



Woolverstone News

August 28th 2020

Dear All

Autumn has come early! It roared in from the Atlantic on the back of Storm Francis producing some of the strongest winds ever recorded at this time of year. Yet two weeks ago we were basking in near record-breaking temperatures of close to 33°. And this weekend the temperature looks to dip to a record low for an August bank holiday. Are these extremes what we can look forward to with increased global warming and climate change?

This morning autumn was in the chill air leaving shining drops of condensation on the tips of leaves. Our delicious purple, plump, finger-staining blackberries which had arrived early promising a bounteous harvest are over already. It has been a strange month.

August brought much joy, too. The field between Dairy House and Nelson's Avenue has not been cut this year because of the building works. It has provided countless voles and mice for hunting owls. Buzzards have soared over it looking for quarry. Then, for two days, the air was alive with countless swallows and house martins sweeping and swooping around the lime trees and gliding low over the grass tops seeking insects to build their strength for the long journey to Africa. Some of the fledglings were curious at their surroundings and slowed to fly close to a seagull perched on a fence post. They soared away in joyous flight, banking and returning close to my shoulder and passing my waist as they skimmed the grasses hunting for food.

What an awe-inspiring, privileged sight. I reflected on the 70% decrease in numbers of these our summer visitors. What might the sky above these fields have been like 70 years ago? I was saddened that this might be the only opportunity to witness this magnificent display as the field will probably be mown next year and the natural environment for insects lost. And then I compared it to the field behind our cottage which has produced potatoes this year; the tops cut and the weeds sprayed off and a barren land for insects and birds. What a price we pay for our food!

Parish News

Plans were available for viewing in St Michael's church over three sessions last week. 38 people came to see them. Woolverstone Parish Councillors were very grateful to St Michael's Parochial Church Council for allowing the church to be used to host this viewing. We will make a donation to church funds to show our appreciation. If you missed the opportunity and would still like to see them, please contact me.

Our village reached the East Anglian Daily Times on 23rd August with the headline: "Bid for 22 homes and new path connecting four villages". You can read the article here:

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/woolverstone-new-homes-planning-application-1-6804780>

EADT article fact-checked

- There are 22 houses in the application. 16 of those houses are in Woolverstone; the other 6 are in the Parish of Freston, although they abut the village boundary of Woolverstone along the Main Road and will impact on the street scene as you approach from Ipswich
- There will be a total of 14 houses along the Main Road not the 10 houses reported
- There are two cycle paths proposed with the application. One to Holbrook from the footpath beside our Village Hall and the other from Chelmondiston from beside the Ipswich High School grounds opposite Number 30. The proposals will not connect "*four nearby villages*". The greater network is aspirational
- The play area is also aspirational and has not been agreed by either the Berners Hall Management Committee or the Parish Council
- There is little evidence to support the claim that there will be a "*wealth of other socially beneficial aspects*" as described in the article

David Wood, Suffolk County Councillor accompanied me to the seven houses that belong to Woolverstone but are outside the 30 mph limit last Thursday. His visit was to see for himself the hazards of living on this stretch of road with no footpath with speeding and sometimes reckless drivers overtaking on blind bends. He is to compile a report for the Highways portfolio holder, Cllr Reid, seeking a reduction in the speed limit between Woolverstone and Chelmondiston to 40 mph or to include the whole of Woolverstone in our 30mph zone. I hope we can get something done about this before the surge in traffic which will accompany the developments at former HMS Ganges, Shotley Marina and Chelmondiston.

Romy Blackburn and Bea Hamilton will not be conducting the door-to-door Poppy Appeal collection this year due to the COVID restrictions. This was decided by the British legion. Poppies will still be available from supermarkets.

Geoff Mayhew Planning Proposals

There has been a further extension to the deadline for responses to this application. This has now been extended until 25th September at the request of Chelmondiston and Freston Clerk, Jill Davis.

There is a plethora of documentation. The application is similar to that outlined over a year ago and shared at a Village Meeting but there are some changes. There is detail in terms of what the houses look like, how tall they will be, exact proposed locations, construction materials, access etc. None of which was available before.

How to find the Planning details when they are available, or any other planning applications.

If you follow this link it will take you to the online planning applications page of Babergh's website: <https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and type "Woolverstone" into box and click on the green "search" button. The planning applications for Woolverstone should appear in date order. If you click on the application you want to explore, a new page will open which offers tabs. Clicking on the tabs will reveal more detail. The "Comments" – allows you to see what other people/agencies have said; "Constraints" – factors to take into account e.g. Conservation Area; and "Documents" – all the relevant documents associated with the application - plans, drawings, heritage statements etc.

There is an opportunity for individuals to make their views known to Babergh Planners either through the website, email or letter. If you are unsure, make contact with a member of the Parish Council. If you can, make your view known to the Parish Council which has taken a view and make comments on the proposals. We now have until 25th September to submit comments.

Corona Virus or COVID 19

We are still advised to **Stay Alert. Control the Virus. Save Lives.**

However, restrictions are loosening but we must still be vigilant and careful.

To keep safe, we must still keep to the drill!

- **Wash your hands regularly**
- Whenever you come back inside, **wash your hands for at least 20 seconds**
- **Avoid touching your face**, especially around your nose, eyes or mouth
- **Keep a social distance** of at least two meters from other people where possible and 1 metre **plus** other precautions like wearing a face mask, turning aside from someone else, when two meters just isn't possible e.g. on public transport or a confined space
- **Wear a mask on/in:**
 - ✓ public transport
 - ✓ indoor transport hubs (airports, rail and tram stations and terminals, maritime ports and terminals, bus and coach stations and terminals)
 - ✓ shops and supermarkets (places which are open to the public and that wholly or mainly offer goods or services for retail sale or hire)
 - ✓ indoor shopping centres
 - ✓ banks, building societies, and post offices (including credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses)

You are expected to wear a face covering immediately before entering any of these settings and must keep it on until you leave.

You are also strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in other enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

Face coverings are also needed in NHS settings, including hospitals and primary or community care settings, such as GP surgeries. They are advised to be worn in care homes. Individual settings may have their own policies and require you to take other measures.

Beware: Vaccine Scam

Rowan Cousins sent me this script and asked me to put it in the newsletter to avoid anyone being scammed. Here's how the conversation goes:

Scammer: *Good afternoon I'm calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test.*

Receiver: *OK. Can you tell me who that person was?*

Scammer: *I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information.*

Receiver: *Right. Um... so....*

Scammer: *But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?*

Receiver: *Ok (gives address)*

Scammer: *I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalize this and send the kit to you.*

Receiver: *Sorry - a payment card? I thought this was all free?*

Scammer: *No - I'm afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready.*

Receiver: *No - that's not right. This is part of the NHS so there's no charge.*

Scammer: *I'm afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please - this is very important, and there are penalties for not complying.*

Puts the phone down.

This is how scammers work. And vulnerable people will fall for it. Don't fall for it...!

Please tell any elderly and vulnerable people you know that don't have access to internet too so they don't fall victim to this. Even tell them to put a note next to phone stating it's a NHS Track and Trace is a free service and you DO NOT pay!

Some Dates for your Diary:

Woolverstone Art Show and Sale **Cancelled ****Sat 29th and Sun 30th August**

I'm afraid that the 3rd Woolverstone Art Show and Sale has been cancelled. It was just too much of a complex job with COVID restrictions to make it happen and for it to be successful. I hope to arrange something similar in the Spring.

St Michael's Churchyard team

Fri 4th September 2.00 – 4.00 pm

Phil Mayhew cuts the main areas of grass with a ride on mower. However, he can't manage the narrow areas between and around headstones, under the yew trees or where the ground slopes steeply. These have to be done by smaller machines. It is quite possible to maintain social distance and do this work. If you have a mower or strimmer and would like to contribute by cutting some of

this grass that would be great. Weather permitting. The reason for changing the mowing time to the afternoon is that the grass is drier then and the job is that much easier.

Parish Council Meeting

Thurs 10th September 7.30 pm

This will take place via Zoom.

If there is anything urgent, please contact me simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk or 07825708171. The PC will stay in touch with each other via email or phone.

Sunday Services at St Michael's.

Sunday	30 th August	11.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion
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This service will have a Harvest theme. Donations can be made for the Benefice Charity: *Families in Need*, Ipswich. Any donations will be gratefully received. Tins and packaged dry foodstuffs can be left on the bier at the back of the Church and a cash collection will be made on Sunday.

Sunday	6th September	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
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Sunday	20th September	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
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Please note that all services will be held in the main body of the Church, conforming to social distancing requirements.

