



Parish Council 2023

Arthur Peake

Chairman 408728

Ian Sadler

Vice Chairman & Broadband
242570

Stephen Miles 259283

Richard Dewhirst

07557 530433

Bob Fitch Tree Officer 241727

Donia Stick Community Speed
Watch 245813

Mark Taylor 07391 535233

Carol White

Parish Clerk and Responsible
Financial Officer 240780

**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 June 2023**

Parish Council Summary Spring 2023



Arthur Peake, Chairman

Having waved adieu to Roy, we are pleased to welcome Stephen Miles onto the Parish Council.

There has been just one scheduled meeting of the PC since the last Newsletter, plus one planning meeting, both held on 11 January 2023.

The Council meeting discussed the budget options and set the precept. The budget for next year has planned expenditure of £3,414. It will be no surprise that the electricity charges for

the street lights has doubled and other costs have also increased. The precept will be increased by £100, from £2,700 to £2,800, an increase of 3.89%. Items such as the maintenance/repair of noticeboards will be deferred or sponsored.

For information the Suffolk County Council increase is 3.99%.

The second Portable Space application for a Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) has been decided. The land in use has been deemed legal. The issue of 24 hour operation using local roads has been noted by the planners, an enforcement notice was drafted, but no action has been taken at this time to bar access between the hours of 7pm and 6am.

The Planning Department is monitoring access times, so please report out of hours movements to <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/enforcement/report-it/>

Our thanks go to the parish residents who took the time to write to the Planning Department on the 24 hour issue.

HGV traffic as a wider issue was again raised and we hope to have the revised HGV working group set up soon.

Wetherden PC has had their Quiet Lanes approved. The Wetherden Road from Great Ashfield to Upper Town will have signs soon.

The next PC meeting is scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 16th March 2023 in The Lord Thurlow Village Hall

Arthur Peake, Chairman

Sponsors wanted

Would you be willing to sponsor the colour printing of this newsletter?

Printing in colour adds an extra £22 to the cost of and so far several parishioners have kindly sponsored an issue.

If you are willing to help, please contact either the parish clerk, Carol White on 240780 or the newsletter editor, Mandie Beckley on 259734.

Trash and Treasures

Yes, it's back!!! It will be held on Saturday May 13th and Sunday May 14th 10am-4pm at Limes Farm.

This time it will be a joint event for the Village Hall and the Church. This is one way we can all work together to help maintain the two landmark buildings in our village.



We will require volunteers to help on both days and we will be grateful for any donations of

unwanted goods to sell, namely, bric a brac, small items of furniture, old tools, garden accessories and plants. **No electrical items, clothes or books please.**

We will also be supporting two charities, SARS who will have their own area selling Trash and Treasures and The Rural Coffee Caravan who are kindly providing refreshments.

To volunteer or donate please contact Stephen Miles on 01359 259283 or Simon Laidlaw on 01359 244370.

Dear Residents

As you will be aware, the UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station. The local and Parish elections in May will be the first time that electors will need to show voter ID.

The approved forms include:

- * Passport (even if expired, so long as the photograph is recognisable)
- * Driving licence (including provisional licence)
- * Blue badge
- * Certain concessionary travel cards
- * Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- * Biometric Immigration document
- * Defence identity card
- * Certain national identity cards



Residents without any of the accepted forms of photo ID can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate, online or complete a paper application form.

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, residents can visit The Electoral Commission website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Should you need any further information in the meantime, please contact the Mid Suffolk elections team: Elections@babergmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Rick Meyer – Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Great Ashfield and Badwell Ash WI



For our December meeting we had a trip to Yum Yum Tree Fudge in Woolpit. It was fascinating to hear how they started in their kitchen in Thurston and have grown to where they are today. The fudge is all made with natural ingredients and we saw how it was produced, and then tried some delicious samples.

Our January meeting was an interesting talk by Sarah Woodhouse about relaxation and reflexology.

Our next three meetings – listed below – are

to be held in the Lord Thurlow Hall at Great Ashfield at 7.30pm. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.

