



### Parish Council 2022

**Arthur Peake**

Chairman 408728

**Ian Sadler**

Vice Chairman & Broadband  
242570

**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/](http://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**

Gail Peake 408728

Roy Barker 241045

Please send interesting items or  
photographs you would like  
included in the newsletter to  
the Editor Mandie Beckley at  
[mbeckley1@btinternet.com](mailto:mbeckley1@btinternet.com)

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

## Parish Council Summary Winter 2022



*Arthur Peake, Chairman*

This Newsletter is a reflection of the contribution Roy and Di have made to the village. We have delayed publication so that pictures from the farewell party and stories of Roy and Di can be included.

Over a hundred people attended the party on Saturday 19th November, including old friends who returned just for the party. We were inundated with food and we hope everyone enjoyed the celebration and photos from yesteryear.

There have been two scheduled meetings of the PC since the last Newsletter, with one planning

meeting and one working group session. The next planned meeting is 19th January 2023.

The Portable Space application for a Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) was decided and one extra hour added to their operations – now with a 6am rather than a 7am start.

A meeting with Suffolk head of planning was informative but did not help resolve the issues. There is another opportunity with a second LDC currently being considered. This one explicitly seeks 24 hour operations so villagers on the minor routes were asked to lodge their views with planning. Comments have now closed and at the time of writing many parishioners and neighbouring parish councils have objected. The decision date is 13th December.

HGV traffic was the major topic at the November PC meeting. Thanks to all those attending. Please view the minutes on the village website or notice boards. We will hopefully have more people with wider experience to add to our HGV working group. If you want to help please contact the PC at [greatashfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:greatashfieldpc@outlook.com).

The current state of play is that Suffolk Highways discounted our requirement for physical traffic calming (road narrowing chicanes for example) due to the lack of streetlights where needed. These are prohibitively expensive to install. Highways re-visited at our request in October to assess what could be achieved. Proposals for a village gateway and textured road surface at the main 30mph signs are being sought. As ever cost will be an issue, but we may be able to tap into the County Councillor Highways budget.

*Arthur Peake, Chairman*

### \* Changes to the Lord Thurlow Hall Committee \*

Since the AGM for the Village Hall in October, the members of the committee have changed with Roy and Di Barker moving away from the village. So there is also a big thank to them for all their amazing efforts over the years and building up the regular events.

*Please see new committee members in the box on the left of the page.*

## Great Ashfield and Badwell Ash WI

At the September meeting our speaker was Liza Jones on 'Behind the Bathroom Door', which was a fascinating talk about ablutions through the ages.

In October we welcomed Robert Leader, who gave us a talk on Secret Suffolk. As many of our members have lived in Suffolk a long time there weren't too many secrets, but a few of us did learn something. We also welcomed our WI Advisor Janet Brown.

At our November meeting there was a Christmas Craft session. There were four crafts to choose from, decorating a glass bottle, making a foil angel, a German bell to hang on the tree or a Christmas tree shaped cutlery holder. Each craft was demonstrated by one of our members, and we all had an entertaining evening having a go!



Our next three meetings, listed below, are to be held in the Lord Thurlow Hall at Great Ashfield at 2.30pm (except December). Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. We are trialling moving to afternoons for December, January and February

**December 8th 2.30pm** – A visit to Yum Yum Tree Fudge in Woolpit

**January 12th 2.30pm** – Sarah Woodhouse will be talking about how to relax and sleep

**February 9th 2.30pm** – Members meeting with afternoon tea

We welcome any new members. We are not a huge group but are a friendly one and we invite you come and see what we are about. All visitors are welcome to join us at £3 a head to include a raffle ticket and refreshments.

For further information contact Kate Sadler – [kateasadler01@gmail.com](mailto:kateasadler01@gmail.com)

## Councillor Meyer's musings

A few highlights from Council operations over the last few weeks are listed below:

### How your council can help you with the cost of living

Support packages to combat the rise in the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, with residents urged to check they are receiving the support they are entitled to. More information is available by going to <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/benefits/cost-of-living-support/>

### Winter warmth funding for community causes

Thousands of pounds were made available to grassroots groups last month to keep the doors of their activities open for longer this winter. The Winter Warmth Support Grant offered groups and non-profit organisations between £250 to £5,000 to cover the rising costs of energy, rent and food, and to keep operating without passing on increased costs to residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. More information is available at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/winter-warmth-funding-for-community-causes/>

### Councils' commercial property arm continues to generate income for districts

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6.7m profit last year and generated £3.7m in net income for the councils to plough back into services, councillors heard during October.

### Bird flu outbreak

The latest information on the recent bird flu outbreak in Suffolk can be found at <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/suffolk-bird-flu-outbreak/>

### A new unit for the retail giant The Range gets the go-ahead at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, and will create 1,650 jobs

Detailed planning consent has been given for the first unit at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, to be occupied by home, garden and leisure products retailer The Range, creating an estimated 1,650 jobs. More information about Gateway 14 can be found by visiting the Gateway 14 website <https://gateway14.com/>

### Exemplar housing development for Elmswell to be considered

Council-owned land in Elmswell could be used for a development of 50 environmentally friendly low carbon homes. The £15m investment would not only provide high quality sustainable new homes for residents, but also deliver much needed affordable homes for the local community and demonstrate to developers the type of sustainable and high standard that the council wants within its district.

A similar scheme is planned for Walsham Le Willows.

*Rick Meyer – [Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk)*



## Village WhatsApp Group administration

I am taking over from Di Barker as Administrator of the Village WhatsApp group. Anyone wishing to join who is not already a member, please contact me on 01359 240780 or email me on [greatashfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:greatashfieldpc@outlook.com). It is a good way to keep in touch with what is going on in the village.

