

# Great Ashfield Village News



SPECIAL ISSUE

JULY 2021

## Streetlight decision

Following our item in the Summer 2021 edition of the Newsletter concerning the streetlights in Great Ashfield, the Parish Council received very few comments and responses from residents. It was therefore agreed at the recent Parish Council meeting that due to the substantial costs involved, when the current streetlights expire they will not be replaced.

Would any residents who disagree with this decision or have any comments to make on this issue please email the Parish Council on [greatashfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:greatashfieldpc@outlook.com).

*Carol White*

## Village tidy up

The area around the village sign is in urgent need of a tidy up — weeding and pruning in particular. Volunteers are invited to join a working party to spend a few hours one weekend to undertake to do this. Anyone interested in helping out or willing to organise this work, please contact the Parish Clerk on [greatashfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:greatashfieldpc@outlook.com) or contact a member of the Parish Council.

In an effort to keep our village tidy and welcoming, and as our hedges and verges are growing at an alarming rate this year, all residents and landowners around the village are respectfully asked to check the footpaths, hedges, trees, verges and areas they are responsible for and to carry out any clearing, trimming or pruning necessary. For example, in the interests of safety, please ensure that your hedge does not impede those walking along the pavement outside your property.

*Carol White*

## Thoughts from the Chairman

With Boris lifting some of the Covid 19 restrictions and passing the responsibility on to individuals and asking for the use of common sense, certain things that we are allowed to do without restrictions are being organised within Great Ashfield.

The Village Hall is back open for events, parties and classes. One of the first is Pub night and the annual BBQ which is taking place on Friday August 6th. (details within the Newsletter).

The church is beginning to be less restrictive again. Limiting wedding and funeral numbers has been lifted and we welcome Celia Orford's wedding as one of the first. Singing is allowed once more and an increase of services is being arranged. We have Harvest Festival back in the diary again. TOAST, or the community breakfast is also being considered. (details may again be in the Newsletter).

I would like to thank resident Oliver Reynolds, of The Country Life Landscapes, for cutting and tidying up the verges and footpath in his area of the village. John Mulley too keeps the grass cut around our village sign, Bob Fitch looks after the Lord Thurlow Hall surrounds, and Roy Clarke has only just had to give up keeping the churchyard looking beautifully neat. Thank you to all these people for their community spirit, commitment, and care.

Talking of Community Spirit, we have an anonymous donor willing to pay for a Defibrillator to be sited at the village hall. This will be an enormous asset to Great Ashfield in emergencies and we are extremely grateful. We want it to be easily accessible at all times. Training has been offered by several organisations. Watch this space!

Next year we have the Festival of Suffolk 2022, which is<sup>o</sup> being organised for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are looking for a Champion within Great Ashfield to coordinate our events. A short 'task and finish' commitment and ideal for someone, or a couple, wanting to find their feet within the village. Anyone interested please contact our clerk, Carol.

Traffic is an ongoing concern for the parish council. Speeding vehicles and HGVs use our lanes as rat runs. We are keeping pressure on by all the means at the Parish Council's disposal and speaking with the offending companies. Keep Safe, enjoy the summer and take responsibility for your own and your families' health.

*Roy Barker, Chairman, Parish Council*

## Village Hall update

The postponed Annual Village Hall BBQ will now go ahead on Friday 6th August at 7pm. There will be the usual choice of burgers and sausages (supplied by Rolfes in Walsham). If you have any other vegetarian/vegan/fish requirements, please bring them with you. (Sorry!) Please let Di Barker know if you are coming via WhatsApp, email ([dibarker@keme.co.uk](mailto:dibarker@keme.co.uk)) or phone 241045, so that we can provide enough for everyone.

The bar will be open for beer, wine and soft drinks as usual and there will also be Pimms. Please bring your own chairs as required. Now that the back of the car park has been tarmaced it is smoother than before.

We are also hoping to run the first Village Inn of the year on Friday 3rd September, should the regulations stay the same!

*Sue Howes*

## Festival of Suffolk

Led by the Suffolk Lieutenancy, the Festival of Suffolk 2022 is to be an opportunity for communities and generations to come together and to celebrate Suffolk during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. After all the restrictions of the pandemic, the aim is provide a legacy to improve local lives and increase the visibility of the County of Suffolk.