Other services in the Benefice can be found by visiting our web site tworiversbenefice.org

Advanced notice

Annual Parochial Church Council meeting 11.00 am Sunday 4th October. New members of PCC and new Churchwarden required.

If you are interested please contact; Duncan Myatt, Churchwarden; duncan.myatt@gmail.com (01473 781969). Or Romy Blackburn blackburn_30@btinternet.com

St Michael's Church is open for private prayer. There is a supply of Hand Sanitiser, and we are now able to open for private prayer, as previously indicated by the Government. The Chapel side of the Church has been cleared for this purpose as it will minimise the cleaning required at this time.

Our intention is that the Church should be open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week with immediate effect. However, to achieve this safely we do need to enlist your support:

Firstly, we need a team of two or three people who regularly pass the Church to call in and ensure that the Hand Sanitiser bottles remain available.

Secondly, there will be a requirement for a weekly wipe down of surfaces in the Chapel side of the Church.

If you are able to help with these roles, I would very much like to hear from you (duncan.myatt@gmail.com).

Woolverstone United Football Club

This is an historic Centenary season for Woolverstone United Football Club, founded in 1920.

Chairman Craig Catchpole says this is the largest squad WUFC has had in many years.

"This season sees us playing in Division 2 and 4 of the Suffolk and Ipswich league with a major push to gain promotion to Division 1 so in our centenary year we will be playing at the highest level the club would have played at."

The season should start on 12th of September. WUFC have been training for the last two months in line with government guide lines. They have received grants from the Football Foundation, District Council and raised money through events to ensure the ground is up to standard and can run this season. The ground, on Marina Road, has been renamed "Hazelwoods" in honour of David Hazelwood a long-serving stalwart of the club

Fixtures in September

Woolverstone First team

12/09/20 Woolverstone vs Cockfield (Home)

19/09/20 Tacket Street BBOB vs Woolverstone (Away)

26/09/20 Woolverstone vs Stonham Aspel (Home)

Woolverstone Reserves

12/09/20 Crane Sports vs Woolverstone (Away)

19/09/20 Woolverstone vs Bildeston (Home)

26/09/20 Coddendam vs Woolverstone (Away)

James Hodgkinson and My "Voice Kids" Experience

I asked James if he would write a short piece for Woolverstone News about his experience on ITV's Voice Kids. He will have a small part in the final on Saturday 29th August starting at 7.20 pm.

"I didn't know that Mum and Dad had sent off a clip of me singing 'You Raise Me Up' in July 2019 to the ITV Voice Kids auditions.

The first thing I knew was when, at home for the summer holidays, they said I had been selected for a further audition in London in August. I had always said I wanted to apply so I was very excited. Dad and I had to go to a hotel in London. There were loads of children there, but luckily we were early and almost first in the queue. After a pre audition I sang 3 pieces which were recorded on camera, and then had lots of interviews and finally got the train home. A long day.

Soon after I was invited to the ITV studios in Media City, Manchester and in October 2019, I had another audition and more interviews. It was interesting to see where programmes were made and broadcast from. There were plenty of board games available whilst we waited, which we had to do for some very long times! On returning home I then found out I was through to the Blind Auditions - Real Excitement!

I then began to realise how much of a special opportunity this was. By this time I was back in Canterbury. I was sworn to secrecy, we had to sign a contract with ITV, so couldn't discuss Voice Kids with anyone there. Mum, Dad and I had a code word which we used on the phone if there was any information or news about the programme that they wanted to discuss with me. So despite living in a boarding house with 24 other Choristers, nobody knew I was on the programme until less than a week before the Blind auditions were shown on TV. At that time a keen eyed fellow Chorister spotted me on the programme promotional trailer. I kept it a secret for almost a whole year.

Before the Blind Audition, Dad and I went to the John Henry studios in London to work with a professional voice coach again. It was really exciting to see pictures of famous musicians on the walls and to see the rehearsal and recording studios. Here I helped to create the backing track to accompany You'll Never Walk Alone, which I sang in the blind audition. Also my clothes for the Blinds were decided on with the help of a stylist.

