



Parish Council 2020

Roy Barker

Chairman 241045

Nancy Calderbank 240445

Bob Fitch Tree Officer 241727

Arthur Peake 408728

Ian Sadler Broadband 242570

Donia Stick Community Speed Watch 245813

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/](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

Village Hall Draw 259113

Di Barker

Village Hall bookings 241045

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Please send interesting items or photographs you would like included in the newsletter to the Editor Mandie Beckley at mbeckley@dircon.co.uk

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

2nd February 2021

Parish Council Summary Winter 2020



We have moved into the winter season and another lockdown. It is so important, and even more so now, to consider our older generation, the more vulnerable, and isolated of our community. Please keep in contact with your neighbours. A phone call offering collection of medicines and groceries might be just what they need but are afraid to ask for.

The parish council and councillors are here to help. Please contact us if you think anyone one is in need of extra help.

We are lucky we live in Suffolk and Great Ashfield in particular but we must not be complacent, the invisible virus is out there!

On the positive side, I am pleased Arthur Peake is back as a parish councillor again, with all his experience and enthusiasm. We are still one short though, so if anyone thinks they would like to join our little band, please contact me.

There have been positive happenings within the village although done differently from the past, which you can read of elsewhere in this newsletter.

Modern Technology has been a saviour for so many families. My own family members seem so much closer by using Zoom for our weekly quiz (and natter!) every Wednesday night, as well as FaceTime with our daughter Rosie, and latest grandson Lukas, in America. Then there is the WhatsApp connection within our own village. Yes, the use of technology is one of the better things to have come out of Covid-19.

Christmas and New Year are going to be very different and challenging but with a positive attitude we will get through this as one.

I would like to wish everyone a safe Christmas and keep well. I am sure we are all looking forward to 2021 and the positive steps forward that will bring.

As the advert says, thinking about others by using our Hands, Faces & Spaces is what we must continue to do.

Roy Barker, Chairman



Despite the restrictions, Great Ashfield residents continued to show their creative flair at Halloween

Bin Sticker update

Do you live in a 40mph or 60mph area of Great Ashfield?

The Parish Council will be giving you, at no cost, four bin stickers like the one pictured below. If you have a brown bin as well you will be given six.



We will deliver these to you as soon as we have a safe way of doing so.

However, the sooner we get the bins out there with

their stickers on them the better it will be. If you would be happy to collect your stickers from a safe place please email greatashfieldpc@outlook.com or ring 01359 245813.

Please say:

- who you are
- where you live
- and how many stickers you need.

Safe, Strong and Healthy

Communities: Communities feel safer and there are low levels of crime.

To help us to meet this Mid-Suffolk District Council objective Councillor Rick Meyer allocated £400 from his Locality Awards budget.

With this we have purchased 500 bin stickers (£279:50).

As required by Suffolk Police, we will also purchase 10 sets of vinyl gloves, anti-viral wipes, hand sanitizer and face masks for the Speed Watch team (£65 approximately).

Donia Stick

Councillor Meyer's musings

By the time you read this, lockdown 2 will hopefully be coming to an end and we will all be looking forward to Christmas, albeit probably on a reduced scale. During the lockdown Council business will continue, driven on by virtual meetings, which have become very much the norm.

Hopefully over the next few weeks Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet will have approved a raft of environmental measures designed to promote biodiversity, a step towards the council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The suggested measures to enhance biodiversity have been developed by the Council's Climate Change Task Force, made up of councillors from all political parties who have worked hand-in-hand with subject experts. Headline proposals, include:

- Developing a wildlife network map. This will identify and create wildlife corridors, as well as tree and hedge planting areas to enhance connectivity, and improve management of local wildlife sites in the districts.
- Working with town and parish councils and local communities to identify areas where trees and hedges can be planted.
- Increasing hedge planting through the DEFRA hedge planting grant scheme.
- Planting wildflower meadows to replace strict grass cutting regimes, where suitable, to encourage bees and insects.
- Developing a supplementary planning document linked to the Joint Local Plan, to strengthen protections for biodiversity, and set out the district's expectations in terms of design, landscaping and open space for new developments.
- Exploring the possibility of a green burial site.

While I am delighted that the Council is taking action to confront climate change and the loss of biodiversity, real change can only happen if we all act together. Thus, it is hoped that residents will build on the Council's proposals and look to increase biodiversity in their communities. This includes things such as installing bird and bat boxes, planting flowers to attract bees, creating hedgehog corridors, and being biodiversity-conscious when gardening.

Please also remember the council's Tree for Life scheme which continues to offer local parents a tree to celebrate the arrival of a child, or remember babies sadly lost.

