

Great Ashfield Village News



ISSUE NUMBER 15

WINTER 2018

Parish Council 2018/19

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

Minutes of all Parish Council
meetings can be accessed online
at One Suffolk
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

**COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE 11 FEBRUARY 2019**

Parish Council News

The Council has met twice since the last newsletter, the scheduled meeting on 20 September and one session to respond to planning applications.

Police traffic speed monitoring has taken place on two sites on Elmswell Road and the results have generated speed enforcement action.

Nancy Calderbank has resigned as Responsible Financial Officer (Treasurer) but remains an active councillor. We thank Nancy for taking on the role when the records had to be reconstructed to pass an audit. Since that fraught time she has brought stability and ensured each audit has been passed successfully. Sandra Austin has taken on the RFO role.

At the outset of this newsletter Judith Constantine volunteered to edit the copy into a coherent quarterly publication. She will be retiring from the role in June 2019. She goes with our thanks for all her work over the last four years.

Although the WWI plans were curtailed when the Big Lottery grant application failed the events on Sunday 11 November passed our expectations. See a report with photographs on page 4. Donations and book sales have raised over £250 for village organisations and this will rise as more book orders have been placed. Our thanks to everyone who provided time, talent and memorabilia to make the day successful for over 200 visitors.

The next meeting is 7.30pm on Thursday, 29 November in the Lord Thurlow Hall.

Arthur Peake, Chairman



Dates for your diary

Dog Handling

Every Tuesday *Contact Rob Jessup 07592258883 or r.jessup85@gmail.com*

Yoga Classes

Every Wednesday and Thursday
Contact Bethany Last 07930199582 or serenityyoga@outlook.com

Sunday 2 December

Christmas Craft Fair, Lord Thurlow Hall, 10am to 4pm

Friday 7 December

Christmas Pub Evening with mulled wine and nibbles, Lord Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 13 December

WI meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 19 December

Carol singing around the village (*see opposite*)

Sunday 23 December

Carol Service, All Saints' Church, 5pm (collection will go to the Children's Society)
Service led by Revd Jay Price

Monday 24 December

Midnight Mass, All Saints' Church, 11.40pm
Service led by Revd Valentine

Tuesday 25 December

Christmas Crib Service for families, All Saints' Church, 10.30am
Children are invited to dress as angels, shepherds and kings

Thursday 10 January

WI meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall, 7.15pm for 7.30pm

Sunday 19 January

Plough Service, All Saints' Church, 10.30am
Revd Canon Sally Fogden to preach

Thursday 24 January

Parish Council meeting, Lord Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm
Everyone is welcome to attend

Friday 1 February

Village Inn, Lord Thurlow Hall, 7.30pm

Barker's Babberlings

Things seems to be running smoother at **Mid Suffolk** at the moment – famous last words!!

Serco, the contractor for waste has put up the rate of pay for its freight operators to an amount similar to commercial drivers. So we now have a full complement of drivers and are on top of weekly collections again.

The **Planning Department** is back at full strength and more good planning officers, with experience, have been recruited from neighbouring councils.

Winter is here now. Please be seen at night and at dusk. Parents need to be aware of this for their children. Wearing light coloured clothing or, even better, something fluorescent and reflective should be a priority. **Car Drivers and Cyclists** please make sure throughout winter that all your lights are working and clean. You do not want the Police to have the excuse to stop you, with Christmas and party time around the corner. I have noticed a number of cars with defective front lights, also some cyclists without good rear lights and riding in dark clothing. Oncoming lights make it impossible to see these cyclists clearly. Be **Good Neighbours!** The dark nights and bad weather of winter mean it can be very lonely for elderly residents. If you know anyone like this in your area, please make an effort to have a chat and check up and see they are OK.

On **Sunday 11 November** I was very proud to live in Great Ashfield. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the **WWI Commemoration** so special. It is one of the best community events that the village of Great Ashfield has staged since I have lived in the village. Well done everyone!

I would like to finish by wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year. As ever I can be contacted on 01359 241045, or hail me down when I am around in the old Land Rover. If I cannot help I'll likely know someone who can.

Roy Barker roy.barker@midsuffolk.gov.uk



Produced for Great Ashfield Parish Council by Judith Constantine 241079

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CAROL SINGING

If you enjoy singing and want to be in the spirit of Christmas in a village, join the merry band of singers who carol around a third of the village each year. We are not a choir but enjoy coming together to sing carols each year to raise money for the Children's Society. We gather at the Village Hall at 6.30pm – this year on Wednesday 19 December – leaving vehicles there before boarding a tractor and trailer. Torches are essential, as is tinsel or other bright decoration to make us more visible to passing traffic.

