



TROSTON PARISH NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Parish Council Meeting

Our monthly Parish Council meeting took place on Tuesday 4th November – thank you to everyone who attended. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd December at 7pm in the village hall, as usual everyone is welcome to attend.

RAF Honington has advised us that there will be a flying exercise involving low flying F15 aircraft during the week commencing 10th November, this will include evening flying and a possible increase in aircraft noise.

The Tree Council are trying to encourage parishes to have local Tree Wardens, we can have more than one, so if there are any locals who have an interest in trees please contact Amanda, the Parish Clerk, on clerk@troston-pc.gov.uk for more information.

The Parish Council would like to thank Richard Balaam for donating daffodils bulbs which have been planted in Troston Woods – also thank you to everyone who went along to help plant them – hopefully they will give a stunning display of colour in the spring.

We have received hedging saplings from The Woodland Trust annual grant – these will be planted to fill in gaps in the existing hedging around the playing field and to start thickening up other areas to promote the natural habitat and increase wildlife ‘highways’ in the area. We also have some native wildflowers and shrubs to be planted in the wildflower area near the fenced play area.

The planting will take place on Saturday 15th November between 9 and 11am – we will welcome anyone willing to help out – please bring gloves, spades and a smile!

If you want to contact the Parish Council for any reason you can email the clerk on clerk@troston-pc.gov.uk or come along to the Coffee Mornings sponsored by the Warm Spaces grant at the village hall on the first and third Fridays of the month for a chat.

From Diana Bilverstone – Chair, Troston Parish Council

Christmas and New Year bin collection days

| Bin colour | Usual collection | Revised collection |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Blue: | Tuesday 30 December | Wednesday 31 December |
| Brown: | Wednesday 31 December | Friday 2 January |
| Black: | Tuesday 6 January | Wednesday 7 January |

Bird Flu Strikes

Bird flu was confirmed at Rhymer Point leading to all the birds in the poultry farm being euthanised. A 3km protection and a 10km surveillance zone has been put in place around the property. It comes after cases were also confirmed near Elveden too.

Bird flu is caused by a virus that infects birds and sometimes other animals, including foxes and otters.

Defra said the risk to the public was very low, but people should not touch or move any dead or sick wild birds.

Owners either within the surveillance zone, or protection zone, have to keep a record of poultry leaving and entering their premises. Those in the protection zone have to follow heightened biosecurity rules, such as cleaning and disinfection.

From Alice Cunningham

News from City Fibre

City Fibre like to bury their cable in the road, and have realised that they will not be able to reach the homes on Church Lane and Common Lane because of the possible impact of closing the Lane for a few days to emergency services. They are, however, talking to UK power networks about getting permission to use their poles - but no date agreed.

From Alan Bennett, The End

Church News

It has been lovely to hear the bells being rung again, many villagers have commented on how they missed them during the time they were out of action.

The churchyard has had a new edition. Since the lime trees along the east fence were brought down, Phil and Jack have built a stumpery. If you haven't come across the term before, it is a garden feature made from tree stumps and designed in a similar way to a rock garden but using stumps instead. It is

an imaginary way use the space and will beautiful in the new year when the spring flowers emerge.

Special Service Dates:

- Remembrance Sunday: 10:50am (to allow for the silence).
- Carols on the Green: 6pm 23rd December
- December 21st 3pm Crib Service (instead of T@3)
- December 24th “Midnight” Communion at 7pm

Monthly Services:

- 2nd Sunday of the month: 3pm T@3 - an informal service delving into a life of biblical character - including refreshments.
- 4th Sunday of the month: 11am Communion Service.

All welcome.

From Jane Harland

Hare Coursing

Be alert - as we enter autumn the perennial problem of hare coursing is likely to increase now that fields are clear of crops and the ground softer following recent rain.

There have been reports of men scouting for likely fields in our area. Usually driving off-road vehicles on farm tracks claiming to have lost their way due to traffic diversions...

It is so important for the public to report all incidents which make them feel suspicious. This enables the police to build a bank of intelligence and target their resources so that they have the greatest impact.

You should always call 999 for emergencies when a crime is taking place. For non-emergencies dial 101 or use your local police force's online reporting service via their websites.

From Sarah Chambers, Farming Editor EADT

Village Hall

We have lots happening at the village hall over the next couple of months – and hopefully even more starting in 2026.

The village hall is in need of repairs – some small, some larger – all are necessary if the hall is to remain open for everyone to use. So please support the events that are happening.

Quiz Night Saturday 15th November – 7pm – teams of up to 6 people - £10 per person – Pie & pea supper and cake – bring your own drinks – raffle – prize money for winning team. Come along for a fun filled social evening, remember it's not about winning its about taking part and having a laugh. Paul Walton will be our quizmaster with all the answers for the evening.

Coffee Mornings sponsored by the Warm Spaces Grant – During the colder months the village hall committee have been given a grant to open the hall for a couple of hours on a Friday twice a month to offer somewhere warm to come and have free hot drinks, biscuits and a nice chat. Open to everyone. Parish Councillors will also be available to residents for an informal chat in a relaxed environment. Dates for the coffee mornings over the next few months are – November 7th and 21st, December 5th and 19th and January 9th and 23rd.

Christmas Bake Sale and Social Saturday 20th December at 10am – come along to buy some cakes for the festive season – refreshments will be available.

Village Carol Singing Tuesday 23rd December at 6pm – a chance to get together and sing a few traditional carols without the weather being an issue – everyone welcome – free mulled wine and mince pies and a festive atmosphere.

If you would like any further information on the events happening, have any great ideas for future events or want to book the hall for any event/party please contact Paul on trostonvillagehall@outlook.com

From The Village Hall Management Committee

School News

The year 6 class at Honington Primary School have been afforded the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament on a guided tour at the end of November. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to deepen their citizenship learning and understanding of British values. However, we are struggling to find enough funds to cover the cost of transport to and from London as coach travel has become so expensive.

As a result, the class is currently trying to fundraise enough money to be able to go on the trip. They are currently doing a sponsored 46-mile run (broken up into daily miles). We have an online donation page setup at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/honington-cevcp-6> or I am happy for anybody to contact me directly at jon.daniels@honington.suffolk.sch.uk. We are very grateful for any support the village is able to give.

On November 11th, Year 6 would like to invite the village to a Story Morning. We have been writing stories and would love an audience to perform them

too. There will be tea, coffee, and other refreshments available, so it serves like a coffee morning as well, running from 10.00 to approximately 11.30. We will be fundraising at this event for our trip to London. Year 6 are really looking forward to reading their stories to you all! Thank you.

From Jonathan Daniels, year 6 teacher.

Troston Poor's Estate

The Estate originated with a gift of farm land from villagers emigrating to Pennsylvania in 1666 to benefit the poor of Troston. The issue has always been how the Trustees are to gauge who is in need of a share of the annual rent of £1876 from this field. (Currently, the Government set the poverty threshold for a couple with no children at £15,600 per year before benefits).

The criterion used since 1986 by previous Trustees has been: living in Troston for more than two-years and being over 65 years old. It has been suggested to the new Trustees that they should share the money only with those in genuine need of financial help - just being a pensioner didn't equate to being poor.

Indeed, since 2011, average pensioner incomes have been growing at a similar rate to working-age incomes driven by higher state and private pension incomes. However, income growth for poor pensioners has lagged behind the population as a whole. This is in part because poor pensioners have not benefited from the rises in private pension income that pushed up incomes for people on middle incomes. Indeed, ironically, higher state pensions have made poorer pensioners increasingly ineligible for further means-tested state support.

Judging who is "poor" in Troston and deserving money from the Poor's Estate is not straightforward. There are some genuinely poor folk in Troston for whom every small sum means a lot.

If you feel you might be entitled to a payment and would like your case to be considered by the Trustees, one payment per household, and are not already receiving one, please contact me, in confidence, at Church Cottage before the end of November.

From Graeme Norris, Trustee

Ixworth Surgery News

The vaccination programme at Ixworth Surgery against seasonal flu and covid is well underway. To date, some 2,400 vaccinations had been administered. About 60% of over 65s had been vaccinated against flu while only 35% of under 65s. The surgery is still running regular clinics for Covid and Flu. Private Flu Jabs are available from the Pharmacy.

It was noted that NHS England had written to some patients incorrectly informing them that they were eligible for a Covid-19 vaccination. This has caused difficulties for vaccination sites as staff have had to explain to affected patients that they are not eligible under this year's criteria, despite receiving a letter stating otherwise!

The NHS is insisting GP Practices offer online appointment booking regardless of urgency. It was thought the call-back triaging approach by a qualified practitioner provided by Ixworth was a better way to prioritising appointments.

From Josh Williams, Senior Practice Manager

Call for Volunteers

The Patient Association provides a taxi service to and from the Surgery for patients who find it difficult to attend appointments.

Volunteer drivers are desperately needed. Mileage claims will be paid and volunteer insurance provided. If you have an hour or two available most weeks, please don't hesitate to contact the Reception staff. You will be made most welcome!

From Ray Horsnell

Housing

The latest Housing Delivery measurement has been published by the Government. The figures show Suffolk has overdelivered on the number of homes thought to be required. But – are these the right homes? The median Suffolk house price is shockingly nearly ten times the median salary!

In Suffolk, the number of households buying with a mortgage has dropped by 10% since 2011, while private renters have increased by 30%... Spend on rents as a proportion of pay is rising steeply.

if we don't build more affordable homes, or control rents, some estimates suggest that, in 20 years' time, 50% of people aged 40 or below will still be living at home with their parents....

From Suffolk County Council, People & Communities Officer

Just a note: The average price of a new build property has increased by 40% in the past three years. Over the same period, the cost of construction materials has only risen just 8.5%, while labour costs are up by 20%. “By any measure, the new-build sector remains a very profitable endeavour”.

From Thomas Cantor, Mortgage Advisor
