

Great Ashfield Village News

ISSUE NUMBER 8

SPRING 2017



Parish Council 2017

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408728

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241045

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Minutes of all Parish Council
meetings can be accessed on-
line at One Suffolk

greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/

Please send items for the
newsletter to the Editor,
Judith Constantine
village_news@barcham.org.uk

**COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE 15 MAY 2017**

Parish Council News

The council has met twice since the last newsletter. Highways are still a major topic. We have coordinated with Badwell Ash PC and are producing a joint plan for Speed Indicator Display (SID) signs and the longer term measures outlined in the last newsletter. Our District and County councillors remain supportive.

On the broadband issue, where service is always less than 2 Mbps our County Councillor has suggested that households apply for the subsidy scheme. Application forms may be downloaded from

www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/ApplicationForm.aspx

The precept level has been maintained. The Millennium Book, Great Ashfield Year 2000 [more details on page 4] has suffered wear and tear and a proposal to update the binding should be concluded in March. There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council and a notice has been posted on all parish notice boards. If you are interested apply to the Parish Clerk or any councillor in the panel below.

Finally – dog poo! The pathway by the church, running up past Hall Farm cannot have a dog waste bin (MSDC will not empty at this location) and some dog walkers are hanging bags on the hedge. Signs will go up there but please spread the word to stop this unsightly action.

Next meeting is 30 March at 7.30pm in Lord Thurlow Hall.

Arthur Peake, Chairman

DANGER ON OUR ROADS!



This photo, taken by Lynn Elvin, graphically illustrates the danger to residents on our roads. This accident between a car and a van happened at the corner by the post box on Elmswell Road at 8.15am on 13 February. Fortunately no-one was injured on this occasion, but both vehicles have been written off. Investigation by the police is still in progress and we will report the outcome in due course.

The Parish Council is addressing the problem of speeding in our village, but they need your help. PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR THE COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH!

Dates for your diary

Friday 5 March

Village Inn and Pudding Night,
Lord Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm
*Bring your favourite pudding
and vote for the best one!
Can we beat 19 different
puddings on offer!*

Thursday 9 March

WI meeting Lord Thurlow Hall,
7.30pm *Clinique skin care and
make-up with Angie and Lisa
from Palmers*

Thursday 30 March

Parish Council meeting, Lord
Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm
*Village residents are invited
to attend*

Friday 7 April

Village Inn, Lord Thurlow Hall,
7.30pm

Thursday 13 April

WI Open Meeting, Lord Thurlow
Hall, 7.30pm *Bee keeping and
the honey bee, with honey
tasting, by Mike Shave*

Friday 5 May

Village Inn, Lord Thurlow Hall,
7.30pm

Thursday 11 May

WI Annual General Meeting,
Lord Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 8 June

WI meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall,
7.30pm *The Yanks are Coming'
by Linda Scoles*

Barker's Babberlings

Council Tax

It looks like we are going to put up your share of the council tax by 5p for Band D properties which equates to 1.64%. The Police and Suffolk County Council are proposing to increase their share by approximately 2%, so council tax will rise by just under 2%.

Council Headquarters

When the main office of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils moves to Endeavour House in Ipswich, there will be MSDC presence still at 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. This will be a face-to-face contact point for customers of MSDC and Suffolk CC which will save any travelling to Ipswich. But I will still be available locally for any problems that arise that I can help with.

Police

We are seeing less and less Police presence in the village and at meetings. If you have any problems or worries, please contact Suffolk Police on 101 or if more serious, for example you witness hare coursing, immediately ring 999. Many crimes involve vehicles, so do train yourself to take down vehicle registrations, make and colour.

Litter

The current litter cleanliness of the area is not at the high standard that Mid Suffolk sets itself. However, we are doing the very best we can to clear the mounting level of litter with our street cleansing teams and many volunteers who help to remove the rubbish thrown from vehicles. If you witness litter being thrown from, or falling from the back of a car, van or lorry, MSDC can follow up this sighting and, in many cases, prosecute. Take down vehicle details and give them to me with the time of day, date and locality. If you have children and grandchildren, please educate them to respect our countryside and to bring their litter home to dispose of it sensibly. It is coming to that time of the year for a good Spring Clean, clearing up behind those who do not respect our county. If anyone wants to help picking litter, cleaning road signs or cutting back any vegetation, please contact me.

Roy Barker 01359 241045 or roy.barker@midsuffolk.gov.uk

PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING

In aid of the chancel
roof repair fund

Saturday 29 April
All Saints' Church
10am to 1.00pm

Offers of plants, seedlings
and cakes much appreciated.
Contact Stephen and Petrina
Miles 259283 or Shirley
Meekings 240464

TOAD TIME! DRIVERS TAKE CARE!

From the end of February until April our toads will come out of hibernation and return to their spawning ponds, crossing the roads. Toads cross after dark when the temperature is above 5 or 6°C on damp/rainy evenings.

Local drivers: We put up and light toad signs when we patrol. Please take care and look out for the patrollers in hi-viz jackets! Thank you.

If you can help in any way, please contact

Lorna Mackinnon (Walsham) 259140 mackinnonlorna@gmail.com

Sylvie Fitch (Badwell Ash) 241727 bob.sylvie@btinternet.com

Ian Cassidy (Stowlangtoft) 233285 ian.cassidy4@btinternet.com

Village Hall News

The Lord Thurlow Hall is open as 'The Village Inn' on the FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH (except August and January) 7.30 to 10.30pm, where everyone is welcome.

