

# Woolverstone News

December 8<sup>th</sup> 2015

Dear All

The unseasonably mild journey towards the shortest day continues. There are still leaves, some of them green on many of the trees. "Time was", my father says, "when we burnt the last of the fallen leaves on Bonfire Night." How the times and seasons are changing. We have been lucky enough to witness some stunning sunrises and sunsets this month. Each time I am reminded how fortunate I am to live in such a beautiful place as Woolverstone and how important it is to keep it so. Please do remember that we have permission to walk through the grounds of the Hall during the weekends and enjoy the slow turn of the seasons in our surroundings.

The festive season is approaching and there are several opportunities to meet up with neighbours in the village and celebrate.

## **Saturday Market at St Michael's Church Woolverstone. December 12<sup>th</sup>. 9.00 – 12.30**

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, quilling, supplies
- ✓ Food: Woody's butchery, cakes, sausage rolls, fruit, veg, eggs, jams, chutneys, pastries
- ✓ Natural products: goats milk, bees, aloe vera
- ✓ Plants
- ✓ Antiques and Art work

Drop in and see what's on offer! And then come along to...

## **Christmas Wassail at Berners Hall, Woolverstone. December 12<sup>th</sup> 11.30 – 2.00**

You are invited to come and enjoy a glass of wine and a mince pie at Berners Hall. The village Hall will be open between 11.30 and 2.00. Take the chance to get together with friends and neighbours (and even those you have not met yet!) for a pre-Christmas celebration.

There will be a raffle, some Christmas stalls and festive music. Also, there is an interesting collection of information and pictures about the Woolverstone estate.

Adults £2.00 Children 50p

## **Family Carol Service, St Michael's Church. Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> 7.00 pm**

You are warmly invited to the village Family Carol Service on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.00pm. The service will be followed by a chance to meet up with your neighbours and enjoy some mulled wine and a mince pie in our beautiful church.

## **Village Plan**

In the New Year, your Parish Council is going to start the process of completing a Village Plan. This will seek to guide the development of the village over the next 10 -15 years as well as tackle

priority issues. The start of this process is the completion of a questionnaire which is distributed to all households in the village. We will be aiming for a 100% return and then will use the information we gather to plan for the future. The questionnaire will be delivered in the first week of January and there will be a two-week turn around. Your questionnaire will be delivered and collected by a Parish Councillor. We aim to report back the main points at an open village meeting in March or April. I look forward to reading and analysing your views.

## **Ganges update**

As far as we know, the Section 106 agreements between the developers, Haylink and Babergh District Council still have not been signed, but we are chasing it. We have had confirmation that the signing has not yet been completed. We were told at the last Parish Council meeting (11.11.15), by District Councillor Derek Davis, this will happen shortly and is only held up on the smallest detail. We will let you know more when we have further information. The minutes from that PC meeting are available on the new village website: <http://woolverstone.onesuffolk.net/>

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

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!

## **Speeding through the village**

The Police have maintained their increased presence in the village. We have now had several visits from the Suffolk SafeCam. I will share more statistics when I have them.

However, there is still a lot to do over the coming months to make the road that runs the length of our village safer and quieter.

The Suffolk Police now have the details of our 7 member team - Woolverstone Community Speedwatch. We have ordered the appropriate equipment and are now waiting to hear when our training can start. Watch this space!

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))

## **Dogs**

## **Polite Reminder.**

Dark evenings mean it is harder see what your dog is doing, especially if it is off the lead on Church Field! Please clear up after your dog and take it home or to one of our "poo" bins. There are two "poo" bins close by; one outside Horsepond's Green and the other down by the Marina. Please help keep our beautiful village clean and "poo" free. If you see someone who fails to pick up after their dog, you could always let them know where the "poo" bins are. Note: It is an offence to fail to clean up behind your dog which can be reported to Babergh District Council.

A more recent phenomenon for the "poo fairy" is bagging but leaving bag and contents at the edge of the field, festooned around the remaining gate post to the summer drive and under the trees. Please, take it home or put it in a bin.

*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](mailto:simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk))