



Parish Council Meeting - 5th March

The wildlife area in the corner of the playing field is starting to take shape with a row of native hedging planted which will hopefully thrive, ahead of some wildflower planting.

We now have two large glass recycling containers as the previous smaller clear one seemed to be filling too quickly.

Sadly, there has been some fly tipping around the village, tipping on public land can be reported to West Suffolk waste customer services by ringing 01284 757320

It is worth noting that visits to the recycling centre are free, where there is plenty of opportunity to recycle most items, including more recently coffee pods.

Some villagers regularly litter pick around the village their sterling efforts do not go unnoticed, if anyone else wishes help, there is litter picking equipment available to borrow, stored in the village hall.

The final consultation on the West Suffolk plan closes on March 12th this will shape the future of West Suffolk, there is still time to give your feedback at westsuffolk.exhibition.app

As always, if you have any ideas or issues you would like to raise, please contact the Clerk; 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 **7th May** - Annual Parish meeting at 7pm, followed by Troston Parish Council Annual meeting at 7.30 pm

From Sue Rose, Chair Troston PC

Rural Past Times No More...

Alas, one of the biggest events in Suffolk's countryside calendar has come to an end after more than 30 years. Rural Past Times was a family friendly show that provided an insight into the history of farming and other aspects of country pursuits, crafts and cottage industries. A fun day out with lots to see and do.

Since the inaugural Euston Rural Pastimes Event in June 1991 the annual celebration of all countryside activities new and old, the sum of £626,000 has been raised and distributed to local charities including St Nicholas Hospice, The East Anglian Air Ambulance and Churches of the Blackbourne team. A very generous legacy is part of this total.

Held in the wonderful surroundings of Euston Park, with tremendous support from the owners and staff of Euston Estate, the event was entirely run by a team of volunteers, keen to work as part of a team to raise money for charity by attracting large crowds of the public to see the ring events, classic cars, tractors, steam and stationary engines, along with trade stands, craft stalls, flower festival and heavy horse show among the many attractions.

"The various organisers over the years of the event would like to thank everyone that has been involved, whether as exhibitor, stall holder, helper or by attending for helping to make the event what it was."

A spokesman for the Euston Estates said: *"We are disappointed that the organisers of this highly successful event have decided that it can no longer continue, but we fully understand the reasons why. The Estate has been privileged to have been part of the event over the last 30+ years, we have enjoyed seeing so many people enjoy the activities in such fantastic surroundings."*

From Tim Fogden

The WI

This month our speaker Sara Doig gave an informative talk entitled *"The Real Basil Brown"*. Basil discovered and excavated a 6th-century Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo in 1939, which has come to be called "one of the most important archaeological discoveries of all time".

From the age of five Basil studied astronomical texts that he had inherited from his grandfather. He later attended Rickinghall School. From an early age he could be found digging up fields. At 12 years old he left school to work on his father's farm.

By attending evening classes, Brown earned a certificate in drawing in 1902. In 1907 he obtained diplomas with distinction for astronomy, geography and geology through studies with a correspondence college. Using text books and radio broadcasts Brown taught himself Latin and learnt to speak French fluently, while also acquiring some knowledge of Greek, German and Spanish. Although declared medically unfit for war service at the outbreak of World War I, Brown served as a volunteer in the Suffolk Royal Army Medical Corps.

Archaeological work started to provide a semi-regular income for him, but at a lower wage of £1 10 shillings per week, less than the agricultural minimum

wage, so that he had to continue working as an insurance agent. He also joined the police as a special constable.

After refreshments Tricia gave details of many Federation events as detailed in The Hive. Suzannah has organised a trip to the Theatre Royal to see backstage and hear some history. This takes place on Saturday, 16 March at 10.30 at a cost of £10 or £5 for National Trust members.

The competition "a found treasure" was judged by the speaker. Val N was 3rd with a rock/bone (I wasn't sure which) found on a beach, Lucy was 2nd with her great grandmother's WI badge found when her house was cleared and Harriet was 1st with 2 small wooden toys found when they pulled up some floorboards!

Sally proposed a scheme for sending postcards to people in care homes. Many residents of care homes miss the news of their former villages and a monthly card with a little local news would be welcome. Sally has lots of postcards available to those taking part.

If you would like to come along to a meeting and see what the WI has to offer, please contact Tricia tel 268442 or email honingtonandsapistonwi@gmail.com to find out more. Or come along!

