



### **Parish Council Meeting - 2nd July**

Squadron Leader David Williamson of RAF Honington was in attendance. He briefed the meeting on Families Day, on July 25th which is already advertised on Facebook and the noticeboard with instructions of how to apply for tickets.

RAF Honington Facebook page is regularly updated on flying activities should anyone wish to keep informed. Upcoming events are the Voluntary Gliding School will be flying every other weekend over the summer, there is also a model aircraft flying event taking place. On July 11th in the evening the A400 will be flying circuits for training.

A member of the public voiced concerns regarding an increase in dog fouling, especially along Ixworth road. The cost of an extra bin will be looked into but the running cost has been prohibitive in the past. Concern was also raised about offensive graffiti in the bus shelter - a councillor volunteered to spray over it.

Following a report from West Suffolk Council, the supports of the zip wire are deemed unsafe. It will remain out of action until the necessary repairs can be undertaken.

There will be a work party organised for July 27th at 10am, for a general spruce up and maintenance of Troston Woods, please help if you can, more details to follow on Facebook etc.

Paul Walton and Jane Harland were thanked for the display of the silhouette soldiers commemorating the 80th anniversary of D Day on June 6th

Our current clerk Vicki is sadly moving on so we have a vacancy for a Parish clerk, if you wish to find out more please contact our chairman Diana; dianabilverstone.trpc@gmail.com the vacancy will also be advertised on the notice board and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils website [www.salc.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.salc.org.uk/vacancies)

As always if you have any ideas or issues you would like to raise, please contact the Clerk: [trostonpc@outlook.com](mailto:trostonpc@outlook.com)

The full minutes for the meeting will be available as on the website <https://troston.onesuffolk.net>

Date of the next meeting **September 10th 2024 7pm**

*From Sue Rose Vice Chair Troston PC*

## **Troston Parish Council requires a Parish Clerk.**

The Council currently has six Councillors, and holds six meetings per year, these are held in the Troston Village Hall on a Tuesday evening commencing at 7.00 pm and generally lasting 2 hours. On occasion an extra meeting may have to be called but this is not a regular occurrence.

The Clerk currently works 7 hours per week, so this post could suit a Clerk who has time to take on another Parish. Salary is paid in accordance with the NALC pay scales, office expenses, training costs and other authorised expenses are also covered.

A full job description is available on request, previous Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer experience and CiLCA qualification would be desirable but not essential as long as the right candidate is willing to undertake all relevant training. Of course, the current Clerk is prepared to offer help and advice to ensure a smooth hand over.

Cut-off date for applications is Sunday 21st July 2024. Interviews to be held w/c 22nd July 2024

If interested, please contact the Chair, Ms Diana Bilverstone on [dianabilverstone.trpc@gmail.com](mailto:dianabilverstone.trpc@gmail.com)

## **The WI**

Twenty-seven members gathered on a chilly June evening to enjoy the monthly WI meeting. After the singing of Jerusalem, the giving of birthday posies and the amusing roll-call, Tricia introduced the speaker, Cheryl Brighty.

Cheryl told us the history of chocolate while making chocolates and explaining what she was doing. The chocolates she made were delicious. She told us that the price of the chocolate she uses has gone up 100% this year. It was a very enjoyable demonstration.

After refreshments we had time to listen to Joanne's report of the National Federation meeting she attended at the Royal Albert Hall. Joanne recommended all members try to attend one of these meetings.

The competition, a poem about chocolate, was won by Lucy with 2nd Julia R and 3rd Val N. Lucy now has the Josie Goddard Plaque for a year and it will go with the Cath Balaam Cup she won in November with her decorated homemade biscuits. Congratulations Lucy.

We meet at Honington & Sapiston village hall IP311RU, 2nd Tuesday of every month arrive from 19:00, meeting starts at 19:30 to 22:00.

