



## Parish Council News

Thank you to all the residents that took the time to come out to the Annual Village meeting on 14th April – everyone in attendance had the opportunity to contribute to discussions on the playing field use and possible improvements. Some suggestions included: more play equipment, large trees in the BMX track area, outdoor gym equipment, community vegetable garden, allotments, picnic bench in the play area, willow hedging and structures, more seating around the field, a level path around the field and a dogs on leads policy.

Residents also had a chance to see the plans for Lower Farm and ask questions regarding the planning application that has been submitted to West Suffolk Council. Anyone that was unable to attend can look at the plans on the online planning portal on the West Suffolk Council website.

We would like to remind all users of the playing field that dogs are not permitted in the fenced off children's play area and that all dogs should be under control when in public areas.

Traffic issues in the village are an ongoing subject of discussion – rural villages that have narrow highways will always face the same problems with speeding and parking issues. So, we ask all residents (and visitors) to please be considerate when travelling through our village and when parking. Residents can report any illegal or dangerous parking/driving to the police, as it is primarily the police that enforce highway laws.

We have had a couple of community tidy up days at Troston Woods since the last newsletter – the next one is on Saturday 16th May at 10am – thank you to everyone that has joined us so far – if you have a spare hour on the day and would like to help just meet us there. We will also hopefully be arranging a community tidy up day for the village and playing field later in the year, to include minor repairs to the play equipment – any volunteers please contact the parish clerk.

The bench by the old telephone box is now unsafe – the wood and concrete legs have deteriorated beyond repair – the bench will be removed, and the Parish Council will discuss possibly replacing it at the next meeting.

The new solar powered speed sign has arrived. We are just awaiting Suffolk Highways to extend the height of the post near the entrance of Paddock Way so it can be installed.

The village sign outside the pub is looking very weathered so will be receiving a little renovation work over the next couple of weeks – parts of the sign will be removed to be worked on but it will all be put back when the work is finished.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday 2nd June at 7pm** in the village hall.

*From Diana Bilverstone, Chair of Troston Parish Council*

### **Village Hall News**

What an absolutely fantastic success the April Fayre at the Village Hall turned out to be! It was a brilliant day filled with smiles, laughter, and community spirit - and that's all thanks to a small but mighty team of volunteers. Of course, it wouldn't have been nearly as special without all of you who came along to enjoy everything on offer, so a huge thank you for your support!

A big round of applause goes to Diana for pulling everything together so wonderfully. Wendy deserves a special mention for baking the majority of the delicious cakes (with fantastic help from Eve - just 14 years old and baking and helping all day, amazing effort!) and Hollie. Leasa did a fabulous job organising and running the plant stall, with thanks to everyone who donated plants and tools to sell. Paul kept everyone well-fed with his tasty bacon sarnies, and Elizabeth served up delightful afternoon teas that went down a treat.

Eileen worked her magic selling raffle tickets, and what a fantastic selection of prizes we had—homemade cushions, bags, a bug hotel, lots of booze and more! A big shout-out to Harrison from The Fox at Honington for donating a voucher, along with Troston Farms. Your generosity truly makes events like this possible.

It really was a fun-filled day for everyone, and we're delighted to have raised a fantastic amount towards keeping our wonderful village hall thriving. 🧡

Looking ahead, we'd love to welcome a few more helping hands at upcoming events. You don't have to commit all day - even an hour or two makes a huge

difference. Helping with setup or clearing away is also incredibly valuable and much appreciated.

## Save the date! August - Sale Trail

We are planning a sale trail but would first like to know how many villagers would be interested. If you'd like to take part, please email [trostonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:trostonvillagehall@outlook.com) to register your interest.

We plan to have tickets and a map of houses taking part. These will be available from the Village Hall, where refreshments will also be served. Parking will be available at the playing field to help keep the streets clear.

Bury Tea Company (connection with Wyken Market) will have a mini Farmers Market in the hall in 12th July, 13th September, 8th November and 6th December – watch out for their adverts

Sunday 23rd August The Whole Pack Theatre Company will perform “as you like it”. Hopefully the weather will be good...bring a picnic and drinks – watch out for further details

Have you got any ideas for future events or fundraising? We'd love to hear from you! We're a friendly committee keen to involve everyone in the village - after all, it's your hall. What would you like to see happening there? Do you fancy joining the committee, or so please contact anyone of the committee members or email [trostonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:trostonvillagehall@outlook.com). We would love to hear from you.

And don't forget, the hall is available for hire at just £12 per hour for residents - perfect for children's parties, wedding receptions, or any get-together (without the cleanup at home!). Simply contact Paul at [trostonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:trostonvillagehall@outlook.com) to arrange a viewing.

On another note Kris & Diana has kindly donated some white teapots along with mugs for everyone's use in the hall. We have therefore removed all the odd mugs that were in the kitchen and will hold on to them for one month before destroying them. These will be replaced with the new ones. If you would like one of the old mugs or want to collect yours please do so. A big thanks Kris & Diana for their generosity.

And lastly what we have all been waiting for is the village lottery results:

1st Eileen Harrison    2nd Jacky Gooch    3rd Lynda & Jim Kidd

There are numbers available to anyone in the village, friends and family to join the village lottery - please contact Elizabeth on trostonvillagehall@outlook.com

Thanks again to everyone who made the April Fayre such a joyful success—we can't wait to see you at the next event!

