

# Great Ashfield Village News



ISSUE NUMBER 16

SPRING 2019

## 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

Robin Watts 240678

Sandra Austin, Parish Clerk and  
Responsible Financial Officer  
242304

[sandra\\_brown60@hotmail.com](mailto:sandra_brown60@hotmail.com)

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

*For hall bookings contact  
Di Barker 241045*

*Please send items for the  
newsletter to the Editor,  
Judith Constantine  
[village\\_news@barcham.org.uk](mailto:village_news@barcham.org.uk)*

**COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE 13 MAY 2019**

## Parish Council News

The council has met three times since the last newsletter, two scheduled meetings and one session to respond to planning applications.

The Community Speed Watch team are planning more road-side sessions in spring and summer. The majority of volunteers are Badwell Ash residents from Long Thurlow, there are only four active volunteers from Great Ashfield. We need additional people to ensure that the Elmswell Road site gets enforced more often. CSW sessions can take place on Saturdays if that helps with your schedule. The commitment is only for one hour a few times a year. Please contact any Parish Councillor if interested.

The parish budgets have been set and there will be a small increase this year (£115 in total or 80 pence per household). Some costs have increased (dog bin charges for example) and it is election year where the MSDC election costs must be covered. They charge over £100 even for an uncontested election – over £1000 if contested – and we are obliged to maintain a reserve to cover these costs.

Following the successful WWI exhibition all copies of the 100 page *Here but not here* booklet have been sold. We can get 'on demand' print runs so if anyone missed this and wants a copy (£10 each) please let us know: contact any councillor or send an email to [greatashfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:greatashfieldpc@outlook.com).

And finally, thanks to the volunteers who tackled some of the footpath encroachment alongside our main road. Our County Councillor has referred this issue to Highways and we hope remedial action takes place soon.

The next meeting is on Thursday, 21 March, 7.30pm in the Lord Thurlow Hall.

*Arthur Peake, Chairman*

## TOAD TIME! DRIVERS TAKE CARE!

From the end of February until mid 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 need your help. We put up and light toad signs when we patrol. Please take care and look out for the patrollers in hi-vis jackets! Thank you.

## Dates for your diary

### Friday 1 March

Village Inn, Lord Thurlow Hall,  
7.30pm

### Thursday 14 March

WI meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall,  
7.30pm  
*Suffolk Accident and Rescue  
Service by Dr Andrew Mason*

### Thursday 28 March

Parish Council meeting, Lord  
Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm  
*Residents are welcome to attend*

### Sunday 31 March

Mothering Sunday Service, All  
Saints' Church, 11.00am

### Friday 5 April

Village Inn, Lord Thurlow Hall,  
7.30pm

### Thursday 18 April

WI meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall,  
7.30pm

### Sunday 21 April

Easter Day Service, All Saints'  
Church, 9.30am

### Friday 3 May

Village Inn, Lord Thurlow Hall,  
7.30pm

### Saturday 4 May

Homes and Gardens Yard Sale  
Kiln Farm, 10am to 4pm  
*(see opposite)*

### Thursday 17 May

WI meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall,  
7.30pm

### Thursday 31 May

Annual Parish Meeting 7.00pm  
followed by Parish Council  
meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall,  
7.30pm  
*Residents are welcome to attend*

## POPPY APPEAL

*I would like to thank every-  
one who donated to the  
Poppy Appeal in Great  
Ashfield. The sum of  
£345.25 was raised. Thanks  
also go to Sylvie Fitch for  
helping me to collect in our  
village.*

*Shirley Meekings*

## Barker's Babberlings

**Barker's Babberlings will be no more!** This will be my last contribution as your District Councillor because I am standing down after representing this ward for 16 years. It has been an honour and a privilege and I have learnt so much about Council procedure, its difficulties and its successes. The boundary review of the wards within Mid Suffolk has been adopted, cutting the number of councillors down from 40 to 34. From May 2019, the Badwell Ash ward will be disappearing. Stowlangtoft will move into the Thurston Ward; Finningham, Westhorpe, and Wyverstone are going into the Bacton Ward, while Badwell Ash, Langham, Hunston and Great Ashfield will be in the Walsham-le-Willows Ward.

