



Parish Council 2023

Arthur Peake

Chairman 408728

Ian Sadler

Vice Chairman & Broadband
242570

Stephen Miles

Tree Officer 259283

Richard Dewhirst

07557 530433

Donia Stick Community Speed
Watch 245813

Mark Taylor 07391 535233

Carol White 240780

Parish Clerk and Responsible
Financial Officer

**Minutes of all Parish Council
meetings can be accessed
online at One Suffolk
greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/**

Lord Thurlow Hall Committee Members

Chairman

Simon Laidler 244370

Acting Treasurer

Roy Barker 241045

Secretary

Lindsay Pilags 07904 053323

Bookings manager

Carol White 240780

Draw Manager

Margaret Barrett 259113

Committee member

Sue Howes 242983

Kitchen Project Sub Committee

Simon Laidler 244370

Gail Peake 408728

Please send interesting items or
photographs you would like
included in the newsletter to
the Editor Mandie Beckley at
mbeckley1@btinternet.com

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE: 1st November 2023**

Parish Council Summary Autumn 2023



Arthur Peake, Chairman

There has been only one meeting since the last Newsletter, the Annual Meeting on May 17th.

At least two Parish Councillors are retiring in May 2024 and there is a current vacancy. A flier was included in the Summer Newsletter but only one person has indicated a wish to serve. If anyone is considering being a councillor but needs more information, please contact any Parish Councillor.

Traffic remains the major issue and the Portable Space expansion (Planning Reference DC/23/01506) is still ongoing as I write. The latest position is that a meeting has been held between Portable Space, Blacks, councillors, enforcement officers and the chief planning officer to try and find a way forward which will mitigate some of the impacts of HGV traffic.

The application has been granted a provisional extension of time until at least September 15th given the outstanding consultee objections. The Planning Committee will confirm this date and we will have an opportunity to address the Committee with our concerns.

On a brighter note, Mid Suffolk DC has allocated money (up to £250 for a village our size) for community activities like litter picking, sign cleaning, graffiti removal, the maintenance/enhancement of open public spaces etc. The deadline for application is October 31st 2023. We tend to do this as a volunteer activity day but I am minded to apply for some equipment, for example getting the green gunge off tall road signs needs a specialist mop. Ideas and suggestions to any Parish Councillor for our next meeting.



That next meeting is on Thursday August 24th at 7.30pm in the (bee free) Lord Thurlow Village Hall. All are welcome.

Arthur Peake, Chairman

Trash and Treasures and the Airfield Tour

Well done to everyone who either visited Trash and Treasures at Lime Farm or went on the recent WW2 Airfield tour.

The combined total raised at both events was a magnificent £6,588, which has been split equally between All Saints Church and the village hall. The individual sum raised at the Airfield tour was £280.

Great Ashfield and Badwell Ash WI

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at Lord Thurlow Hall in Great Ashfield. During winter we hold our meetings in the afternoon.

Most meetings have either a speaker or an activity followed by refreshments and then a short business meeting.

September 14th - 7.30pm

A talk by Robert Halliday on Suffolk Calendar Customs.

October 12th - 7.30pm

Norma Howells on the Medical Detection Dogs Charity.

All visitors are welcome to come to any meeting. The cost is £3 a head, which includes a raffle ticket and refreshments.

If you are interested in attending any of the above meetings or need further information, please contact either Midge on 259399 or Kate Sadler on 242570 or email katesadler01@gmail.com



The recent WI outing to Moat House Gardens, Little Saxham

Stallholders wanted

The WI are holding a Christmas Craft Fair at Lord Thurlow Hall on November 11th - 11.30-3.30pm. £10 per table. We are looking for stallholders (craft, Christmas or similar) who would like a table at this event. Please contact Midge on 259399 as soon as possible.

Do you like singing?

Gail Peake would like to start a singing group in the village hall.

If you are interested in joining her, please phone her and express your interest on 408728.

Dear residents

Mid Suffolk is now the first Green majority Council in the UK. So, what difference will this make? Here are some thoughts on priorities.

Supporting communities in planning

Local voices are not always represented strongly enough in the planning process. A lot of residents are concerned about uncoordinated developments, lack of infrastructure and growing traffic going through their villages.

There is no simple quick fix to this as elements of the planning process are outside our control. There is, for example, currently a major planning application at Shepherd's Grove, Stanton for a significant industrial warehouse complex which will have traffic implications for surrounding villages. It is envisaged that there will be about 4,500 traffic movements per day in and out of this development.

We need to focus on ensuring there is community consultation on planning. This will be helped when the new Joint Local Plan is adopted. The development of this plan has been trundling along for years but the new administration wants to get this signed off as soon as possible as it will give Mid Suffolk much greater control of planning decisions. We also need to allocate more funding and resources for neighbourhood planning as this gives communities much tighter control of their immediate environment.

Addressing housing need

We want to try and ensure that housing better matches community needs. New homes should be affordable, built to the highest environmental standards, focused on brownfield sites wherever possible and include appropriate investment in local infrastructure.

Warmer, low carbon homes

We need to take steps so that people can reduce energy bills and carbon emissions. This means implementing a housing insulation and energy efficiency scheme, ensuring the most vulnerable residents have warm homes and encouraging private landlords to improve energy efficiency.

Better rural transport

Scheduled bus services are insufficient or non-existent for many people in rural communities. We plan to supplement the existing service, looking at issues we can influence, such as taxis, electric buses, or other forms of community transport. We will work with the County and other parties and improve the public transport connectivity between areas of the district.



Working to increase existing transport links throughout the district

We would also like to extend and enhance walking and cycling routes.

Creating thriving communities

We are looking to support small rural businesses, local food production and where appropriate community owned energy production. The Council is also managing a major development project at Gateway 14 just outside Stowmarket. We have an opportunity to create a central hub for high skilled Green jobs in the area.

Protecting our environment and biodiversity

We will put the environment at the centre of what we do and support initiatives to reach Net Zero targets. We plan to work with other organisations to improve our environment, biodiversity, and access to green spaces. We also want to support smaller, local environmental projects.

Richard Winch - richard.winch@midsuffolk.gov.uk



Village Hall events

The end of May saw a surge in the village's population as houses played host to some newcomers. Following an invitation from Lisa, scarecrows of various themes had made an appearance ready for judging over the bank holiday weekend ready for Pub Night on June 2nd.

Scarecrows of all shapes and characters had been made: Bob Flowerpot, Wreck It Ralph and Banksie to name but a few, proudly presented at the front of houses ready for tours of the village to start. Judging was kindly undertaken by Dr Andrew Mason from SARS and on Pub Night he did a great job of showing exactly how much work had gone into each of them.

Lisa had knitted a scarecrow for naming, which was won by Nick, her husband - it wasn't a fix! He had chosen the name 'Papa', which Roy Barker pulled out of the bag. Jacqui had baked a scarecrow cake which was delicious.

The competition winners are listed alongside and in joint fourth place were Jeremy Fisher and Taking a break.

Much to everyone's delight all this, combined with the bar, raised £390 for the kitchen refurbishment fund.

The village hall committee would like to express their enormous thanks to Lisa for organising such a successful new event which is hoped will become a regular in the village calendar.

Forthcoming events:

Friday September 1st – Quiz night II

Thursday September 7th – Village Hall Committee AGM, all welcome

Saturday October 28th – Pumpkin night

Friday December 1st – Christmas pub night

Lindsay Pilags

Village Hall Committee Treasurer Vacancy

We are looking for a new treasurer. If you can help and are interested in joining our friendly team, please contact Simon (244370) or Roy (241055) for more information.



First prize: Westside Wizard created by Zoe, Graham, Karla and Molly at Westside Cottage, Norton Road



Second prize: Jumping Jack Spratt by Will and Pippa at Kiln Cottage, School Road



Third prize: Surf's Up created by Greta at Maltings Farm, Daisy Green



Name that Scarecrow: Papa was won by Lisa's husband Nick

Lord Thurlow Hall awarded £8,000 from the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund

We are very pleased to let you know that we have been successful in obtaining a substantial award from the Platinum Jubilee. We had an email from ACRE (Action in Communities in Rural England) at the end of July that confirmed we were to be awarded £8,163. This is 20% of the project cost and the maximum percentage they can offer.

