



### Parish Council 2019

**Arthur Peake**

Chairman 408728

**Roy Barker**

Vice Chairman 241045

**Nancy Calderbank** 240445

**Bob Fitch** Tree Officer 241727

**Ian Sadler** Broadband 242570

**Donia Stick** Community Speed Watch 245813

**Sandra Austin**

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
242304

sandra\_brown60@hotmail.com

**Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be accessed online at One Suffolk**  
[greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/](http://greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/)

### Lord Thurlow Hall Committee Members

**Roy Barker**

Hon Chairman and Treasurer pro tem 241045

**Sue Howes**

Hon Secretary 242983

**Peggy Elms** 408357

**Margaret Barrett**

Village Hall Draw

**Di Barker**

Village Hall bookings  
241045

**Lindsay Pilags**

07904 053323

**Emma Clay**

Please send items for the newsletter to the Editor Mandie Beckley at [mbeckley@dircon.co.uk](mailto:mbeckley@dircon.co.uk)

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:**

2nd February 2020

## Parish Council Summary Winter 2019

Since the last Newsletter there have been just two Parish Council meetings, one specifically for planning applications and one scheduled meeting.

### Limited highlights, but I should mention:

**Councillor vacancy** – no-one has come forward yet but we live in hope! We are thinking of another exhibition next year so some fresh thinking to make this one even better would be appreciated. If you are interested please call or email Arthur or Sandra.

**Joint Local Plan** – has been issued by Mid Suffolk DC and we have responded. In essence we have asked (again) that the settlement boundary be changed from the current ‘four islands’ approach. We are not holding our breath.

**Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)** – a new resident has been following up the cost of BT providing FTTP in the heart of the village. If BT respond favourably we plan to hold an open meeting, perhaps on a Saturday when more people can attend. Watch this space.

**Speedwatch** – is reducing the number of sessions as the shorter days are upon us. As one of those who stand at the roadside with the speed gun, it has been noticeable that traffic behaviour is generally getting better. The evidence from the SID shows there are still some excessive speeds, particularly at night. Good to see more volunteers this year. If you are interested see the Speedwatch report on page 3 for contact details.

**And finally** – the next meeting is 7:30pm on Thursday 28th November 2019 in the Lord Thurlow Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

*Arthur Peake, Chairman*

### Village Hall Draw

The Great Ashfield Village Draw provides much-needed funds for the maintenance and improvement of our very attractive Village Hall. Each draw entry costs £12 per year and the draw usually takes place at the regular Pub Nights. Please contact me or Roy Barker if you would like to take part in this worthy cause.

*Margaret Barrett*

01359-259113

[robin@greenbee.net](mailto:robin@greenbee.net)

### August winners

1st	£25	H. E.	Number 15
2nd	£15	D. B.	Number 101
3rd	£10	R. W.	Number 80
4th	£5	Z. L.	Number 25

### September winners

1st	£25	L. B.	Number 147
2nd	£15	M. J.	Number 235
3rd	£10	Z. L.	Number 25
4th	£5	H. E.	Number 15

### October winners

1st	£25	K. H.	Number 85
2nd	£15	M. B.	Number 106
3rd	£10	M. L.	Number 196
4th	£5	P. E.	Number 44

## Church News

**Harvest** — Thank you to those kind people who helped decorate the church for Harvest and donated produce and provisions. These were passed on to Tayfen House in Bury St Edmunds.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** — Once again this fundraising event was held in the church as part of TOAST, surrounded by the harvest decorations. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this very good cause and helped raise £279.89.

**TOAST** — No community breakfast in December but it will start again in January.

**Christmas Services** — The Carol Service will take place at All Saints' Church on Sunday 22nd December at 5pm followed by refreshments. The collection will go to The Children's Society. We look forward to seeing you there.

There will be a **Crib Service** at 10.30am on Christmas Day.

**Carol Singing** — No carol singing around the village again this year but do join us at the carol service instead.

### Dates for your diary:

**Sunday 22nd December Carol Service**, All Saints' Church, 5pm (Collection to The Children's Society) Followed by refreshments

**Wednesday 25th December Christmas Crib Service** for families, All Saints' Church, 10am  
Children invited to dress as angels, shepherds or Kings

**Sunday 29th December Benefice Communion**, All Saints' Church 10am

**Sunday 12th January 2020 Plough Service** at All Saints' Church

## Councillor Meyer's musings

**"Richard Meyer is duly elected as District Councillor for the Walsham Le Willows Ward."**

With these words the Returning Officer kicked started my tenure as a member of Mid Suffolk District Council. A few weeks earlier I had been pleased to be appointed unopposed to the Wattisfield Parish Council; a role I knew very little about but one that I was keen to embrace having recently retired. I was not expecting the phone call that came a few days later.

**"Hello Rick, the Conservative candidate for the Walsham Ward has dropped out and they are looking for a replacement, would you be interested? "**

If I had little idea of what a Parish Councillor did, I had no idea what a District Councillor's role was and it was not without some trepidation that I decided to give it a go. Nomination forms, signed by 10 residents, were hand delivered to the Council offices in Ipswich and election leaflets were designed, proofs checked and printed, all within a few days.

### Did I want posters?

No. I have always disliked the pollution of our lovely villages with political paraphernalia and I was also convinced that pictures of me littering the countryside was not going to have positive impact on my chances of election.

### No posters please

Despite sore feet, I enjoyed the process of delivering the leaflets and I learnt a great deal about the villages I was keen to represent. Canvassing, like the posters, was something I had always disliked and hence I decided not to inflict myself, uninvited, on the residents of the Ward. Thanks must go to Roy Barker, the retiring Ward Councillor, not only for his work over many years but also for briefing me on my future duties and delivering leaflets on my behalf — thanks Roy.

Seeing my own name on an official ballot paper was very strange and being elected a far more humbling experience than I was expecting. But elected I was, and I am now getting to grips with what is expected of a Councillor. I will keep you abreast of my adventures, successes and failures, but if you need my help or want to discuss a matter of concern please get in touch. A few recent Council initiatives that you may find interesting are listed below:

- \* Mid Suffolk District Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2030 and a task force has been established to deliver this testing target.
- \* Residents are invited to tour the Suffolk's Energy and Waste facility. If you are interested book via the following link: <http://www.suffolkefw.co.uk/contact/book-a-visit>
- \* Mid Suffolk Council is offering grants for home adaptations of between £1,000 to £5,000 to support residents living at home with long term health conditions. For information call 0300 123 4000.
- \* The free swim programme for under 17s at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket and the Stradbroke Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre has been extended to include the Christmas holidays.



*Rick Meyer richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk or 07849 078758*

## The history of Great Ashfield's two mills

The earliest depiction of a windmill in Great Ashfield is on Hodgkinson's map of Suffolk, 1783, where a windmill is shown in what was then Batten Haugh Green.

There used to be a hand drawn tythe map in the church, dated early 1800s, which clearly showed a mill and a house where Little Mill Cottage is now.

The earliest poor quality photograph shows the mill, adjacent wooden building housing a steam mill and a tall chimney, with a house in the background which is Little Mill Cottage.

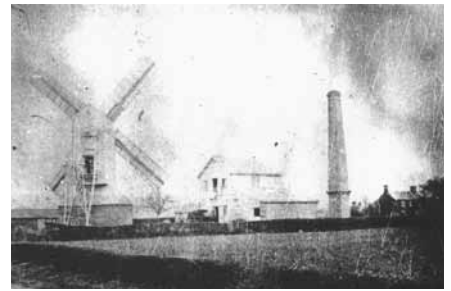
A better quality photograph,

taken from what is now my garden, shows the mill and adjacent buildings very clearly. The mill was owned by the Elmer family, who also owned mills in Elmswell, Woolpit and Badwell Ash. Elmer family gravestones can still be seen today near the church porch.

The mill was probably dismantled after the Elmer family migrated to Australia, although it still appears on an ordnance survey one inch to the mile map of 1946.

