

Great Ashfield Village News



ISSUE NUMBER 34

WINTER 2023

Parish Council 2023

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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

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Acting Treasurer

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Lindsay Pilags 07904 053323

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Draw Manager

Margaret Barrett 259113

Committee members

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Lisa Boyle 07786 223149

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: 29th January 2024**

Parish Council Summary Winter 2023



Arthur Peake, Chairman

There has been only one meeting since the last Newsletter, and that was held on Thursday 24th August.

We are pleased to welcome Neil Jones to the Parish Council. More vacancies will arise in May next year so please think about volunteering.

Our District Councillor updated us on the new 'Pride in Your Place' grant. We have taken up the offer and purchased new litter pickers and pressure sprayers ready for the next 'village clean'.

Three blue
advisory

signs – 'Unsuitable for HGVs' – have been purchased from the available CIL funds. Two have been erected. The third one is for Wetherden Road, by The Grange, but Highways have replaced our tall pole with a shorter one, losing our Quiet Lane sign in the process. The tall pole is due to be reinstated in November (subject to new Highways contractor scheduling) when the Quiet Lane and blue HGV sign will be installed.



Traffic remains the major issue raised at Parish Council. The Portable Space expansion (Planning Reference DC/23/01506) remains open with the consultation ending on 31st October. It may still go to the Planning Committee where we can speak – for a whole three minutes! The Planning Committee has meetings scheduled in November and December and the Parish Council has registered its wish to speak.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday, 23rd November 2023 at 7.30pm, provisionally to be held at The Limes due to the Village Hall refurbishment. All are welcome.

As we will not be in the Village Hall, please let Carol White (240780) know if you plan to attend.

Arthur Peake, Chairman

Toad times



The Daisy Green team is looking for help share the running of the Toad Patrol site. Put simply: someone to show new volunteers around the site, ensuring they are enrolled with our charity, Froglife, in January, then arrange all ten to 12 volunteers into a seven day rota.

Katy Haylock continues to organise the advertising and Sylvie Fitch will help patrolers with logging results directly onto Froglife's new website. Our WhatsApp group keeps all volunteers in touch with each other during the six week season, which runs from February to April.

For more information, please contact Sylvie on 01359 241727, mobile 07803 291735 or email bob.sylvie@btinternet.com.

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.

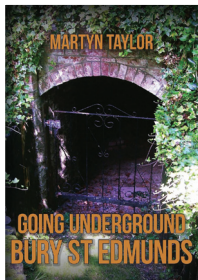
December 14th at 2.30pm – (please note change of time)
Mike Wabe – Dickens A Christmas Carol

January 11th at 2.30pm

Martyn Taylor – Going underground in Bury St Edmunds

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



Use it or lose it!

There is a bus into Bury St Edmunds that runs once a week on a Wednesday. It arrives at the Great Ashfield village sign at 10.20am and gets into Bury St Edmunds by 11am. The return bus leaves the



bus station at the top of St Andrew's Street North at 1.25pm.

The cost is £5 return but is free to concession ticket holders.

Try it, it's a good morning out!

Gail Peake

Dear Residents

Mid Suffolk District Council is about to announce a number of housing initiatives.

Cosy Homes Scheme

We are launching a home insulation scheme for homeowners and residents in private rented accommodation. This scheme will start from Mid November.

Under the Cosy Homes Scheme residents could qualify for free insulation upgrades to their home. If you meet the eligibility criteria you will be accepted onto the scheme.

The process will then be as follows:

- * An initial survey will be carried out to check what insulation would be best for your property (the scheme will cover funding for the likes of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and draft proofing works).
- * The work will then be scheduled and will be carried out by a designated contractor.
- * All work will be signed off by the resident.
- * The work doesn't involve any costs to the resident and/or filling in of complicated grant applications.

This will improve the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of hundreds of homes, making them more efficient, cutting carbon emissions and lowering energy bills.

The objective is to help people to save energy, save money and reduce their carbon footprint.

Further details are available at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/

Please have a think about whether you could benefit from this scheme.

Improving our Council housing

We have been extensively reviewing the quality of our Council Housing. The fact is that our housing stock is in dire need of investment and our repairs and maintenance service needs major improvement. We are about to invest significant sums of money in improving our service starting from November.

At the moment there is a significant backlog of repairs and this will be addressed by deploying additional contractors.

We will also be addressing issues relating to insulating our Council properties and addressing any damp and mould issues.

If you are a Council tenant and you are unhappy with the service you are receiving, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Addressing homelessness in our district

We are about to launch a new strategy to address homelessness in our district.

We are working with Shelter to review our homelessness strategy to ensure we address the homelessness issue in the best way that we can.

Our vision is that the way to prevent homelessness is by early intervention and immediate support. We want to see rough sleeping as a rare, brief and non-recurring problem.

We use our own temporary accommodation, so we don't have the cost issues for hotels etc that a lot of other local authorities have.



'Ready Steady Rent' training ensures new tenants have the skills needed to sustain a long-term tenancy

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

Record Marrow triumphs at Pumpkin Night!

As usual, there was a great display of flowers and vegetables at this year's Pumpkin Night with over 40 entries. Judging was undertaken enthusiastically by Mike Coles (retired MD of Notcutts Garden Centres). A pumpkin themed quiz from Lisa kept everyone amused and head scratching waiting for the fish and chips!



