



### Parish Council 2021

**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

**Richard Dewhirst**

07557 530433

**Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be accessed online at One Suffolk [greatashfield.onesuffolk.net/](http://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

**Lindsay Pilags**

07904 053323

**Emma Clay**

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:**

2nd February 2022

## Parish Council Summary Winter 2021



Good morning you good people. I am writing this on a lovely autumnal day, although a bit breezy! We have had a good autumn weather-wise.

On the Covid front though, it's a different matter! Suffolk has been one of the counties in the UK with a very high count of people testing positive. We in the village have had our share of positive hits, which is worrying. On the plus side, I know of no one who has had to go to hospital. But it is still not great to be hit with the virus. With Christmas and winter around the corner we must be mindful

and considerate, and not be responsible for the spread of infection to family and friends. That is one of the reasons the Pumpkin Night was cancelled. It was a shame. But we cannot be too careful.

Thanks go to my fellow parish councillors for their support through a thorny time recently. On other matters, Arthur is doing a section on the highways, and Donia on the community speeding activity, so I will not touch on those.

Our Editor asked me to write an article on the history of the village Brick Making Industry. I was delighted to be given access to the school project of Ernie and Shirley Meeking's daughter, Hazel, on the past industries of the village. You will find that elsewhere in the Newsletter and there may be more from that, on the village, in future issues.

To finish, I would like to thank everyone who gives up their precious time, so willingly, to support the community in all ways small and large. Special notice must be given to twins, Lucy and Chloe Watts, who are encouraging us all to keep our roads clear of litter.

Thank you everybody - let us keep Ashfield GREAT! I wish you all a safe and good Christmas and New Year.

*Roy Barker, Chairman*

## Great Ashfield & Badwell Ash WI

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Lord Thurlow Hall, Great Ashfield. At most meetings we have either an activity or a speaker followed by refreshments, and then a short business meeting.

**November 11th – Alison Brain** Alison will be telling us more about the children in a school and orphanage in Uganda for whom she raises funds by selling the lovely beaded jewellery she will bring with her.

**December 9th – Margaret Brackenbury** We will be decorating a bottle with Christmas in mind. Further details of what to bring – as well as a bottle – will be given nearer the time.

**January 13th 2022 – Gina Saunders** She will be talking about the St Anthony Nursery School in Malawi.

**February 10th – Members Social evening**

All visitors are welcome at £3 to include a raffle ticket and refreshments. If you wish to join the WI, the current subscription is £44 or pro rata if you join mid year. For more information email me, [kateasadler01@gmail.com](mailto:kateasadler01@gmail.com).

## Down memory lane

In September 2021 I received an email from Steve Wright in the United States in regard to his upcoming visit to the B-17, Star & Stripes Memorial in Badwell Ash. His great uncle T/Sgt Russell Stevens was killed in the crash and he wanted to see the Memorial and learn as much as possible regarding the crew and plane.

On 5th January 1944 the B-17 #42-3544 'Stars and Stripes' took off and soon after crash landed at Brook Farm near the border of Langham with Badwell Ash. Technical Sergeant Russell Amzia Stevens was the Top Turret Gunner and Flight Engineer.



The following details were supplied by Ian McLachlan, the military historian and author of several books about the US Army Air Force: "Weather conditions were bitterly cold and icy, which may have contributed to the crash. After taking off at 0725 hours, the plane climbed to about 200 feet then a wing dropped and it struck the ground at Brook Farm, Badwell Ash in Suffolk. It was carrying 16 M31 bombs, two exploded and the rest were scattered over an area of approximately 300 to 400 yards along with the wreckage."

As Roy Barker and I escorted Steve Wright to the memorial Roy explained that at the time of the crash there were Air Force bases every five miles across this area. Before leaving for a mission aircraft would gather in formation in the skies above Badwell Ash and Great Ashfield, creating a colossal amount of noise and making the ground shake. On that day the Stars and Stripes was one of 117 aircraft set to target the Bordeaux/Merignac Airfield in France.

*Donia Stick*

## Councillor Meyer's musings

The Council continues to operate a work from home policy, but over recent weeks we have seen an increasing number of officers returning to Endeavour House.

As normality creeps closer it is very pleasing to hear that Mid Suffolk District Council received national recognition at the Public Sector Transformation Awards 2021 for their innovative support of communities through Covid and beyond – winning Bronze in the overall Council of the Year category, Silver for service improvements by the Planning Enforcement team and Gold for the Virtual High Street initiative supporting local retailers. It is against this background that the Council continues to forge ahead in all areas. Listed below are a couple of notable events that have occurred over the last few weeks.



Babergh and Mid Suffolk are the first rural UK councils to switch their fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) – slashing carbon emissions by up to 90% and supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims. HVO is one of the cleanest fuels on the market which eliminates 90% of CO2 emissions, while also significantly reducing nitrogen oxide emissions and particulate matter. It is synthesised from waste vegetable oils. In early October, the councils' waste fleet began to transfer over to HVO. Its 35 waste lorries are the first to transfer and will be followed by its smaller public realm/housing services vehicles.