*Carol White*



## Pumpkin Night was a roaring success

The Annual Pumpkin evening managed to go ahead for Halloween. There was a good display of home grown Pumpkins, marrows, beetroot, onions, etc, carved pumpkins & marrows and flowers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success and to those who brought their vegetables and flowers.

*Sue Howes*



Champion and the June Taylor rose bowl with the Heaviest pumpkin: Ernie Meekings  
 Heaviest Marrow: John Mulley  
 Other Vegetables: Geneen Spreull  
 Last rose of summer: Di Barker  
 Vase of Autumnal Flowers: Geneen Spreull  
 Champion children carving and the children cup: Brax Jay (pictured left)  
 Adult carved pumpkin: James Harding

## Village Hall Draw results

JULY	1st	£25	A Turp	No. 29
	2nd	£15	J Bird	No. 228
	3rd	£10	A & J Reed	No. 182
	4th	£5	G Thurner	No. 229
AUGUST	1st	£25	E Clay	No. 213
	2nd	£15	A Ryall	No. 175
	3rd	£10	G Walsh	No. 5
	4th	£5	L Elvin	No. 168
SEPTEMBER	1st	£25	J torey	No. 160
	2nd	£15	S Howes	No. 217
	3rd	£10	M Bennington	No. 82
	4th	£5	S Meekings	No. 104
OCTOBER	1st	£25	J Thompson	No: 137
	2nd	£15	P Davies	No: 64
	3rd	£10	J Storey	No: 160
	4th	£5	M Orford	No: 239
NOVEMBER	1st	£25	C Hughes-Hallett	No: 50
	2nd	£15	A Johnson	No: 179
	3rd	£10	C Johnson	No: 119
	4th	£5	I Walsh	No: 108
	5th	£5**	Z Lawes	No: 25

\*\* Extra prize for Pumpkin Night!

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*

## Village Hall news

The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall was held on 19th October and Roy Barker resigned as Chairman and Di Barker resigned as Bookings Manager because they are moving from the village. Simon Laidler was voted in as the new Chairman, with Carol White as the new Bookings Manager and Lindsay Pilags is now the secretary. The Village Draw continues to be run by Margaret Barrett and Gail Peake and Roy Barker are running the new Kitchen Project.

The committee would like to say a huge thank to Roy and Di for all the work that they have done over the years, fund raising for the Village Hall, planning and running events, taking the bookings and managing the accounts and maintenance. The hall is in the best condition it has been for many years and is regularly used. Roy has secured government grants allowing for new toilets, new windows and front door, a ramp for easier access and gas central heating.

This year a Defibrillator was installed outside the hall, paid for and installed by donations, and managed by Roy. He will be assisting Gail Peake in trying to secure grants for a new kitchen.

There are the regular Pub Evenings on the first Friday of the month (apart from January, August and November), as well as the annual BBQ and the Pumpkin Night with fish & chips. A yoga class runs weekly and the hall is often booked for meetings, family gatherings, children's parties, biking clubs, elections etc.

The Village draw for October and November also took place.

The last event of the year will be the Christmas Pub Evening on Friday 2nd December at 7.30pm. Then in 2023 on Friday 3rd February and Friday 3rd March (No January Pub Night).



*Sue Howes*

## 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

On fourth Sunday of the month drop in to the church where bacon rolls, toast with a selection of preserves, coffee, tea and juice are available along with the chance to catch up with fellow villagers.

At the October TOAST we discussed ways of enhancing the eco and wild-life environment of the church and graveyard. We have been offered the chance to have a full botanic survey of the churchyard which will be conducted in the Spring. There were suggestions to install bird and bat boxes and a bug hotel in due course. This will be an ongoing process.

### HARVEST

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for our postponed Harvest Festival. Despite the difficult growing conditions this year there was lots of colour and donations of produce. We are also grateful for the donations of tinned and packaged provisions which, along with the fresh goods, were taken to Tayfen House in Bury St Edmunds to support their work helping people in need.

### MACMILLAN TEA

Our Macmillan charity event was held among the Harvest decorations. Thank you for supporting this event and helping to raise £382 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

### CHANCEL REPAIRWORK

We have now been granted a faculty to start the work on repairs in the Chancel which includes replastering, painting, and updating heating and lighting. We will also be purchasing some new folding chairs for this area. As yet we do not have a start date.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Carol service will take place on Sunday, 18th December at 5pm in All Saints' Church, followed by refreshments. The collection will go to EACH, the East Anglian Children's Hospice. We look forward to seeing you there. There will be a Christmas Day Crib service at 10.30am. Children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds and kings.

On 24th December the benefice Christmas Eve Midnight service is being held at Pakenham Church at 11.30pm.

### Church Wardens

Roy Barker 241045

Raymond Mayhew 240741

Details of services held in our church are at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

The Benefice village and church news magazine is available to read online [www.vcnews.org.uk](http://www.vcnews.org.uk)



*Petrina Miles*

## A fond farewell

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' to everyone who had anything to do with the tea party on Saturday 19th November, in Lord Thurlow Hall. It left Roy and me almost speechless but profoundly touched by all the work and thought that had gone into it, and the number of people present or unable to attend. The spread of food and drink was magnificent and proof positive of Great Ashfield's generosity of spirit – as were the gifts with which we were presented.

We will give serious thought to the special one for the village itself, and if anyone has any ideas, do share them with us.



This winter will also give us time to plan our new garden, made even more exciting by your many gifts of money and vouchers. Thank you all so much for these contributions, for your love and kind wishes.

This is a GREAT village to live in and we leave with sadness, but with zest for the new chapter of our lives. We will keep in touch and look forward to great things happening here in the future.

*Roy and Di Barker*

## Sponsors wanted

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

The addition of colour adds an extra £22 to the cost of printing 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.

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