Come and try us out and see what you think! Contact Tricia on 01359 268442 or email [honingtonandsapistonwi@gmail.com](mailto:honingtonandsapistonwi@gmail.com)

*From Joanne Hoyle*

## **Bell Tower Talk**

We're continuing to support our learning, with our practice nights on the first and third Tuesday of the month. We have a tower open day coming up in September where ringers from all over the country will have the chance to visit our district and ring at our towers - more details to follow nearer the time. All other ringing will be posted on Troston's facebook page .

*From Claire Free*

## **Village Hall News**

With lots of bookings this spring, the Hall has been well used and appreciated. For all enquiries and bookings contact me by email or phone.

We have a wide variety of pre-read books for sale - so next time you visit , please bring any books you have read to add to the collection. And, do have a browse to see if you would like buy any, a bargain at 50p for paperbacks or £1 for hardbacks. Proceeds to the Village Hall funds.

For all enquiries and bookings please contact me by email or phone 269467.

*From Sue Bishop*

## **School News**

A busy time in school this term. Our Year 5 class thoroughly enjoyed creating some beautiful flower displays for the Euston Flower Festival at the beginning of June. Three of our older classes had an outing to West Stow Anglo Saxon village where they were encouraged to be investigators in the village settlement and handled replica finds in the Anglo Saxon museum.

Our younger children had a visit to Lackford Lakes and took part in lots of fun activities organised by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust staff. Activities included birdwatching, pond-dipping, creating natural art and learning about trees and mini-beasts! Lots of fun outdoor learning.

*From Carol King*

## **Scout Group**

Beavers have been creating machines out of Lego. We had a hike around Thetford, finishing with some chips.

We have begun looking at climate issues. We finish the month with a camp where we have archery, axe throwing, caving and cooking.

Scouts have been refreshing their first aid knowledge by working out how they would tackle a range of possible accidents. They have also been exploring some science experiments. We all enjoyed the family quiz and AGM - complete with fish and chip supper!

If anyone is interested in helping as a leader or as a trustee please do get in touch. There are many different ways you can help the group: [neary532@gmail.com](mailto:neary532@gmail.com)

*From Jan Neary*

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Abbeycroft are now accepting young people onto our *FREE* Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for 2024/2025.

All costs of the award are covered and all food and equipment will be provided. This programme is completely free for any young people eligible for free school meals as part of Suffolk County Council HAF programme. This is open to any young people in Year 9, 10 or 11 living in Suffolk or attending school in Suffolk.

To register your interest please send us an email [DofE@acleisure.com](mailto:DofE@acleisure.com)

### **Holiday Fun**

School holidays are rapidly approaching. These are all free sessions for those children receiving means tested free school dinners.

Family Park Cooking – A fun day out for the whole family which includes taking home recipe cards and free ingredients to make 5 family meals

Adventure Days – Extended days now 8.30am to 4.30pm to help working parents – breakfast, lunch and snacks provided

Teen Challenge Days – Alternative activities for 11-16 years, hot lunch provided

Free Swim and lunch – free swimming and lunch for children 5-16 years and parents.

If anyone has questions they can email [HAF@acleisure.com](mailto:HAF@acleisure.com) or visit [www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF](http://www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF)

Call 01284 757495 and leave a name and number for a call back.

*From Frank Carn-Pryor*

### **Ixworth Surgery News**

Dr Calum Hart, who has been at the practice for over 26 years, retired on 30th June 2024. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication and valued contribution to the practice, patients and his colleagues during this time.

We are pleased to announce that Dr Laura Smart has become a partner at Ixworth Surgery. Dr Smart has been with our practice as a Salaried GP since January 2021, and she will be holding clinics on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

We would also like to introduce Jayne Gurney - our Social Prescribing link worker based at the Surgery.

What does that mean? Well, her job is to assist patients with issues that are not medical but that are affecting their health. She deals with a very wide range of topics from navigating your way through Social Care, housing problems, helping to tackle loneliness and social isolation through to referrals to self-help groups, stopping smoking or just joining the gym! She can't help with benefits or financial matters but can signpost you to someone who can.