James Harding



Brax Jay won the prize for the best children's carved pumpkin

Mike Coles presented Petrina Miles with the new John and Joy Thompson award for her vase of flowers



Two new trophies were awarded this year. Firstly, a memorial award in memory of John and Joy Thompson for the best vase of flowers and, in recognition of Roy and Di's long association with the event, a new award for the Champion Marrow. Results as follows: Vegetables – Stephen Miles (1st), Simon Laidler (2nd), Roy Barker (3rd); Last Rose of Summer – Shirley Meekings (1st), Petrina Miles (2nd), Roy Barker (3rd); Vase of Flowers – Petrina Miles (John and Joy Thompson Award), Stephen Miles (2nd), Sarah Orford (3rd); Carved Pumpkin (Adult) – Zoe Lawes-Pusey (1st), Lisa Boyle (2nd), James Harding (3rd); Carved Pumpkin (Children) – Brax Jay (1st), Sienna Tailby (2nd), Indyana Tailby (3rd); Pumpkins – Simon Laidler (Champion = 7 stone and 1lb), Ernie Meekings (1st = 5 stone 2lb), Ernie Meekings (2nd = 3 stone 7 lb), Roy Barker (3rd = 2 stone); Marrows – Shirley Meeking (Roy and Di Barker Champion Marrow award) with a new village record of 1 stone 6lb!, Simon Laidler (2nd = 12 lb 3 oz), Roy Barker (3rd = 4 lb 9 oz).

Congratulations to everyone who entered and thanks to all those who attended and made it such a successful night.

Please note that next year we will be introducing a new category – an award for vegetables grown by a child – so get planting in the spring ready for that!

Simon Laidler

Village Hall events

Friday December 1st – Christmas Pub Night (to be confirmed, subject to building work completion)

January – No pub night

Friday 2nd February/Friday 1st

March Pub Nights

Saturday March 16th – Official Grand Opening at Lord Thurlow Hall (tbc)

Village Hall Committee Treasurer Vacancy

We are still looking for a new treasurer to join us.

If you can help and are interested in joining our friendly team, please contact Simon (244370) or Roy (241055) for more information about the job.

Village Hall Draw results

AUGUST

1st	£25	Mr Bandelow	No: 60
2nd	£15	Mr Austin	No: 224
3rd	£10	J Wells	No: 172
4th	£5	S Miles	No: 71

SEPTEMBER

2nd	£15	Z Lawes	No: 25
3rd	£10	J Bird	No: 28
4th	£5	Mr Balaam	No: 94

OCTOBER

1st	£25	A Potter	No: 227
2nd	£15	M Barrow	No: 171
3rd	£10	D Matthews	No: 88
4th	£5	S Aung	No: 197

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

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.

TOAST will not take place in December but we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Harvest and to those who kindly brought gifts of produce and provisions. These donations were taken to Tayfen House, Bury St Edmunds to support their work helping people in need.

MACMILLAN TEA

On what turned out to be one of the warmest days this year we held our charity tea among the harvest decorations. Even inside the church was warm! This probably impacted a bit on the numbers who attended but we're pleased to report £251 was raised for MacMillan.

CHANCEL

On 29th October we welcomed Bishop Mike to All Saints' Church for the Benefice Communion service. During the service The Bishop dedicated and gave thanks for the work that has gone into creating the new open space in the chancel.

Refreshments were served after the service.

In the afternoon we held the annual service of Memories, giving people the chance to remember and give thanks for the lives of those we have loved who have died. Refreshments were served afterwards.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Carol service will take place on Sunday, 17th December at 5pm in All Saints' Church followed by refreshments. The collection will go to EACH, the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

The Christmas Day Crib service is at 10.30am. Children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds or kings.

Christmas Eve Midnight service will be held at St Andrew's Church, Norton at 11.30pm.

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



The church windows were beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival



Bishop Mike during his visit to celebrate the newly refurbished chancel

Petrina Miles

Community Speed Watch action day

On September 14th 2023 our CSW team in Great Ashfield and Long Thurlow was one of 38 teams across Suffolk and 42 in Norfolk taking part in a Police Action Day.

Suffolk Police deployed their speed camera vans and neighbourhood police teams across the county. One of their camera vans was in Great Ashfield on Elmswell Road by the solar Speed Indicator Device.

Our teams ran three sessions, two in Great Ashfield and one in Long Thurlow and reported 50 vehicles.

In Great Ashfield the teams reported that 10% of vehicles were travelling above the reporting threshold. In practice there were more, but the sheer volume at times meant that it was impossible to report every speeding vehicle.

On the surface this looks like a 'win' for educating drivers to slow down in our village, but a recent example of the issue occurred only four days later at 8am when the speed device clocked a vehicle travelling at 80mph approaching the bend where the recent accident happened.

We have only eight CSW volunteers at the present time. More hands and eyes would be welcomed, and would allow us to run sessions often enough to make drivers perceive our village as a Speed Watch zone at all times.

And, you get to wear a high-vis jacket and use one of the natty Police clipboards presented to us recently – see picture!

Donia Stick



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