



Woolverstone News

April 28th 2019

Dear All

It has been a wonderful year for flowering shrubs and blossom. The kind early spring weather meant that blossoms survived well until storm Hannah blew them away over the weekend. Lack of severe weather meant that Camellias and Magnolias looked particularly magnificent over a long period.

But, the soil is very short of water and we could really do with some long periods of soaking rain over the next few weeks. The irrigation pond below the Hall looked to be at the lowest level I have seen it, during this season, for many years. The foliage of the spectacular bluebells in Freston Wood lay limply on the ground as if trampled over with their flower stalks encouraged into tall thin growth by the unseasonal warmth. But they still looked a wonderful picture.

Our House Martins, one of the joys of life, arrived a week early on 25th April chattering and whirling around the cottages celebrating their safe return after a journey of thousands of miles. Almost as soon as they had arrived, they disappeared to further fresh water wetlands to feed, rebuild their strength and get ready for nesting. They'll be back. Shakespeare describes the House Martin as: "This guest of summer".

Summer must be just around the corner...

Parish News

Informative village meeting on 4th April 2019 at 7.30 pm in Berners Hall

Over 60 people attended the open meeting in Berners Hall for a presentation about plans for proposed development within Woolverstone by Geoffrey Mayhew and Roger Balmer Design.

There was an opportunity to view a map with proposed locations for builds, the number and type of builds. However, there was no information about the proposed design of houses.

Many people left quick comments on our SWOT sheets and 17 people emailed more detailed responses which are attached to the email version.

The Parish Council discussed next steps and will identify key themes within the responses. It is proposed that in addition to the village survey undertaken two years ago there will be a Housing Needs Survey undertaken in the next two months.

I was able to retain the location map following the village meeting. It will be available from 7.00 pm at Berners Hall on Thursday 9th May prior to the Parish Council meeting at 7.30, along with the detailed comments received so far. If anyone would like to view it before then, please make contact and I'm sure we can arrange something.

At the moment this does not have the status of an application.

Nominations for the Parish Council Elections 2019

Two Councillors stepped down from the Parish Council at the 2019 elections. Simon Quantrill is moving to Holbrook and Mark Bostock is heavily involved on the City of London Corporation. We thank them for their service to the village over many years. The elections were uncontested.

We have gained two new Councillors: Jon Mann and Matthew March. We thank them for committing their time and energy to the future of our village.

We are supposed to have nine Parish Councillors, but currently the team is comprised of only eight. Following our meeting in May we will be able to seek a further member of the community to join the team working for the interests of Woolverstone. If you would consider joining the team, or wouldlike to know more, please contact me.

Parish Council from May 2019 comprises: Simon Pearce, Phil Mayhew, Elspeth Iskander, Allison Glading, Jen Young, Simon Kent, Jon Mann and Matthew March.

Dairy House

Hills Building Group is well underway with the remodelling and refurbishment works to Dairy House. Key activities include the construction of the bat loft, commencement of conservation repair works to the Creamery and the clearance of the rear garden. As before, Hills Site Manager is Leon Taylor. His contact details are 07523 519213 or leon.taylor@hillsgroup.com

Their target date for completing Phase 1 of the project is mid-July 2019 with 15 boarders in Septemeber 2019.

Parish Council Meeting

Thurs 9th May 7.30 pm

Parish Council meetings take place on second Thursday of the month, except August. We receive reports from our County and District councillors as well as discuss local issues. If there is something you would like to raise, please contact one of our councillors or come along to a meeting.

Jose Simoes, manager at Spring Lodge Care Home, will be meeting with the Parish Council and talking about his work and some of the issues facing Spring Lodge, especially parking.

If you would like to raise your own issue(s) in the first 10 minutes of the meeting, please contact me, Simon Pearce, Chairman at simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk or Kathryn Deaton, our clerk, at kathryn@deaton.org.uk in the week preceding the meeting.

Monthly Morning Market at St Michael's Church

Sat 11th May 9.00 – 12.30

Monthly Morning Market at St Michael's church, Woolverstone. Lots of local producers, craft stalls veg, cheese, meat, cakes, tea & coffee and of course Bacon butties. East End butchers will be there. If you would like to ring them for an order they will bring it with them on the Saturday. Their number is 01206 392190.

Take a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours and buy some local produce in the most beautiful and peaceful surroundings.

Annual Parish Meeting

Thurs 16th May 7.30 onward

The Annual Parish Meeting allows parishioners to catch up with the work of the Parish Council and other organisations in the village, District Council and County Council over the past year. It also is a chance to ask questions and raise issues with your councillors.

The agenda will be posted on our noticeboard by Horsepond's Green in advance.

Advanced notices:

Open Gardens

Sunday June 9th 10 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Friends of Woolverstone are going to repeat Open Gardens for a second time due to popular demand. It will take place on Sunday 9th June. Would you consider opening your garden to visitors for a few hours? There will be a BBQ available off Marina Road as well as teas, cakes and refreshments and (hopefully) a historical tour around the grounds of Woolverstone Hall. In 2017 we had 9 gardens open around the village and it was the most enjoyable and beautiful day.

If you would like to offer your garden for Woolverstone Open Gardens event, please contact Phil Mayhew: 07771576047

******We are looking for volunteers to bake cakes and scones for teas and light lunches on the day.******

******Please get in touch if you would be willing to help with the baking or with running the temporary "Tea Rooms" on Sunday 9th June.******

Sunday Services at St Michael's.

As I expect you are aware, we have no rector at present. We are in "interregnum". The process to find a new one has commenced. Following the first round of advertising and promotion there were no applications. A second round of adverts and promotion will begin shortly.

Sunday 5th	May	10.00	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional "said" service. All are welcome. Communion will be taken by Rev Marian Carter.
		11.00	Café church
Sunday 12th	May	11.00	Worship the Woolverstone Way
Sunday 19th	May	11.00	Morning Prayers for Christian Aid Week
Sunday 26th	May	11.00	Informal Holy Communion.

Helping our Community

Our community is stretched out in a ribbon settlement, mostly along the B1456. People at No 1 are over a mile away from people at No 38. It is hard to stay connected. One of the ways to keep connected is through supporting local events, meeting and catching up with people. I hope you will be able to support the village through the different events that have been organised. We also need your help for some of the jobs that keep the community ticking away.

Community Speedwatch

In order to have a continuing presence we really need people who are prepared to give a couple of hours a month to support us.

If you would like to be part of the team to help keep the traffic flow through the village to safe limits, please make contact with me. Contact details below.

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.

If your neighbour is not on the internet, why not print off a copy and pop it through their letterbox?

Best wishes

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