All communities are being asked to nominate a local Festival Community Champion whose role will be to:

- Develop and share ideas
- Pass on Festival news and updates
- Be a driving force for the celebrations in your community, helping to plan and organise events
- Encourage and motivate local groups and residents to take part

In return, Festival organisers will share information and guidance about fundraising opportunities, street parties, event planning, tree planting and many other good ideas.

The 'Community Champion' can be an individual or a group of people who want to get involved.

To nominate someone, to volunteer or to find out more information, please contact our Parish Council Chairman, Roy Barker, or our Parish Clerk, Carol White, on [greatashfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:greatashfieldpc@outlook.com).

More information to be available soon on [www.festivalofsuffolk.org](http://www.festivalofsuffolk.org)

*Carol White*

## Hedges and verges

Our hedges and verges have been growing at an alarming rate, so could you please try to keep on top with trimming back, so that pedestrians are safer when walking along our busy main road.

There has already been an incident when a lorry's wing mirror clipped someone's arm, due to the narrowing of our pavement, and we don't want anyone injured through our neglect.

*Nancy Calderbank*

## HGVs on unclassified village roads

HGV traffic on our unclassified roads is an ongoing issue and with harvest approaching the opportunity for large agricultural vehicles and HGVs meeting on the lanes is one to be avoided.

The Parish Council has been corresponding with Portable Space and at very short notice Mark Dolman, the MD of Portable Space, attended the July Parish Council meeting to provide a status update.

The HGV issue is not solely one for Portable Space and Mark has kindly been liaising with other businesses at Red House Farm Business Units.

The PC minutes contain the full text but in summary:

1. They are exploring the possibility of using different entrances and exits to the Red House Farm site.
2. The company are currently working with their drivers to educate and encourage alternative routes to minimise the impact on local communities.
3. Mark has written to subcontractors advising them to use the right entrances and exits.
4. Using tracking analysis over the next six months, Portable Space will be able to report exact figures relating to the number of HGVs using Great Ashfield lanes.

Separately, our County Councillor (Andy Mellen) is investigating with Suffolk Planning department what existing planning permissions or permits influence heavy traffic through our village. Mark and Andy plan to report back to the September PC meeting, which will be held on 16th September at 7.30pm in the Lord Thurlow Hall.

In general any HGV issue relating to overnight parking in residential areas, littering or hauliers repeatedly driving on unsuitable roads, should be reported to Suffolk Highways at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/report-a-heavy-goods-vehicle-incident/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/report-a-heavy-goods-vehicle-incident/). If the issue relates to Portable Space then Mark asks that it is also reported to him (T: 01449 782123, Email: [web@portablespace.co.uk](mailto:web@portablespace.co.uk)) in order to get a faster response.

*Arthur Peake*

## Church services to increase in number

As from 1st August the church will be open to visitors every day between 10am and 4pm.

Within the benefice the number of services is starting to increase. The next service at Great Ashfield is Morning Worship on Sunday 15th August. Full details of services held in churches or streamed online can be found on the website 'Achurchnearyou'. See [vcnews.org.uk](http://vcnews.org.uk) for more local information.

The PCC would very much like to thank Roy Clark for all the time and effort, over many years, that he has spent helping to look after the churchyard. He has decided to take life a little easier.

Over the last year the PCC have been working toward the formal permission for the removal of the choir stalls in the chancel. We have now been given the permission to apply for a faculty that will include repair of the plaster work on the walls, redecoration and the purchase of new folding seating for this now more adaptable space.

The Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 12th September, timing to be confirmed. It will be lovely to see the church fully decorated again. Anyone willing to help with this contact Petrina Miles on 259283. Once again we will give the donations of any home grown produce, as well as tins and packaged provisions, to Tayfen House in Bury St Edmunds, who help single homeless people with various forms of accommodation and support.

In the afternoon, while the church is decorated, we will host a charity event for Macmillan Cancer Support. Tea and a selection of delicious cakes will be available between 3-4pm, there will also be a raffle.

*Petrina Miles*