The implementation of this change seems the best time for me to retire as a District Councillor. I have enjoyed every bit of responsibility that goes with the role but, if I stood again for another four years, by the time I finish I would be pushing closer to 80 and my grandson would be six years old. I feel it is time to give my family, who have supported me through the last 16 years, quality time in my later years.

But, enough of me.

### Mid Suffolk District Council

The major point is that we are putting our share of the council tax up by 6 pence a week (2%). You will find the Police and Suffolk County Council share will go up around 5%. The administration would rather have small, regular increases, than none and then a massive increase every four years.

### Waste collection

The Christmas and the New Year period went well, thanks to your support. Collecting two days later than normal is not ideal, but Christmas and New Year falling in the weekly calendar when they did, did not help. Over 80 tonnes of extra recycling was collected over that period, plus 2000 Christmas trees dealt with through our collection points.

### Planning

The new Joint Plan for the district should be with us in early summer. This means we will be able to have more control on where, or where not, developments can happen in our villages and towns, reducing the tendency of large developers dictating where *they* want to build and not where the residents want housing to go.

I am still around, until May, as your District Councillor. Please contact me if you think I can help on any problem. As someone said the other day, from a neighbouring village, 'Even after you've retired, we will still use you, as you have all the contacts, Roy.'

Thank you all for your support over the years.

Roy Barker [roy.barker@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:roy.barker@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

## Church News

### Homes and Gardens Yard Sale

All manner of bedding and herbaceous plants, shrubs, garden tools, second-hand furniture, pre-loved china, linens and other home-ware, books and toys, will be on sale in a barn at Kiln Farm, School Road, IP31 3HN, for one day only on Saturday, 4 May, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Proceeds will be in aid of the ever necessary maintenance of our village church. Offers of help to prepare for the day would be gratefully received.

### TOAST Community Breakfast

After three months at the Lord Thurlow Hall, TOAST returns to All Saints' Church on 24 March. Bacon rolls as always, and waffles too, as well as plenty of toast and home-made preserves. Sunday papers and the village library. Drop in during the morning and enjoy a leisurely start to your Sunday among friends: 09.30am until 11.30am. **March 24 will be special** because the donations from that day are to be given to **SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service)**. This is following the Women's Institute Open Meeting, for anyone to attend, on 14 March when Dr Andrew Mason will be explaining how SARS works and his several years' involvement with the service.

### Special Services

Family@Church is six parishes under one roof at Pakenham church on the first Sunday of the month. It begins with breakfast and crafts for all ages at 09.30am and proceeds with a simple but meaningful service at 10.00am, ending with refreshments. All are welcome. Sunday 3 March is an African-themed service, so who knows what will happen!

The **Church Mission Society** Service takes place at 09.30am on Sunday 10 March.

**Mothering Sunday** is 31 March, immediately after the clocks change, and the special service in All Saints' Church starts at 11.00am to allow for losing an hour overnight. Flowers will be distributed to all ladies present.

**Easter** is late this year, falling on 21 April. The previous Friday, being Good Friday, there will be a gathering at the Lord Thurlow Hall at 1.30pm, to make floral Easter Crosses, followed by a procession behind the cross through the village to All Saints Church, at 2.00pm and a short service at 2.15pm, suitable for children and adults together. The **Easter Service** is at 09.30am on 21 April.

## All Saints' Church

### Priest in Charge

Revd Katharine Valentine  
01359 235095

### Monthly pattern of Worship

*First Sunday* Family@Church,  
St Mary's Church, Pakenham  
10.00am, breakfast available  
from 9.30am

*Second Sunday* 9.30am Morning  
Prayer

*Third Sunday* 11.30am Family  
Communion

*Fourth Sunday* 9.30am Sunday  
Morning Community Breakfast

### Church Wardens

Roy Barker 241045

Raymond Mayhew 240741

## VILLAGE HALL

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

Would you like to get involved in village life and get to know people?