Appointments can be over the phone or in person and can range from a short 15 minute phone call to a longer 45 minute face to face session. She can see you more than once if needed both here in the surgery or at home if you can't get here. You can book by ringing the surgery on 01359 230252 and then ask for an appointment to see the Social Prescriber.

*From Josh Williams, Ixworth Surgery Practice Manager*

### **New MP - New Government - New Start?**

Write to your new MP: Dr Peter Prinsley. Make sure grand election promises are delivered! These are the big issues and promises we heard in our pre-election poll:

#### 1. Improved Funding

The rural councils of Suffolk face significant funding challenges compared to their urban counterparts. The Government needs to revise the funding formula and acknowledge the higher costs associated with delivering services in sparsely populated areas. Despite a population larger than Greater London, rural areas receive significantly less funding for essential services. Urban residents receive 36% more in Government Funded Spending Power per head compared to rural residents. Ensuring fair funding is not just about equity for rural areas, but about securing sustainable and effective public services for all.

#### 2. Investment in Digital Infrastructure

Digital connectivity is the backbone of modern economies, yet many areas of Suffolk lag in broadband and mobile coverage. We heard the Government will prioritise investment in digital infrastructure to bridge this gap. Enhancing connectivity will enable rural businesses to compete effectively, support remote working, and improve access to online services. Approximately 53% of rural premises in England cannot access a gigabit-capable broadband connection, and 55% cannot access full fibre broadband. Robust digital infrastructure can unlock economic potential and improve quality of life in rural communities.

#### 3. Affordable Housing

The availability of affordable housing in rural areas is critical to attracting and retaining residents, particularly younger working populations. Housing is less affordable in rural than in urban areas, with rural residents facing high house prices and lower incomes. Our new MP must ensure the promised Community Enterprise

Growth Plan is implemented to develop unused farm buildings and sites to support all forms of social investment - including new housing developments.

#### 4. Enhancing Rural Transport Links

Transport connectivity remains a significant barrier for rural communities. The limited public transport options in our area can lead to social isolation and restrict access to employment, education, and healthcare. We want our MP to advocate for enhanced Suffolk transport links, including investment in public transport, road maintenance, and innovative solutions like demand-responsive transport services. Improved connectivity is vital for economic development and social inclusion.

#### 5. Supporting Rural Economies

Rural areas possess significant economic potential, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, tourism and green energy. Targeted support can stimulate growth in these sectors, including access to finance, business support services, and investment in skills training. When rural economies thrive, they contribute significantly to national prosperity, creating jobs, and fostering innovation.

#### 6. Addressing Health and Social Care Inequities

Health and social care services in rural areas often face unique challenges, including workforce shortages related to unaffordable housing and higher delivery costs. Rural residents face distinct healthcare challenges, including limited access to transport, longer distances to medical facilities, and recruitment hurdles for healthcare workers.

From his experience as a surgeon with the NHS, we want our MP to urge the Government to implement policies that address these disparities, ensuring rural residents have access to high-quality health and social care.

In essence, don't relax and assume promises will be kept. Keep your MP on his toes! Write letters to him at the House of Commons - which have to be answered. Ask your Parish Council to write every couple of months for updates and be a proactive voice on your behalf. Don't think all will now be ok...

*From Kerry Booth, CEO Rural Services Network*

#### **Next Newsletter?**

Please email me [graemenorris46@gmail.com](mailto:graemenorris46@gmail.com) news items and articles you think would interest local residents for the next Newsletter. The deadline is mid-day Friday 13th September - thanks! Articles may be edited, of course, to fit the space available.

Any opinions expressed in these articles will be solely the author's and do not necessarily reflect my opinions or of the Parish Council.

*From Graeme Norris, Editor*

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