I have found pieces of millstone in my garden and I am in contact regularly with current Elmer family members who live in New Zealand but who have come back often to Ashfield.

Tom Eeles



Above: The early Ashfield Mills  
Below: The Elmer family celebrating a family wedding



## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH RESULTS AUGUST 2019

### Community Speed Watch update

In recognition of the high percentage of speeding vehicles passing through both Great Ashfield and Long Thurlow the Police Safety Camera team has been a regular presence.

We now have 14 Community Speed Watch team members, seven of whom are from Great Ashfield and seven from Long Thurlow. This has allowed us to carry out a greater number of sessions on Elmswell Road and Long Thurlow Road during September, October and November. In spite of the weather and road closures, the outcomes have been as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	LOCATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES	GA NUMBER REPORTED TO POLICE	LT NUMBER REPORTED TO POLICE
09 Sept					
13 Sept	GA		234	13	
16 Sept	GA		81		0
18 Sept		LT	82		3
19 Sept		LT	100		1
24 Sept	GA		189	3	
01 OCT		LT	72		1
03 OCT	GA		212	8	
04 OCT	GA		205	0	
07 OCT	GA		179	3	
08 OCT		LT	134		2
10 OCT		LT	80		0
11 OCT	GA		184	6	
04 NOV	GA		187	3	
06 NOV	GA		170	2	
08 NOV		LT	54		0
			2373	42	7

On behalf of the residents of Great Ashfield and Long Thurlow, thank you team.

*Donia Stick*

PS. New team members are always welcome! Phone me on 245813 for details.

## Village Hall news

The hall is open as 'The Village Inn' on the FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH (except August and January) from 7.30-10.30pm. Everyone is welcome including guests! The December Pub Night is our Christmas.

### Dates for your Diary:

#### Friday 6th December

Christmas Village Inn – 7.30pm  
Mulled Cider & Nibbles

NO VILLAGE INN in JANUARY 2020

Friday 7th February – Village Inn – 7.30pm

Friday 6th March – Village Inn – 7.30pm

The annual Pumpkin Evening was busy in October with lots of entries. There was no great whopper of a pumpkin this year (last year's was the largest ever at 25 stone!), so there was a new name on the June Taylor Rose Bowl: David Matthew. So well done David!

There were several children's carved pumpkins this year and Sienna Tailby retained her title. We were able to sing 'Happy Birthday' to her little sister, Indy who, at two years old, made a beautiful little pumpkin in her costume.

*Sue Reid*



## All Saints' Church

### Rector

Revd Katharine Valentine  
01359 235095

### Monthly pattern of Worship- First Sunday

10am Benefice Family@  
Church, St Mary's Church,  
Pakenham, breakfast available  
from 9.30am

### Second Sunday

9.30am Morning Prayer

### Third Sunday

11am Family Communion

### Fourth Sunday

9.30am Community Breakfast  
TOAST

### Church Wardens

Roy Barker 241045  
Raymond Mayhew 240741

Details of services held in our  
church can be found at  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

The Benefice village and  
church news magazine is  
available to read online –  
[www.vcnews.org.uk](http://www.vcnews.org.uk)

## WANTED: Used stamps

As there are a lot of stamps around at this time of year I would be grateful if you could save them for me and drop them through my letterbox.

I send them to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. They welcome stamps from any country and of any value. If possible, leave at least 1cm border around the edge. Many thanks.

*Sheila Catchlove, Fields End,  
Elmswell Road*



## Free bin stickers for the residents of Great Ashfield

I still have plenty of FREE 30 mph bin stickers for Great Ashfield residents who put their bins out on Elmswell Road or on the 30 mph parts of Long Thurlow Road and School Road. If people have only one or two stickers then I will make that up to four.

*Donia Stick 245813*



**PLEASE DRIVE  
CAREFULLY**

## Email failure

Please may I send my apologies to all those on my email list. My programme has stopped allowing me to use the group emails and I haven't got to the bottom of it yet. When I do, everyone will know as they'll be flooded with catch up emails!

*Di Barker*



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