This is excellent news for our 'FUTURE 50' project and means we can now get on with scheduling the work which, we anticipate, will take place in November 2023.

This particular grant request has been a long and complicated process to demonstrate the quality and strength of our application and the value that the planned hall improvements will add to our community.

The committee very much appreciates all the support and feedback we have received to make this happen. Thanks to some excellent fund raising in previous years, and events this year, including Trash and Treasures, the Scarecrow Festival and busy pub nights, we have put the village hall in a strong position to co-fund this work and to develop other aspects of the hall. The committee are also continuing to work on further funding applications, which are looking very promising - more on that later in the year.

We will keep everyone up to date on the plans and timescales and provide more detail as we get closer to the implementation. If you have any questions in the meantime, please get in touch.

Simon Laidler

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride

This event is being held on Saturday September 9th from 9-5pm.

Contact Heather Watts on 240678 for sponsorship forms.

Visit the website shct.org.uk for further details of the event.

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 Worship

Third Sunday – 11am Family Communion

Fourth Sunday – 9.30-11am Community Breakfast TOAST

TOAST Community Breakfast 9.30-11am

We are now holding Toast back in the church.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER AT 10.30am

We will be decorating the church for harvest on Saturday 9th September anyone interested in helping with this please contact Petrina Miles 259283.

Donations of homegrown flowers and produce as well as tins and packaged provisions would be gratefully received. These will, as in previous years, be given to Tayfen House in Bury St Edmunds.

This organisation helps single homeless people with various forms of accommodation and support. They are very appreciative of our help.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

MACMILLAN TEA

In the afternoon we will be hosting a charity tea in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. Tea and a selection of delicious cakes will be available between 3 and 4 pm along with a raffle. Please do

join us to raise funds for their work supporting people living with cancer.

UPDATE ON CHANCEL REPAIRWORK

We're delighted to report the Chancel is now back to normal.

The work to replaster and paint, install new radiators and additional lighting has eventually been completed. This is now an open space.

A new set of folding chairs are available for any occasions that require additional seating. On Sunday, 29th October at All Saints Church, Bishop Mike will attend the joint benefice service to bless this space.

Church Wardens

Roy Barker 241045, Raymond Mayhew 240741

Details of services held in our church are at www.achurchnearyou.com
The Benefice village and church news magazine is available to read online at www.vcnews.org.uk

Petrina Miles



American WWII Airfield tour

On Saturday July 15th a trailer ride tour of The 385th Bombardment Group Airfield took place. Thankfully it didn't rain, but it was very windy. We started off with Peter McGee, from the Elmswell History Group, giving us a brief resumé about the First World War airfield.

Ian Maclachlan then gave an overview of the 385th and the impact they had on the village when all 3,000 of them arrived in 1943. It was like a small town, with its own hospital, fire station and so on.

We then started the tour, halting at various locations while Ian explained so much about the site, giving us some fascinating facts. One in particular was that most of the rubble needed for building the runways/perimeter tracks contained rubble from the bombed buildings in London and Birmingham, which would have all been carted on small lorries.



At the end of the tour we adjourned to the Village Hall for tea and homemade cakes while being entertained by Station 366, a group of singers from Metfield.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event - by coming, making cakes and serving teas. £280 was raised to be split between the Village Hall and Church. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and Ian will be returning in the Winter to give another in-depth talk.

Stephen Miles

Village Hall Draw results

JUNE	1st	£25	R Green	No: 116
	2nd	£15	J Harrod	No: 61
	3rd	£10	M Bennington	No: 93
	4th	£5	K Harding	No: 26
JULY	1st	£25	M Brown	No: 54
	2nd	£15	J Rawlings	No: 75
	3rd	£10	M Gale	No: 231
	4th	£5	K Sadler	No: 17

The next Draw will be held at the Pumpkin Night on Saturday October 28th.

Subscriptions

We are happy to collect cash or cheques for your annual payment (£12), but if you prefer to pay online please contact me at blyton2209@gmail.com or phone 01359 259113. Thank you for your support of Lord Thurlow Hall.

Margaret Barrett

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