that the bells will be ringing again, and that there will be a meeting area with toilet facilities.

Carol singing in The Bull garden was a lovely event. It was a mild evening and the mulled wine kept the vocal cords well lubricated. The church was beautifully decorated with floral displays and candles for the "Midnight" (7pm) Mass but we will have to wait for sometime before we can hold another service in the church whilst the work is being carried out.

In the meantime 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. Services are also being held in other local churches, please check the Blackbourne website for details.

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

Look at the Troston Village Facebook site to access the weekly bulletin from the Blackbourne Ministry Team giving details of everything that is going on in the local area which you can be part of.

Morning Prayer	Monday to Saturday	9am
Evening Prayer	Monday to Friday	8pm
Communion	Sunday	8am and 10am

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| Friday Prayers    | Fourth Friday of the month  | 9am | Troston Church               |
| Revd Karen Burton | 07546 491388                |     | revkarenburton@outlook.co.uk |
| Revd Tony Redman  | 01359 269335 / 07860 868828 |     | tony@theredmans.co.uk        |

## **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

Thank you for contributing to this appeal which is as relevant today as it has ever been. The Troston house-to-house collection amounted to £219.14. The charity states, "Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work"

*From Jane Harland*

## **Litter Picking**

If you would like to volunteer to pick up litter in your village, just complete our online application form on [customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk) or phone 01284757320 We'll deliver the equipment as soon as we can. Please note, in order to meet demand for equipment, in some circumstances we may only be able to supply one set per household.

## **Dog Mess**

Alas, we are at the time of year when the amount of dog fouling increases. I fear dog walking during dark evenings and mornings makes some owners feel they can get away without picking up.

I want to encourage residents to report offenders. It is regrettable that this drastic approach seems to have the largest single impact as offenders start to worry more that they could be caught and fined.

*From Andrew Harvey, Enforcement Officer West Suffolk Council*

## **Euston Rural Pastimes**

The event has in the past raised a significant amount of money for the St.Nicholas Hospice, local churches and local charities. It has been suggested that we continue to do so - but on a smaller scale.

There will be an open meeting in The Old Kitchen at Euston Hall on Wednesday the 12th of January 2022 at 7.00pm to make the final decision on the way forward.

If you have ideas for fund raising at the event and are prepared to join our friendly team, to make it happen, please feel free to attend, or contact Rob Williams: [rgcw423@gmail.com](mailto:rgcw423@gmail.com) to express an interest.

## **Egg Collector**

Rymer Farm are seeking a part-time team member to work on the farm collecting eggs. Hours are 7am to 1pm Saturday and Sunday - and this is every other weekend.

The work involves working closely with hens and collecting eggs laid that morning. No experience necessary as full training will be offered. Contact me 0781 352 8404

*From Steve McLellan*

## **Snowdrops**

Next month Fullers Mill will be open again for special snowdrop days - every Wednesday 11am to 3pm. We can't wait to welcome visitors back to our beautiful garden. Snowdrop expert Rod Leeds will be joining us on Wednesday 9th and 16th February to answer your questions and showcase his own stunning collection.

Home grown plants will be available to purchase and hot drinks and delicious cakes will be on sale in the Bothy. No need to pre-book - just turn up!

We so look forward to seeing you: West Stow, IP28 6HD

*From Annie Dellbridge, Head Gardener*

## **Increase in Council Tax**

Suffolk County Council is preparing a 5% increase in the budget for 2022/23.

I've worked with my colleagues to propose a budget which will not see any reductions in our services, and invests further where it is most needed. But we also continue to face rising costs and hugely increasing demands on our services year on year, particularly our adult care and children's services. Proposing an increase in council tax is not a decision we take lightly, particularly when the cost of living is going up too. By paying a little extra each week, you are helping the council to provide its key services, and helping support those who need it most.

*From Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader Suffolk County Council*

## **Social Care - who Cares?**

Be alarmed. The reforms being boasted about by Central Government will not address the problems we all will probably face at some time with the social care system.

The majority of the funding from the new Health and Social Care Levy will stay with the NHS once its backlog is cleared, rather than switching to social care.

Last year, about 60% of people who made a request to their local county authority were told they were ineligible for care, as councils have tightened their eligibility over the years owing to financial pressures. Alas, as a number of Troston residents have already discovered.

Because no short-term funding is available for current pressures, things will get worse before they get better. We cannot rely on increases in council tax alone to fund rising demographic and inflationary pressures.

Further, Care Homes are facing shortages of skilled staff and funds to attract them. As more providers go out of businesses, there will be less choice for those requiring residential care. The rise in National Insurance will increase care fees in the short-term, and negatively impact pay for carers, exacerbating issues within the social care workforce which already has thousands of vacancies.

Express your concern to Jo Churchill your MP who voted for these inadequate proposals: 10 Hatter Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LZ. 01284 752311. jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk.

*From Martin Tett, County Councils Network Adult Social Care Spokesperson*

### **Thank You for the Flowers**

A big thank you to Steve Bishop and friends who have planted and tended the flower beds about the village for many years. A really kind gesture towards the village. The splash of colour made the village look attractive - and cared for - thanks. You showed a community spirit which I feel sure villagers appreciated.

### **Parish Council**

The village needs another Councillor to keep our “General Power of Competence” which gives us the legal basis to offer a wider range of support for community initiatives. Meetings are for about two hours every two months.

If you want to know more about the challenges facing the village, and would like to help tackle them, please consider joining the Parish Council. At least come along to the next meeting and contribute to the discussion.

### **Platinum Jubilee**

On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from **Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June**. The bank holiday will provide an opportunity for communities to come together to celebrate - and have fun meeting neighbours and friends.

What should Troston do? Perhaps a village picnic and games on the playing field? Perhaps we could have a Platinum Pudding Competition? Would you be prepared to help?

Please email ideas to me and let's discuss at the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting?**

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 7th March 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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