The route this year will be from the Church along Main Road, up to The Grange, along Long Thurlow Road then turn towards Daisy Green.

If you, or anyone not on the route, would like to donate to The Children's Society, the Carol Service on 23 December at All Saints' Church, will also have a collection for the Society.

Di Barker 241045 dibarker@keme.co.uk

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 11.00am Family
Communion

Fourth Sunday 9.30am Sunday
Morning Community Breakfast
(note change of venue)

Church Wardens

Roy Barker 241045

Raymond Mayhew 240741

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 2 December 10am to 4pm
Lord Thurlow Hall

CRAFTS ART GIFTS CARDS POTTERY
WREATHES LOCAL GINS AND VODKA
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
REFRESHMENTS

TOAST COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

During the winter months, while it costs so much to heat All Saints' Church adequately, the Community Breakfast on the fourth Sunday of each month is relocating to the Lord Thurlow Hall in School Road. There will be no TOAST in December.

These then are the dates for your diaries

*Lord Thurlow Hall Sunday 25 November,
Sunday 27 January and Sunday 24 February*

*All Saints' Church Sunday 24 March, Sunday 28 April
and Sunday 26 May*

All are welcome to a breakfast of bacon rolls, toast, homemade spreads and jams, juices, tea and 'proper' coffee. Sunday Newspapers. If you would like to support the meal you can give a donation to cover costs.

Church News

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who decorated the church for Harvest and donated produce and provisions which were passed on to Tayfen House in Bury St Edmunds. Also to Brian Barker, and all those who attended his talk on Modern Farming.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year the fundraising event was part of TOAST so bacon rolls along with coffee and cake were available. The sum of £301 was raised for this very good cause. Thank you for your support.

Bulb Talk

On 16 October we were treated to a very informative talk and slideshow on bulbs by Matthew Long, Riverside Bulbs. He also brought along a wide selection for us to buy. The sum of £312 was raised for church maintenance costs.

Petrina Miles

The Village Remembers

Sunday 11th November was a busy day as the village commemorated 100 years since the end of the war on the Western Front. Four main events took place.

Early morning

A small ceremony was held on the site of the WWI airfield in Great Ashfield, recognising the 10 deaths that were specific to the Flying Corps station. A memorial is planned to be in place for Peace Day in July 2019, together with an exhibition in the Village Hall. More details will be available early next year.

Remembrance Service

The service in All Saints' Church was very well attended and during the Act of Remembrance the names of all of those who took part in WWI from Great Ashfield, those who were killed in action in both WWI and WWII, the Elmswell Royal Flying Corps' fatalities and a selection from the Book of Remembrance of the USAAF 385th Bombardment Group, were all read out. In the afternoon, the bells of All Saints' Church were rung to remember the part church bells played as WWI ended.

Exhibition



At 5pm the Village Hall opened for an exhibition of village life during WWI. The centrepiece was a village map referenced to the 1911 census details with lines to houses where villagers who served lived at the time. Summaries of the lives of the 76 who served were available to read in one of four volumes. Donia led the research and all attendees found it fascinating. The Barker, Miles and Spreull families all provided memorabilia for the exhibition. Elmswell History Group set up a wonderful board on the history of RAF Elmswell. The WI provided tea, cakes and savouries.

The book of village life stories compiled by Donia Stick and Pearl Rose was available for sale and all available copies sold quickly. Additional orders were taken on the night and subsequently and these will be available at £10 per copy. If you would like one please email greatashfieldpc@outlook.com or talk to any Councillor. 176 people attended the exhibition (it was hot and packed in the hall). This meant that there were plenty of volunteers to carry the tea light lanterns to the beacon!

Beacon

After people had walked with their lanterns to the airfield the beacon bonfire was lit at precisely 7pm. This aligned with all 1000 authorised beacons across the country. More people joined for this phase and we estimate nearly 200 participated in total (see photo page 1). We know of some families who had travelled from other counties to carry the lantern of their ancestor (see photo page 2).

The exhibition was re-opened by popular demand on Monday morning and another 20-30 attended. Donations for refreshments and the sale of the booklets raised over £250 for village organisations.

If you attended, then thank you. It was a day that had energy thanks to those participating. The volunteers who gave their time and talents to organising the evening were rewarded by the turn out and kind comments.

If you could not attend, put the Peace Day date in your diary when details are released. A small photo montage of the events is on the board in the village hall if you have the opportunity to see them and are available via Google Photos at <https://tinyurl.com/ya78q5hz>