*From the Village Hall Committee*

### **Closing Church and Common Lane**

City Fibre had planned to close Church and Common Lane between the 8th and 26th June. Apparently a notice about the work was attached to a telephone pole - and they received no negative comments (if any?).

It seems the idea of using the poles carrying the overhead power cables isn't feasible - and so the Lane will be closed at intervals to allow the cables to be buried.

Checking on Friday, this closure notice has now been removed from the causewayone.network - this might be because the Lane will remain passable and left open after working hours. According to a spokesperson for City Fibre there might be delays of a few minutes to allow traffic to pass, eg while they move a digger, etc., nothing more. They confirmed the trench will be in the road, not the verge. Detailed notices will be sent to affected residences 14 days prior to commencement.

*From Des Pugson, Parish Councillor*

### **Scout Group News**

The Group meet at St Edmunds Church, RAF Honington. We have Beavers for children aged 6-8, Cubs for 8-10 1/2 year olds and for 10 1/2 -14 year olds we have Scouts. Our usual meeting days are Monday 6.30pm-8pm for Cubs, Tuesday 6.15pm-7.30pm for Beavers and Wednesday 7pm -9pm for Scouts. We welcome all new Scouters from surrounding villages.

If you are interested in your child joining one of our Sections or you would like to volunteer, please contact Judy Brooks e-mail [judy.brooks2010@btinternet.com](mailto:judy.brooks2010@btinternet.com), phone number 07805 777162 or Martin Brooks e-mail [gsl1sthonington@gmail.com](mailto:gsl1sthonington@gmail.com), phone number 07531 560701.

Full details from the Scout Group are on the PC website at

[www.honingtonandsapiston.com/1st-honington-raf-scout-group](http://www.honingtonandsapiston.com/1st-honington-raf-scout-group)

*From Andrew Freeman*

## **Women's Institute**

Our Speaker for our April meeting was Anthony Whittingham who talked about creating Larkwood Lakes as a nature reserve. Larkwood Lakes were originally gravel pits and dug out 42 years ago.

It was then a trout farm for several years before being bought by Anthony who created a stunning landscape turned over to rewilding. Today they are an area with lakes, chalk streams and mature trees which are home to many species of birds, invertebrates and mammals . Seven

different types of bats and 17 otters have been seen living in the area. Anthony explained how lucky we are in the England because out of a total of 210 chalk stream areas in the world, 80% are located in southern and eastern England with around 29% in East Anglia. These are rare and valuable habitats which flow through and around Larkwood Lakes. Anthony was a very interesting and enthusiastic speaker and his talk was enjoyed by all. Our meeting in May is our annual meeting when amongst other things we will have the chance to vote for the committee and elect our president. We will also discuss the resolutions going forward to the National meeting in June.

If you fancy coming along to one of our meetings, please email [honingtonsapistonwi@gmail.com](mailto:honingtonsapistonwi@gmail.com), we have a range of speakers each year and would love to see you.

*From Joanne Hoyle, Co President*

## **Farming News**

The war with Iran and closure of the Straits of Hormuz has dramatically increased the cost of fuel and fertiliser. If the situation stays the same by the autumn some farmers may decide not to grow loss-making crops, leaving fields lying fallow. There are calls from our local farmers for the Government to fund a one-off a scheme to protect this land from soil erosion by planting cover crops, and these could also reduce the use of fertiliser.

Thatching is also becoming more of a challenge due to issues with some of the materials. Supplies of the right sort of wheat straw can be unpredictable. Hazel spars used to attach the thatch to the roof now have to be imported from Eastern Europe.

From midnight on April 8, 2026, the nationwide mandatory housing order was lifted. Poultry can be let outside, provided keepers are not within a specific, active "Protection Zone" or "Captive Bird (Monitoring) Controlled Zone". Strict biosecurity remains mandatory and poultry keepers must check for local, active control zones near them.

*From Sarah Chambers and Charlotte Smith*

## **Getting Better?**

Waiting times for A&E at the West Suffolk Hospital vary, with recent data showing improved ambulance handover times of around 22 minutes - down from peaks of over two hours at the beginning of the year. But, alas, still usually a 3 to 4 hour wait for an ambulance to pick you up!

Patients are triaged on arrival, meaning those with the most urgent clinical needs are seen first, rather than on a first-come, first-served basis. Demand is high, and waits can spike during Evenings and Weekends (home DIY times?)

Around 88% of patients were seen by a doctor within 4 hours during the last two months. Median A&E waits were roughly 2.5 to 3.5 hours depending on admission status. Alas, as I have experienced, waits of 6 hours plus are not unknown. Incredibly, this puts the hospital among the better-performing trusts nationally. (The national target is 78% by 2025/26, and many hospitals are below that).

*From Graeme Norris, Trustee Ixworth Surgery's Patients Association*

## **Patient Transport Service**

We have a couple of kind volunteers in the village who will take, when they can, patients who can't get themselves to GP appointments. If you feel you can give some time to offer transport to the Surgery (from one hour to any number you choose to do) in return for 45p per mile please contact me 01842 898414 for a chat to learn more.

*From Ray Horsnell*

## **Use it or Lose It.**

Should (particularly older) people make notes with pencil and paper more often? Few people write letters anymore. Most communication is digital. There is lots of scientific evidence that the brain deemphasises parts that are not used.

It seems that writing with a paper and pencil does activate the brain. Perhaps we should brush up on our handwriting as we age? Certainly my handwriting could do with work!

*From Prof. John Bateson*

Note:

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