There are vacancies (due to people moving away from Great Ashfield) for committee members to join our friendly team.

We need a Chairperson or Treasurer and additional members to assist in organising our programme of events. There are around four meetings a year. If you would like to join, please contact Roy or Di Barker on 241045.

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Constantine 241079

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## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

*Suffolk County Council has told us about a transportation service which is available throughout Suffolk.*

*Do you find it difficult to get to college, to the shops, to medical appointments or to visit your friends and family in the county?*

*Suffolk County Council is working in partnership with Suffolk Community Transport Operators to help by Connecting Communities.*

*When you need to make a journey and there is no public transport available to you locally, we will collect you and connect you to an appropriate bus route or train link for onward travel so that you can reach your destination quickly and easily.*

*For journeys where connecting to other services is inappropriate, end to end journeys may be possible.*

*To access this service call your local area operator at Mid Suffolk District Council on 01449 614271 up to a week before you would like to travel and they will be able to answer any questions you might have. Booking hours are 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday; service hours are 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday. Or you can book a journey on the Connecting Communities website*

[www.suffolkonboard.com/cc](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/cc)

## 'Why is the Church Always Asking for Money?!'

Many of you will have asked this question. We hope that by laying out the costs involved, you will see where it all goes to.

Firstly, as a church congregation, led by the PCC (Parochial Church Council), we use the building for services. As that is our choice, **we undertake to pay for ALL the running costs, as follows:**

Insurance	£1,500
Security	£150
Quota*	£7,000
Rector's expenses	£350
Light/heat/power	£750
Churchyard upkeep	£100
Miscellaneous items†	£200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,050 per year or £193.27 a week</b> (£27.61 a day = £1.15 per hour)

And we, as a congregation, pay all of this.

What we also do is give away money to charity, beyond what we pay above. In 2018, this amounted to £1,150 from our church.

**Maintaining** a mediaeval building however, requires a great deal more money than we can afford – and **this** is why we keep having to ask for help from Great Ashfield residents, in order to keep the village church and churchyard in good order for special services such as funerals, weddings, remembrance and memorial and carol services, and as a beautiful, peaceful space in which you are welcome to sit at any time during the day. Repairing the chancel roof on one side has just cost over £30,000 for which we could get no grants. We have also had to pay for repairs to pews, windows and the floor, in recent years. The five-year quinquennial inspection of the building, making sure it is kept in a safe condition, is also due in 2019 and more repairs will be indicated. A visitor, last year, was surprised to know that each village has to maintain its own church building – that no money is forthcoming from the Church of England, from government or from local councils. Were you aware of this?

You may not think you have need of a church but if you value the village in which you live, and its history, perhaps you can put something towards maintaining this piece of essential Great Ashfield. Would you be prepared to be a Friend of All Saints' Church?

In aid of church maintenance, the PCC is holding a **Homes and Gardens Yard Sale** at Kiln Farm on 4 May (If you have anything you could donate – no electrical items or clothes – please leave them at the back of Kiln Farm House, or contact Roy or Di Barker on 241045 to arrange collection).

Thank you so much for reading this and please do use the church during the week. It is open from 9.00am to 4.00pm and longer in the summer months. There is a library of books which you are welcome to swap with your own or borrow. The Community Breakfast, TOAST, is held there for anyone to come along to for a friendly chat and to enjoy time with your neighbours, especially if you live alone; not a 'Sunday service' but our service to you.

*Roy Barker, Church Warden and Treasurer, All Saints Church  
Raymond Mayhew, Church Warden and Commissioned Elder*

\*the amount needed by the diocese to keep our parish running and supported within the diocese; it is a proportion of the total quota from our six parish benefice under Revd Valentine

† e.g. candles, light bulbs, wine and wafers