Would you like to get involved in village life and get to know people? There are vacancies (owing to people moving away from Great Ashfield) for committee members to join our friendly team. We need a Chairperson, Treasurer and additional members to manage the hall and assist in organising our programme of fund raising events. If you would like to join, please contact Roy or Di Barker on 241045.

Lord Thurlow Hall

Committee members

Roy Barker Hon Chairman and
Treasurer *pro tem* 241045

Sue Howes, Hon Secretary
242983

Sue Perkin-Ball, Hall Draw
Organiser 242422

Peggy Elms 408357

For hall bookings contact
Di Barker 241045

FARMLAND ACCESS AND FOOTPATHS

Access to farmed land owned by E J Barker and Sons in Great Ashfield and Westhorpe changed on 1 February. Our Environmental Stewardship Scheme has expired and you will all notice some changes to different areas of the farmed land around the village. The scheme has given us the opportunity to deliver a huge amount of benefit to our farmland wildlife and habitats. We are disappointed that our scheme has expired but it was only ever a ten year agreement and at present we do not have a suitable environmental management scheme to convert to.

One of the most noticeable changes will be the removal of all of the permissive access paths that were an option of the scheme. This does not affect existing footpaths and bridleways which remain the same as per the Ordnance Survey maps. The closed permissive access paths will be clearly marked with signs. Unfortunately the removal of permissive access means that the current footpaths are once again no longer accessible for horses, and horse riders are requested to keep to the designated bridleways and public highway. We hope that you have enjoyed using the permissive access paths for the past ten years and we apologise that they could not be continued.

Patrick Barker

[further information and current footpath maps are available from Patrick Barker 01449 781286 or patrick@ejbarker.co.uk]



Great Ashfield and Badwell Ash WI

Look us up on
www.thewi.org.uk
and on Facebook

Visitors are always welcome to join us for any of our meetings at the Lord Thurlow Hall. Just come along on the second Thursday of the month for a 7.30pm start (see Village Diary for programme)

Our March meeting with Clinique should be great fun – you might even get a makeover!

April and June are our open meetings, when gentlemen are invited too.

Lyn Andrews 259637

Poppy Appeal

Shirley Meekings would like to thank everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal. A special thank you to Doris Leggett and Sylvie Fitch for helping with the door-to-door collection. The grand sum of £218 was collected.

Designed and produced by
Judith Constantine 241079 village_news@barcham.org.uk
Printed by Profile Business Supplies, Bury St Edmunds
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sandra_brown60@hotmail.com

All Saints' Church

Priest in Charge
Revd Katharine Valentine
01359 235095

Monthly pattern of Worship

First Sunday 11.00am Family Service.

Second Sunday 9.30am Morning Prayer

Third Sunday 11.00am Family Communion

Fourth Sunday No service at Great Ashfield but there are others around the benefice.

Details of all church services and Benefice news can be found on www.vcnews.org.uk or contact Church Wardens

Roy Barker 241045

Raymond Mayhew 240741

Special Services

Friday 3 March

Women's World Day of Prayer, 2.30pm, Norton Baptist Chapel, with refreshments.

Sunday 26 March

Mothering Sunday Service with gifts of flowers, All Saints Church, 11.00am

Friday 14 April (Good Friday)

For Children and Adults
Lord Thurlow Hall, 1.30pm decorating a cross for Easter then at 2.00pm Procession of Witness behind the cross, from the Hall to the church and at 2.15pm a short service with activity in the church, followed by Hot Cross Buns and a drink. *Take part in all, or some of these.*

Sunday 16 April

Easter Family Festival Communion, All Saints' Church, 9.30am

Saturday 29 April

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, All Saints' Church, 10am to 1.00pm

Church Services and Events

Throughout Lent, every Wednesday evening from 8 March to 5 April, in The Martin Room, Pakenham Church, at 7.30pm, we will be viewing and discussing the DVD 'Risen'. These meetings are always interesting for those who want to think about life in all its forms.

Did you know All Saints Church is Open Daily?

The church is now unlocked between about 9.30am to 4.00pm, every day, for visitors and those wishing to enjoy its peace. Just open the door and go in.

A Prayer Tree will be set up throughout Lent If you have any people or situations you would like to be encircled by prayer.

See panel opposite for complete list of church services and events throughout March and April.

Di Barker

Great Ashfield Year 2000



For those of you who moved to Great Ashfield since the year 2000, here is a resumé of how we celebrated the beginning of the new millennium and how this milestone was recorded.

In 1998 a committee was constituted and residents were asked what they would like to do. It was agreed that we would raise funds for (a) new oak doors for the porch at All Saints' Church, (b) a 'domesday' book recording the village and its community, and (c) a party to be held in 2000. These projects were funded by a number of events held in the year leading up to

the millennium. Some £12,000 was raised and a further £5000 was awarded by Suffolk Acre for the village record.

The complete record of Great Ashfield in the year 2000 is published in a leather bound volume which is kept in a cabinet in the church. It may be viewed when the church is open (normally 9.30am to 4pm every day). A copy is also kept at Kiln Farm.

Great Ashfield Year 2000 is a fascinating account of the village from its earliest known settlement to the present day. It shows the village from the ground and the air, describes how the land is farmed, and records aspects of the countryside and everyday village life in the year 2000. Many individuals contributed their time and their talents, and 88 households contributed details of their homes and families. Photos of most of the houses, farm buildings and businesses are included as well as a register of businesses.

In addition to the leather bound volume, an abridged edition was produced so that residents could purchase their own copy.

Sadly the binding has not stood the test of time and the book now needs to be repaired (see photo). The Parish Council is considering how best to proceed in order to assure the long-term durability of this unique work for future generations.

Judith Constantine