By ditching diesel, we will see a significant reduction in pollutant emissions from the fleet, it will also support a circular economy, as the certified sustainable HVO fuel is solely produced from waste cooking oil. The move was approved by the councils' cabinets in January this year and forms a major step in their Carbon Reduction Management Plan, which sets out how net zero carbon emissions can be achieved by 2030. Before HVO, the fleet represented just over a quarter (26%) of the councils' total CO2 emissions, approximately 880 tonnes per year. Will the fleet smell of chips – we shall see!

Post lock down, significant emphasis has rightly been placed on 'well being' and more specifically 'mental health'. In an effort to offer the maximum support to its residents Mid Suffolk has given the go-ahead to a new Wellbeing Strategy – building upon the council's continued commitment to helping its residents live happy, healthy and independent lives. It aims to ensure that everyone in Mid Suffolk has the best possible conditions for good wellbeing, and consideration has been given to the approach required by the council and its partners to achieve this, as well as the strategic objectives required to get the right results. There are also three long term outcomes included in the strategy, which maps out the council's wellbeing ambitions until 2027:

- \* Families lead active, healthy, safe and independent lives and manage their own health and wellbeing.
- \* Sustainable and inclusive places, and spaces, which maximise health and wellbeing opportunities and benefits.
- \* Health inequalities will be reduced.



The Council has now allocated significant additional resources to ensure that the strategy delivers tangible positive results on the ground.

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

## Highways, quiet lanes and potholes update

**Quiet Lanes (QLS)** Now gazetted, Highways have agreed site posts and placed work orders for poles and signs to be installed. So far, no date has been given for installation.

**Traffic calming Elmswell Road** The Parish Council remain in favour of physical measures to reduce the speed of traffic - road narrowing for example. After much prompting, a site meeting with Highways took place on 4th November to discuss the issue and they offered some concrete suggestions as to what might be possible. A formal request for a traffic survey and detailed Highways recommendations (in line with the discussion) has been made via our County Councillor. This will take some time and require funding. In the interim other measures are being reviewed, for example an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) camera.

**Speed limits Norton Road** At the 4th November session with Highways the Parish Council raised the issue of speed limit reductions. There has been a recent incident with children disembarking the school bus. The Highways advice was that limits could be changed if the site met their criteria. We will have to gather traffic data to initiate the Highways review process.

**HGV traffic** The Parish Council have had two useful meetings with the MD of Portable Space and they have undertaken to investigate how they can limit the impact they have on our small village and unclassified roads. This is likely to take several months but the dialogue continues.

**The proposed Red House Farm pig unit** This has been granted planning permission by Mid Suffolk. There is a planning condition (number sixteen) that requires all traffic to and from the unit to use the Rectory Road entrance in Bacton.

**Potholes** Highways have been addressing these quite quickly (faster than the QLS posts) but the frosts will make new ones. Please use the online reporting tool if you can. It is at this address: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

Arthur Peake

## Did you know... a little bit of local history

Kiln Farm is so called is because there used to be a brick kiln in the woods opposite the farmhouse. Originally, Roy Barker says, the farm was known as Randall's Farm, but at some time in the distant past it was renamed.

The kiln was in the woods between School Road and Green Lane, the bridle path that runs down from Daisy Green to Elmswell Road. The bricks made there were taken across the field on a horse drawn railway to a cartway (Green Lane), and from there they were transported by road to various sites using horse and cart.

These bricks were used to construct The Limes on Long Thurlow Road and in the church there is a floorbrick which was also made in the Great Ashfield kiln. Sadly, there is now no visual evidence of where the kiln used to stand.

In 1987, Hazel Meekings compiled a school project entitled 'Village Industries' focusing on Great Ashfield. From various censuses and directories she discovered that in 1844 James Peach was listed as a brickmaker, then from 1864-1885 James Warren was listed as a brickmaker (as was his wife)! During that time several local residents were listed as bricklayers.

Hazel believes the kiln ceased working around 1882 as there is no trace in any directory of any brickmakers or bricklayers living here after that time.



## Village Hall news

The Village Hall was finally able to hold the first event of 2021 on Friday 6th August. This turned out to be a perfect evening for a BBQ and about 50 people attended.

Mark Livens and Gordon Howes kindly volunteered to cook for the evening and Mark also bought along his BBQed brisket, which was delicious and very quickly eaten up! Margaret & Trevor Barrett were on the Pimms table and bar, with Di Barker taking orders and money.

Unfortunately, having asked people to volunteer for the Pumpkin evening on 30th October, it was decided to cancel the event due to rising Covid numbers in the county.

However, we did manage to hold Pub evenings in September and October and hopefully will be able to hold the usual Pub evening on Friday 3rd December.

Sue Howes



Kaila Pusey (13) created an interesting effect on her pumpkins this year by melting her crayons on to them. All but the coloured pumpkins above were grown by her grandfather



Sienna Tailby (6), who won the children's competition last year, and her sister Indy (4) with their pumpkins

## Speedwatch update proves it's working

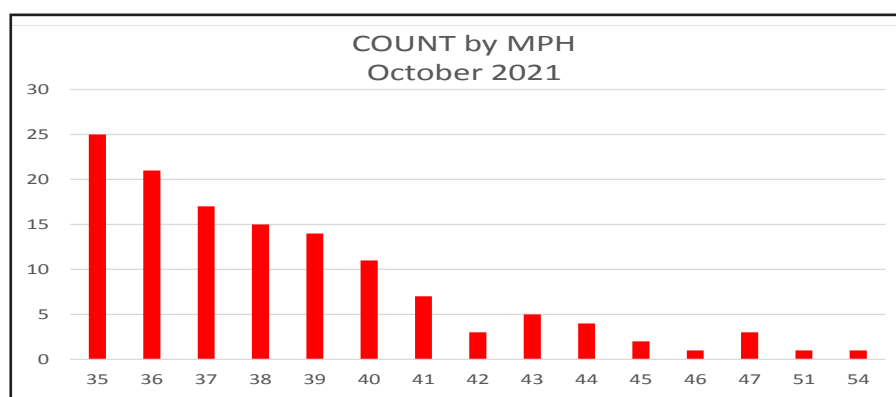
Again we are indebted to the members of the Community Speed Watch team from Great Ashfield and Long Thurlow who have been busy helping to keep us safe during September and October.

In September five sessions were held in Great Ashfield and, as a result of those, 82 vehicles were reported to the Police. This included 28 during one session on Elmswell Road. 22 of the 82 vehicles were travelling at speeds between 40 and 51 miles per hour.

In October, 10 sessions on Elmswell Road resulted in our reporting 130 vehicles. 37 of the 130 vehicles were travelling at speeds between 40 and 51 miles per hour.

Our thanks also go to our Community Engagement Officer PC Stefan Henriksen who continues to support us with help and advice and worked with us during one session. The outcome from that session and those on subsequent days were noticeably lower!

As ever we welcome applications to join us, to find out more just email me donia.stick@gmail.com



## Village Hall Draw results

<b>JUNE</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>£25</b>	Kate Sadler	No. 17
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>£15</b>	M Bennington	No. 82
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>£10</b>	James Rawlings	No. 76
	<b>4th</b>	<b>£5</b>	Sue & Bryn Ager	No. 192
<b>JULY</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>£25</b>	Debbie Sunley	No. 141
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>£15</b>	J Wells	No. 172
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>£10</b>	M Bennington	No. 93
	<b>4th</b>	<b>£5</b>	Paul Davies	No. 64
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>£25</b>	Mrs C White	No. 188
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>£15</b>	Debbie Sunley	No. 141
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>£10</b>	Di Barker	No. 101
	<b>4th</b>	<b>£5</b>	Helen Elms	No. 15
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>£25</b>	Mrs M Brown	No. 54
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>£15</b>	Adam Ryall	No. 175
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>£10</b>	Lindsay Pilags	No. 148
	<b>4th</b>	<b>£5</b>	D. Matthews	No. 88
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>£25</b>	Mr C. Johnson	No. 119
	<b>2nd</b>	<b>£15</b>	Shirley Meakings	No. 104
	<b>3rd</b>	<b>£10</b>	Mrs Jenkins	No. 235
	<b>4th</b>	<b>£5</b>	Rebecca Rawlings	No. 75

We are still happy to collect cash or cheques for your annual payment (currently £12), but if you would like to pay online please contact me at robin@greenbee.net or phone 01359 259113. Thank you for your continued support of Lord Thurlow Hall.

Margaret Barrett

## Church news

**Harvest** – Thank you to those kind people who helped decorate the church for Harvest and who donated produce and provisions. Once again these were taken to Tayfen House in Bury St Edmunds.

**Macmillan** – Thank you to everyone who supported our Afternoon Tea, while surrounded by the harvest decorations. We were delighted to raise the sum of £407.23 for this worthwhile cause.

**TOAST** – There have been three occasions in the church so far since we started up again post lockdown. We are grateful to our volunteers who organise the refreshments every fourth Sunday. There will be NO TOAST in December.

### Christmas Services

On Sunday, 19th December the Carol Service will take place at 5pm in All Saints Church, followed by refreshments. This year we have decided to give the collection to EACH. We look forward to seeing you there.

On Christmas Eve, 24th December, All Saints church will be hosting the benefice Midnight service at 11.30pm.

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

*Petrina Miles*

### Missing village sign

The village sign, if you have not noticed, is currently missing. It has gone for wood refurbishment and, at the same time, the sign itself will be repainted. It should be back in its rightful place early next year.



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