March 9th 7.30pm – The Mercy Ships. These are hospital ships that provide free healthcare and improve healthcare delivery systems

in the poorest nations

April 13th 7.30pm – Mary Newton – A talk about a Forensic Scientist. This is an OPEN Meeting where any visitors are welcome (including husbands/partners) at £3 and includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

New members

We would welcome any new members. We are not a huge group but a very friendly one so come and see what we are all about. All visitors are welcome to join us for an evening for £3 to include a raffle ticket and refreshments.

For further information about joining the WI, contact Kate Sadler – kateasadler01@gmail.com

The Church is getting a much needed facelift

A major project is taking place at the Church. The Chancel is undergoing internal repairs and improvements to provide a flexible space for activities both liturgical and social which was not provided by the old seated interior.

Large areas of the walls are being replastered with traditional lime plaster, and two large cast iron radiators are being installed, as well as new lightening.

A scaffolding platform has been erected so that the roof can be cleaned. We suspect there is a least 100 years worth of dust and cobwebs up there!!

Once the plaster has dried the walls will be redecorated. This is a very expensive project with the building works costing nearly £28,000 plus architect fees, as under Church rules we cannot proceed without one.

New folding oak chairs are also being purchased to use in the space. We have managed to obtain some small grants, one of which will allow the purchase of two oak arm-chairs for use by the clergy, along with matching side tables.

We are really looking forward to the completion of this project.

Stephen Miles



Village Hall Draw results

DECEMBER	1st	£25	B Fitch	No. 181
	2nd	£15	M Bennington	No. 93
	3rd	£10	P Charie	No. 167
	4th	£5	G & A Peake	No. 43
JANUARY	1st	£25	S Chapman-Hatchett	No. 2
	2nd	£15	G Spreull	No. 41
	3rd	£10	P Jarvis	No. 14
	4th	£5	C Johnson	No. 119
FEBRUARY	1st	£25	P Catchlovex	No. 223
	2nd	£15	C Seaton	No. 223
	3rd	£10	N McHale	No. 59
	4th	£5	G Spreull	No. 41

We are happy to collect cash or cheques for your annual payment (£12), but if you prefer to pay online please contact me at robin@greenbee.net 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

In January and February we moved the breakfast to the village hall due to the building work in the church. Hopefully by March 26th we shall back in the church.

MOTHERING SUNDAY service on **19th March** at 11am.

A gift of flowers will be given out at this service as we give thanks for our Mothers.

EASTER

Good Friday 7th April – Join us at 1.30 pm in Lord Thurlow Hall to make Floral Crosses before processing to the church for a short service at 2.15pm which is suitable for all ages. This will be followed by refreshments.

Saturday 8th April we shall be decorating the church. If anyone would like to help with this do get in touch with Petrina Miles on 259283.

Easter Sunday 9th April – Holy Communion at 11am.

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 www.vcnews.org.uk



Petrina Miles

Local scenes

Have you taken a picture you'd like to see featured here? If so, please email it to Mandie Beckley at mbeckley1@btinternet.com or WhatsApp it to me on 07753 674360.



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TOAD TIMES

Between the end of **February** and **mid April**, toads all over the country will come out of hibernation and begin their hazardous journey back to their spawning ponds.

Common toads are declining in the UK with thousands of toads being killed on our roads every year, and they really **need our help**.

Toads usually **move after dark** when the temperature is above 6°C on damp evenings.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

We have set up patrols in **Badwell Ash, Great Ashfield** and **Stowlangtoft**. We welcome **new volunteers** for a couple of hours a week to patrol in teams of two or three. Short training, insurance and answers to all your questions are provided.

If you can help us protect these animals please contact:

Sylvie Fitch: 01359 241727
bob.sylvie@btinternet.com

froglife



LOCAL DRIVERS

We need your help too!

We put up toad signs with lights on when we are patrolling the roads.

Please take care, **slow down** and look out for our patrollers in the **Hi-Vis jackets**.



TOAD PATROL AT WORK