



Woolverstone News

May 3rd 2017

Dear All

"Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out!" - so the old saying goes. And it certainly feels right over the past few days. But, I'm curious, is this a reference to the beautiful white cascading May blossom that adorns our Hawthorn hedges from the beginning of May? Or, is it a reference to the month of May itself? Howsoever, we have certainly been treated to a marvellous blossom season this year; let's hope the fruits are similarly blessed. Is it just my perception or has there been an increase in song birds this year? There seem to be more around Horsepond's Green than there have been in previous years. Let's hope for successful hatching season.

P.S. The oak came into leaf first, so maybe we can look forward to a dry summer...

***** Woolverstone Open Gardens *** - Sunday June 4th 2017. 11.00 - 5.00**

For the first time in many years, Woolverstone residents are opening their gardens to the public. There are cottage gardens, modern designer gardens and elegant gardens inspired by Gertrude Jekyll, one of the country's most important and inspirational lady gardeners.

Have a fabulous day visiting and exploring these gardens as well as enjoying homemade cakes and cream teas on Sunday 4th June 11.00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers to bake cakes and scones for teas and light lunches in Berners' Hall 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 4th June.

Some Dates for your Diary:

Friday 5th May St Michael's Churchyard. 10.00 -12.00

Restoration and maintenance volunteers.

Hopefully you will have noticed the massive improvement underway in St Michael's churchyard. Volunteers have cleared away the thick grass, nettles and brambles that were starting to take over. Our next task is to keep it this way and tidy around the gravestones so they are given the respect and care we would like them to have for family, friends and visitors.

We have an informal agreement to meet on the first Friday of each month at 10.00 a.m. to continue the maintenance programme. If you would like to join in with this venture, please come to the Churchyard prepared with tools: shears, edging tools, secateurs, rake, strimmer, wheel barrow. Anything that you might feel is useful in creating a true wildlife garden in "God's corner".

All welcome.

The Churchyard rose – "Surpassing Beauty of Woolverstone" – which is at least a hundred year's old is just coming into flower. It is well worth a look and its scent is truly heavenly.

Humphrey Brooke wrote in an article about Hybrid-Perpetuals, "A Rose Prophecy Fulfilled", - "What I regard as my most important HP recovery (via Peter Beales) is the dark red, climbing rose against the wall of Woolverstone Church in Suffolk. In 1971 the village's oldest inhabitant, then 87, remembered it as a large bush when she first went to church at the age of five. This means it is almost certainly over 100 years old and rules out the only other HP climber, Ards Rover (1898). The Woolverstone rose may well date back to one of several climbing HPs introduced by William Paul in his nursery at Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, in the late 1860s. It has the richest possible scent. There is no example at Sangerhausen, and I have named it Surpassing Beauty of Woolverstone. "

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 10th May at 8.00 p.m. Berners Hall

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

There will be a presentation at the start of the APM from Bill Jenman of Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He would like to talk about a lottery bid for funding a major new project around the Stour and Orwell estuaries. He says:

"Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs are developing a bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme in the area around the Stour and Orwell estuaries including the Shotley Peninsula. The AONB wants to build on the success of our previous schemes, Touching the Tide and Managing a Masterpiece.

The project will focus on practical landscape enhancement and restoration that will benefit wildlife, the cultural heritage, and everyone who enjoys walking or riding through the area. This will in turn support the local tourism economy. Working with landowners and local communities the AONB hopes to take some of the recreational pressure off the more sensitive parts of the estuaries. Just as with previous Schemes, this will be partnership with a wide range of local and national organisations.

The project will also aim to increase the awareness of the area's heritage with events and interpretation. From initial conversations with potential partners there are some strong archaeological and historical stories to tell.

The bid must be submitted to HLF by the end of May, for work over the next 5 years or so. The target budget is around £1.8m."

You can contact bill.jenman@suffolk.gov.uk or call him at the AONB on 01394 445226. He's particularly keen to include more "bottom up" projects from local communities as there were such a successful part of previous projects.

If you would like to hear more from Bill, please come along to Berners Hall for 8.00. p.m.

Saturday Market at St Michael's Church Woolverstone. May 13th. 9.00 – 12.30

Don't miss the bacon butties! Or, the Woolverstone sausage! Delicious!! All made with meat from Stuart and Cheryl at East End Butchers, East Bergholt. You could even pre-order meat for collection. Plus:

- ✓ Gamekeeper's Daughter, Jess Noy, "Suffolk Young Chef of the Year 2017" will be selling freshly made seasonal salads, homemade pies and pastries. Perhaps she will be selling her delicious Suffolk venison pasties as well...
- ✓ Coffee, tea, bacon butties, Woolverstone sausages
- ✓ Crafts: jewellery, glass, wood, cards, furniture, knitting, crochet
- ✓ Food: cakes, sausage rolls, bread, fruit, veg, eggs, jams, chutneys, pastries, cheeses
- ✓ Anchor bakery breads
- ✓ Natural products
- ✓ Plants, trees and bird food
- ✓ Antiques and Art work

Take a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours and buy some local produce.

Parish Councillor

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you think you would be interested in being part of the PC and would like to know more, please get in touch (780009)

*****Clerk to the Parish Council*****

We have a vacancy for the role of Clerk to the Parish Council.

A previous clerk for 15 years, Romy Blackburn, penned this account of the role:

"The clerk to the Parish Council should be taken on by someone living in the village. It makes the job easier and a resident will have the village's interests at heart.

This is not an onerous job, I kid you not. I started as clerk when my daughter was 15, I am a single parent, I had a full time job and I had no difficulty in fitting in my clerical duties.

This is a job you can take on doing as little or as much as you want.

The basics are: taking minutes of meetings held 6 times a year. The meetings last 2 hours. Writing up the minutes takes an hour, may be an extra half hour to allow for preparing the agenda.

Maintaining the website: honestly, truthfully, if I can do it with no website training, so can you... uploading the minutes, the agenda and the village newsletters... 5 minutes a pop maximum,. Emailing the councillors reminding them of the meetings ... another 5 minutes.

Forwarding email correspondence.... another 5 minutes, 3 or 4 times a week at the outside. Read them, by all means, but it is the Councillors who should be reading them.

Planning applications - we get about 20 a year, I keep a list on my PC. I email the councillors to advise that we have received an application and giving them the reference so that they can look at the plans on the Babergh website. That takes all of 10 minutes.

Take the occasional phone call... and I mean very occasional.

A bit of filing - the files are kept in Berners Hall. Not my personal favourite task and it is cold in the winter months, so filing is done a couple of times in the summer months! Takes, may be an hour a session.

The plus side of the job is that you are involved in the community. The councillors are, I would hope, my friends. Laughter... yes, most meetings.

Please come forward, if you possibly can. The village needs you. My choice was not to be paid but you are entitled to payment, should you wish.

Give Simon (780009) a call."

Community Speedwatch

We have lost one of our Community Speedwatch team to Chelmondiston when Nigel and Helen Bailey moved. We are also going to lose Laurie and Jill in the near future. 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. We've got the kit but need to get this project moving and regular. (780009)

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)