From Anne Walker

Church News

This Sunday, 10th March is when we remember our mothers or people who have mothered us, and all that they have done or continue to do for us. Mothering Sunday will be celebrated in Troston Church at 11am.

Three services a month are held in St Mary's Church, Troston and you are most welcome to any or all of them. On the second Sunday of the month, there is a Service of Holy Communion at 11am and on the fourth Sunday a much less formal service, followed by refreshments, at 3pm. This service is known as T@3 and is growing in popularity. A short, "said" Morning Prayer service is also held at 9am on the 4th Friday of the month.

Please be aware that even if the church door is closed, the church is always open. The latch can be rather stiff, just pull it toward you and press down and it will open. Many people enjoy the wall paintings and others just come to sit and enjoy a time of reflection or prayer.

You are always welcome.

From Jane Harland

Village Hall

As usual, bookings have been low since Christmas and New Year. But, now it's Spring, they have risen quite dramatically! Whether it's birthday or family parties, business meetings or regular events, Troston Village Hall is ideal!

For enquiries, bookings or simply to look around, contact me by email or phone 269467.

From Sue Bishop

Farm News

I am concerned that farmers might be opting out of food production because of the way the Government's incentives work. One of the new schemes aims to reward farmers for providing "public goods" alongside food production, including climate change mitigation, supporting biodiversity and improving water quality.

My concerns were amplified listening to the former environment secretary, Thérèse Coffey, speaking in the House of Commons this week.

"Since leaving the EU, we've moved from a scheme that paid farmers and landowners for how much land they had to one based on supporting the environment and on providing grants to help their farms become more sustainable. A good idea as in the past, half the money went to just 10% of landowners. The hope was this would open up the opportunity for many more people to get involved in farming - alas, the generosity of the environmental element seems to be skewing decisions away from food production".

From Sarah Chambers

School News

We have had a busy start to the term and have welcomed several new families to our school community. We celebrated Epiphany with a lovely service from Vicar Karen and you may have seen us walking around the village wearing crowns and following the star! We have had several sports clubs start this term – basketball, yoga and football which have been well supported.

We had a visit from a UK Parliament representative who spoke to our older children about the work of Parliament – the role of MPs, the House of Lords and how Laws are made – very interesting and informative.

From Carol King

Scout Group

Beavers started the year with a game night, learning some basic first aid and what to do in an emergency. February has seen Beavers celebrating children's mental health day with some neighbouring colonies, taking part in yoga, and crafting a breathing dragon and calming glitter bottle. Also, we celebrated Pancake Day, found out about our founder Baden-Powell and went for a hike at Bradfield woods.

Cubs have been developing their teamwork skills and practicing their pioneering skills. They have started putting together their air fix models. Scouts have been continuing to develop their navigation skills, they took part in some amazing pancake art and practiced their pioneering to create camp gadgets.

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

From Jan Neary

Patient Experience Survey

The NHS in Suffolk is collecting data on patient experiences with GP surgeries and making appointments. This data will be used to demonstrate any improvements in patient experience of access over the next year (2023/2024), and to identify areas where improvements might be made.

Please visit the Surgery for a paper questionnaire during the week of the 25th March or complete online by visiting the Let's Talk SNEE website: PCN Blackbourne: GP contact and making appointments.

The NHS App

The NHS is planning to use the NHS App on your smart phone to deliver more information on healthcare and making appointments. Despite the inaccurate claims of Daily Mail and Times journalists, your GPs can not use the App to see your daily step-count or calorie intake! The NHS website has step-by-step guidance on how to get started with the NHS App visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/nhs-app-help-and-support/getting-started-with-the-nhs-app/>

As a part of a drive to improve the health and wellbeing of women, the NHS in Suffolk would like your opinions. A survey has been designed for you to anonymously share your views and experiences. (Please note: This project includes those who identify as women but may not have been born female and those who were born female but may no longer identify as a woman).

Complete the survey and support the engagement with local people by going to <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SNEEwomenshealth/>

From Josh Williams, Ixworth Surgery Practice Manager

Ixworth Surgery's Patient Association

When you know our GPs are under pressure, it's easy to think that sharing experiences won't make a difference - but we know it can. In fact, listening and responding to your experiences is the only way to create joined-up health and care services that meet the needs of everyone who uses them.