In December we were back in Media City, twice in one week, for final rehearsals and filming for the Blind Auditions. It was amazing to stand on the stage, which was all lit up, in rehearsal, with just Mum and Dad in the audience. But even more amazing when the studio was packed with people and the celebrity judges sitting in the famous red chairs. I was a little apprehensive when I walked out on that stage. I have sung quite a lot of solos in the Cathedral which helped. I gave Mum, Dad, Jane and Tony a wave and just started to sing. The response from the audience was amazing, they were all cheering and waving and when Paloma's chair turned I knew I was through to the next round. That was a very special moment, which became even better when Paloma asked me to sing 'Walking in the Air' from the Snowman and she joined me on the stage.

Another high spot was staying in a really smart hotel after the Blind Auditions where I had my own room! A first.

It was then back to secrecy and to Canterbury for the many Christmas services, returning home late Christmas day.

Another great highlight was being filmed at home and at the Suffolk Heritage Antique Centre in Copdock for background information, some of which was used in the programmes.

In mid-January, I went to the Ugly Duck studios in London where Paloma told us who we were singing against in the Battles. The three of us sat around the piano and after finding out which song we were singing we started to work on it. I knew the song, "Bridge Over Troubled Water", but to sing with two such very different voices I had to practise, with earphones in the bathroom at Choir House, to keep things secret in Canterbury. There was then a further trip to the studios in London for styling and more rehearsal to ensure that our voices achieved harmony.

Next it was the Battles in February at the famous Elstree studios. There were more rehearsals and the final costume selection. I even used the same dressing room as Sir Bruce Forsyth used for Strictly Come Dancing! Mum and Dad, and Jane, Tony, Hazel and Peter from the village were all there to support me. I was a little nervous before the Battles, but you need some nerves to care

about the performance and do your best. I thought we sounded very good together, especially as our voices were so different. I know I did the best I could. I was disappointed not to get through to the semi-finals. I did however get down to the last 36 of over 10,000 children who applied.

It's not finished yet. I was really excited when we received a call from ITV last week asking me to be a small part in the finals to be broadcast on 29th August.

It has been a long, exciting and eye-opening experience which was totally amazing and hopefully will help me with my future goal to be a professional singer."

James

Local History

Have you looked at Woolverstone's Facebook page yet? If not, stop by and see how it is growing. This month we have added: photograph of 1965 Woolverstone Park cricket team; new Woolverstone.com website identifying graves and inscriptions in St Michael's churchyard; Agent's House and the Snell family; death and grave of Mary Ann Barnard; and, Harold Ship's delightful garden on the Main Road.

Our membership has now reached 261. Why not join and scroll through the information and contribute your local knowledge, too? Join the conversation! Our Facebook page is called: Woolverstone: Notes and Queries. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2044317292447243/>

Lorraine Wildbore, one of the administrators of the Facebook site has been busy working on a new project to map the graves, gravestones and inscriptions in St Michael's churchyard. Every gravestone has been photographed and, where possible, inscription recorded. Working with Tony Gould the data has been turned into a user-friendly website where you can view individual memorials and their location in the churchyard. Lorraine has been supported by Jen Young in gathering the information from the gravestones in all weathers over the last two years. Recording and presenting this information in an accessible way is a great achievement and a community treasure.

You can view the new website at: <https://woolverstone.com>

Note: This website is still under construction but is open.

Climate and Wildlife Emergency

It is all very well discussing the Climate and Wildlife Emergency we are facing but we have to do something about it, practically.

TIP: Create clean air

"You can never have enough house plants," says Oliver Heath, who runs a sustainable architecture practice. Certain plants are best for certain rooms: "Mother-in-law's tongue gives off oxygen at night, which makes it best suited to the bedroom." According to Jen Chillingsworth, peace lilies and Boston ferns thrive in rooms with high humidity and can reduce the mould spores in the air,

making them ideal for bathrooms; weeping figs have been found to be the best plant for removing formaldehyde released from carpets and furniture, making them good for living areas.

Berners Hall

The Berners Hall Management Committee has had to put back the opening date having hoped to re-open in September. There are many rules for compliance since COVID and only a small team to work at it. If you would like to help with the running of our village hall, please contact Sarah.

The facilities at Berners Hall are available for booking by anyone in the community. There are special rates for residents. (See below) Sessions are up to 4 hours. E.g. 9.00 am – 1.00 pm. 6.00pm – 10.00pm etc.

Weekday session: £15.00

Sat/Sun session: £18.00

Please contact BHMC Booking Secretary for availability.

Sarah Hutton Phone: 07754075684; or, Email sarahhutton7@btinternet.com

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. Stay Safe. Be vigilant. Keep your distance.

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