The damage to Biodiversity that is occurring across the UK will not be undone by planting a few trees. However, if all the 100,000 residents of mid Suffolk did something to enhance biodiversity, we would have started to redress the balance, I would encourage everyone to make a difference.



Rick Meyer Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Village Hall and Halloween news

We managed to hold the Annual Pumpkin evening on Halloween in the Village Hall just as the second lockdown was announced! This was very successful, with people being able to walk through the hall using a one way system around the various displays and exiting through a different entrance. There was the usual fish & chip supper which was eaten, socially distanced, in the car park with a fire pit lent by Chrissie & Paul Charie to keep us warm.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this annual event such a success and to those who brought their vegetables and flowers for display. A special thank you to John Mulley for judging the displays at such short notice.

The winners were as follows:

Champion Pumpkin and the June Taylor Rose Bowl – Simon Laidler (102 Kgs), pictured right

Children Pumpkin Carving and the Children's Cup – Sienna Tailby

Adult Pumpkin carving – William Townsend

Arrangement of Flowers – Chrissie Charie

Selection of Vegetables – Stephen Miles

Last Rose of Summer – Chrissie Charie

Marrow – Roy Barker



Hopefully everyone's splendid efforts have been pictured here. Can you spot yours?



The village draw for October also took place (see results below).

During this second lockdown, we will take the opportunity to replace the windows in the toilets, the Committee room and the small high triangular window in the main hall, together with some additional internal painting, so the Hall will be looking good when we are able to use it again!

Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas Pub night due to Covid restrictions, even if we aren't in lockdown in early December.

Sue Howes



Village Hall Draw

As we are still unable to hold the Village Pub Nights, we will continue to draw the lottery numbers on a quarterly basis, and to distribute the winnings around the village — from a safe distance!

AUGUST:	1st	£25	Linda Miles	No. 31
	2nd	£15	Chrissie Harrod	No. 218
	3rd	£10	J. Thompson	No. 137
	4th	£5	J. Mulley	No. 27
SEPTEMBER:	1st	£25	Rosie Green	No. 116
	2nd	£15	Sue Howes	No. 217
	3rd	£10	Mr Rawlings	No. 76
	4th	£5	M. Barrow	No. 171
OCTOBER:	1st	£25	Dr Aung	No. 197
	2nd	£15	Roy Barker	No. 1
	3rd	£10	Sue Chapman-Hatchett	No. 2
	4th	£5	Norma McHale	No. 59

Villagers mark Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was marked in Great Ashfield by an Act of Remembrance at the 385th Memorial Stone by the ford in the churchyard. There was a good turnout – all socially distanced and masked – and a wreath was laid, with names from Hunston and the Flying Corps memorial on the Airfield also being read out.

Wreaths had already been placed on the memorials inside the church, before the latest lockdown started. Photographs of these were shown on the WhatsApp group so that those not able to come to the church would be able to remember the village men on their doorsteps on Remembrance Sunday, as suggested in the email sent round the village and service sheet from the Church in Suffolk.



Di Barker



The Great Ashfield Village website

As we endure another national lockdown and are left wondering how to occupy ourselves, now maybe the time to explore the updated Great Ashfield Parish Council/Village website.

For anyone interested in the workings of the Parish Council you can find details of the policies, accounts and procedures that it is governed by, and read the minutes of Parish Council meetings. The website is also a place to learn about village news and events.

Back copies of the village Newsletter are available to read, and substantial excerpts from the published 'Here But Not Here' booklet and the yet to be published booklet 'Here We Are Again' are available to read, both written and compiled by Donia Stick & Pearl Rose.

In the future it is hoped to expand the website further to showcase the village to a much wider audience.

To find this mine of information go to www.greatashfield.onesuffolk.net.

Carol White, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

All Saints' Church

Once again the church is only open for private prayer in the Chancel on Sundays from 10am-4pm and on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm.

Our Rector, Katherine Valentine, is continuing to produce a weekly reflection on Youtube, search for 'Pakenham Benefice'.

The website 'Achurchnearyou' has details of locally streamed services and other information on any changes in the future.

In September a small sale of plants and bric-a-brac was held at Limes Farm, which raised £220 for church funds. Thank you to all those who supported this event.

At our October Morning Prayer service the collection, together with individual collection boxes held by parishioners, raised £145 for the Church Missionary Society.

On Remembrance Sunday a short Act of Remembrance was held in the churchyard. We remembered members of our village and Hunston, along with British and American personnel based on the airfield, who died in the two World Wars. £230 was received in donations and this will be sent to the Royal British Legion.



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