The next meeting of the Association, which all patients registered with the Surgery are invited, is scheduled for 14.00 8th May in the Surgery. Please let me know if you wish to attend: graemenorris46@gmail.com

Spending Our Money

At the end of last month, West Suffolk Council agreed a balanced operational budget for the next two years. The aim is to continue delivering essential services while meeting the significant financial challenges caused by increased inflation, higher demand for services, and reduced funding from central Government.

The financial plan for the next ten years includes some £130 million of capital investment for:

Essential service improvements

- £200,000 - Investment in the council's Grounds Maintenance service through increased skilled workforce and additional investment in new green equipment for operational efficiencies.
- £590,000 in a range of vital services such as Building Control to ensure safety of developments; planning to deliver the future of West Suffolk through the Local Plan and meet the priorities such as ensuring more affordable homes; regulatory services to meet increased demands especially around checking private sector housing are at required standards.

Affordable, available and decent homes

- Council agreed the introduction of a second homes Council Tax premium to encourage owners to bring them back into use to help relieve the pressure on existing housing stock in the area.
- Around £1.2 million has been budgeted on preventing people becoming homeless.
- £100,000 provision to identify more ways in which the council can increase affordable, preferably social housing, across the district, including

investigating the use of a Housing Revenue Account so that the council can build home for social and affordable rent.

Sustainable growth

- An increased £30 million capital funding provision to support investment in our growth strategy, which will be subject to separate business cases.
- An additional £3 million capital budget (£15.1 million in total) for the advanced manufacturing and engineering (AME) units, Suffolk Business Park, which is a partnership project bringing advanced manufacturing skills and jobs as well as business growth to the area.
- A £2.3 million investment in commercial units owned by the council at Anglian Lane site in Bury St Edmunds and 2 Hollands Road, Haverhill to regenerate the asset to support business growth whilst increasing its rental income which goes towards the delivery of much valued local services.
- Establish a commissioning fund to progress a number of sustainable growth initiatives including along the A11 corridor near Mildenhall, A1307 and A14 to bring more employment and business opportunities.

Environmental resilience

- £2.75 million of investment to top up the net zero fund totalling £11.75 million to support further investment in council assets, including the leisure portfolio and the authority's highly successful solar for business scheme.
- Over £13 million capital investment in a range of improvements to parks, open spaces and leisure facilities across West Suffolk over the next 10 years. Including funding for Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Brandon Leisure Centres.
- £440,000 over the next two years in car park improvements, resurfacing and new EV (electric vehicle) points through the district.

Thriving communities

- £300,000 fund to give extraordinary utility support for Abbeycroft to cover and protect from swimming pool closures or reduction in provision.
- Establish a £200,000 fund to support activities and advice to help residents facing challenges as a result of the cost of living crisis.
- At the same time the council continues to invest £646,000 in Community Chest and Locality Budgets that support tailored local initiatives.
- The council will also continue to invest in Solar for Business which is expected to bring in ongoing income of around £760,000 per annum and reduced costs for businesses. So far 78 business premises have signed up

to the scheme. This has prevented 1,670 tonnes of carbon from being released into the atmosphere.

Car Parking

- The budget process has also given the opportunity to listen to residents, businesses and car park users by simplifying some parking charges and abolishing others. The £1 overnight charge for Bury St Edmunds car parks in the evening will be abolished making parking in the evenings simpler by doing away with the confusion over the overnight charge.
- Parking tariffs will be extended to 8pm and then free afterwards in Bury St Edmunds. In addition, following feedback it is proposed to introduce the option of a new additional hour's parking on the short stay Cattlemarket car park. All other tariffs and discounts will remain across West Suffolk.

Cllr Cliff Waterman, Leader of West Suffolk Council, said: "This budget will help power a thriving West Suffolk. It protects and improves essential services whilst meeting the tough challenge of £5million additional funding pressures, such as inflation, cost of living and higher demand for services that we have seen affecting public services across the UK. It means we have been able not only to meet this gap but to invest in things that really matter to our communities, businesses and the environment. I look forward to engaging further with our communities and partners to help design and drive forward the initiatives that this budget will help fund."

Cllr Victor Lukaniuk, Deputy Leader of West Suffolk Council, said: "Setting a balanced budget for two years in these difficult times has been hard and tough decisions will continue to have to be made. But the council is in a stable and robust financial position to not only meet these challenges but importantly invest further in the whole of West Suffolk for all our communities and businesses."

Next Newsletter?

Please email me graemenorris46@gmail.com possible items you think would interest local residents for the next Newsletter. The deadline is mid-day 10th May - 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
