

# Woolverstone News

January 24<sup>th</sup> 2016

Dear All

At last we have had a few days of seasonal weather and the dry, clear but cold days made a welcome change from the continual dampness of recent weeks. It has had its spectacular moments. Last week I drove along the Strand through thick fog and then emerged into sunshine as I travelled over the Bridge towards the Nacton junction. Looking to the East, a river of white cloud twisted between the tree-lined banks of the Orwell; all but the uppermost trees, the top of Freston Tower and a few cranes in the distance at Felixstowe could be seen. That sight will live with me for a long time and reminded me how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country.

## **Village Questionnaire**

By now you should have received a copy of the village questionnaire. If you haven't, let me know and I will drop a copy off for you to complete. This is a significant step towards the village being in control of our own future. We are aiming to get a return from every household and to have the most complete picture possible of villager's views about the future of Woolverstone over the next decade. Please make every effort to complete in the next week and be ready for your copy to be collected. The questionnaire is anonymous. However, you may put your name or house number/name on if you wish.

Collection will be in week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. If you are missed, please post your completed questionnaire into No 29 Main Road.

## **Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Our Queen's Ninetieth birthday is approaching fast. There will be celebrations throughout the land over the weekend of 10-12 June 2016, to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. One suggestion is that we have a picnic/BBQ centred on the Church, with use of the field for children's games over lunch/ afternoon. Or, we could repeat the lighting of a beacon in the evening as we did for the Queen's Jubilee and work a village celebration around that. There must be loads of other ideas for how we could mark the occasion!

If you have any suggestions on how the village of Woolverstone might celebrate this historic event, or would like to help organise this event, please contact Mrs Romy Blackburn, Clerk to Woolverstone Parish Council.

## **Ganges update**

We are in the final stages of making our application for Judicial Review into the lawfulness of Babergh District Council's decision to grant planning permission for building 285 houses etc. on the former HMS Ganges site at Shotley Gate. This is a two stage process. I will pass on a progress update when we reach the completion of the First Stage, although at present I cannot give a time scale for this.

If you want to know anything further, please make contact with me through my email address.

## **Village website**

The village website is developing. You can find the minutes from PC meetings there: <http://woolverstone.onesuffolk.net/>

We are trying to build in local interest and have added a gallery of photographs from around the village and on the river. Stewart Harris has set the ball rolling.

If you have beautiful photographs you would like to share, it would be great if you could forward them to Romy, who is our Web Master: [blackburn\\_30@btinternet.com](mailto:blackburn_30@btinternet.com)

## **Clerk to the Parish Council**

Romy Blackburn is retiring from her role as Clerk to the Parish Council in May this year. We are urgently seeking her successor. It would be beneficial if there was some time working in tandem.

If you think you have the qualities needed for this role and would be interested in this role, please contact myself or Romy. The sooner the better! It is vital we have someone in place in this role for the handover.

## **Saturday Market at St Michael's Church Woolverstone. February 13th. 9.00 – 12.30**

This one will be on a Valentine's theme... There will also be bacon butties!

So, try and find time to pop down to St Michael's Monthly Market, second Saturday of every month:

- ✓ Coffee van with a variety of coffees
- ✓ Crafts: jewellery, glass, wood, cards, furniture, knitting, crochet
- ✓ Food: Woody's butchery, cakes, sausage rolls, bread, fruit, veg, eggs, jams, chutneys, pastries, cheeses
- ✓ Natural products
- ✓ Plants. Trees and bird food
- ✓ Antiques and Art work

Drop in and see what's on offer!

## **Woolverstone "Spring Clean" Weekend - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March**

Our village "Spring Clean" is an annual tradition. Before the grass and plants in the verges start to grow we take the opportunity to clear any rubbish that has accumulated besides the roads, lanes and pathways throughout the village. We do this over a weekend to allow everyone the chance to join in as flexibly as possible.

More details will be sent closer to the time but the main sweep of the village will start at 10.30 on Saturday 5th March. Why not put it in your diary?

If you can't make the Saturday sweep, you can choose any area over the weekend, maybe the hedge opposite your home or a path along which you walk, or an area which irks you! Walkers can also help along the footpaths towards Freston, Chelmondiston and Pin Mill.

Please try to help out over "Spring Clean" Weekend and keep our village looking beautiful.

This year I would also like to do a within Parish boundary footpath check and see if styles, gates and paths are clear and are in passable condition for people to use and enjoy.

## **Speeding through the village**

The Police have maintained their increased presence in the village.

Our Community Speedwatch team are still waiting for training. The speed camera - (Thank you to Dave Wood SCC for his support through the locality fund) - the hi-viz clothing and the requisite signs are all with us. We are just waiting for the Police to arrange the next step.

At our recent Parish Council meeting we had a reassuring report from the High School letting us know that the Police had been in contact with them to do what they can to encourage safer speeds through the village. All the bus companies working for Ipswich High School have been reminded of the need to respect the speed limits through the village and told that failure to heed this could lead to loss of contract. Parents have been asked to respect the speed limit through the school's newsletter. Interestingly, Ipswich High School is trying to get more of its students onto buses, as per the original S106 agreement when they bought Woolverstone Hall. They report an increase from 63% to 70% of its students using buses, which is great. And they want to increase that percentage further!

A deal of effort has gone into encouraging greater awareness of the community through which the busy B1456 passes. The message seems to be getting through...slowly.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to Adam Goulding for establishing a positive relationship with the police SNT, getting the SafeCam van into the village and persisting with the cause to reduce speeding vehicles. Without his tireless efforts we would not have the increased support and protection we are currently enjoying. Thank you, Adam for making a difference.

(P.S. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the Community Speedwatch Team, please get in touch with myself or Romy, Clerk to PC, on 780731 [blackburn\\_30@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:blackburn_30@btinternet.co.uk) )

## **Potholes**

There are a number of potholes appearing in the road through the village. If you notice one you can report it on the SCC website all the information you need is here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

Alternatively, you can let Romy know and she will report it. A photograph is really useful to go with the location.

## **Proposed changes to the Fire service. Consultation open until 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

Time is running out to take part in this consultation! Suffolk County Council is reviewing the provision for our Fire Service. They propose to cut the number of fire engines and firefighters at Ipswich and, maybe, remove the auxiliary fire station at Holbrook. This directly affects us. Their plans are out for consultation until 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. At our recent Parish Council meeting David Woods, Tattingstone resident, Suffolk County Councillor and ex-firefighter, asked us to take part in the consultation. David Woods view is clear: "I think these [proposals] are going far too far. We are

not only cutting to the bone, we are cutting through the bone". If you want to take part in the consultation, just follow this link:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergen.../fire-service-redesign/>

With cuts to Fire Service, Coast Guard and Police all lined up, I guess it is better not to have an emergency of any sort!

### **Date for your diary**

Ipswich High School is hosting a Girls Day School Trust residential weekend, which includes camping, between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The school will not be open to Woolverstone residents over that weekend due to understandable safeguarding concerns. I would like to thank HIS for allowing us to enjoy their grounds for so much of the year. It is hugely appreciated.

*If you know your neighbour is not on the internet, or does not get this newsletter, please print of a copy and drop it through their letter box. If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list please ask them to send me an email to the address below and I will add them to the group email list. Many thanks.*

Best wishes

Simon Pearce. Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council (780009. simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk)