

Woolverstone News

February 26th 2017

Dear All

The wind that blew last Thursday reminded us that winter is not yet over. Didn't it just! At the Old School end of the village we lost three small Ash trees from a field margin, a dead Elm in the hedge and the Horse Chestnut at the top of the lane down to St Michael's Church. The latter is particularly sad because not only did this tree flower early with beautiful pink flower spikes but there are many in the village who remember crossing the road from the school to sit in the shade under its broad canopy, during the hot summer, months listening to their teacher read stories. I'm sure there must also have been some mischief in the season with sticky buds as well as excited gathering of the shiny mahogany-brown conkers from inside their spikey cases readying for combat and sore knuckles in the autumn.

Some Dates for your Diary

Woolverstone "Spring Clean" Weekend - 4th and 5th March

****This weekend****

Our village "Spring Clean", an annual tradition, is the weekend 4th and 5th of March. This year the Eco team from Ipswich High School for Girls is going to join us and has already been down Marina Road.

The Big Rubbish Clear Up is on Saturday 4th March at 10.30 a.m. Meet outside Berners Hall. We have Hi-Viz waistcoats, litter pickers and bin bags. Bring gloves and a "litter picker" if you have one!

If you can't make the Saturday sweep, 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 let me know where you have been so we can keep a track of areas that haven't been reached.

Please try to help out over "Spring Clean" Weekend and keep our village looking beautiful. It could be a family event to help our young people feel a part of their environment.

Over the weekend, it would also be good 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. So, if you are walking along a footpath over the weekend, would you check the state of it, the accessibility and report back, with picture and location? If the footpath sign is not clear due to undergrowth, rotten post or some other reason please take a picture and location to include in your report.

Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 8th March at 7.30 p.m. Berners Hall

There will be a presentation at the start of the PC meeting 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 10394 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 7.30.

Saturday Market at St Michael's Church Woolverstone. March 11th. 9.00 – 12.30

Don't miss the bacon butties! Or, the Woolverstone sausage! Delicious!! All made with meat from East End Butchers, East Bergholt. Antonio will be there with over 200 cheeses. Try the Gamekeeper's Daughter with her wild meat pies.

Make sure to find time to drop in 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: East End Butchers, cakes, sausage rolls, bread, fruit, veg, eggs, jams, chutneys, pastries, cheeses
- Natural products
- Plants, trees and bird food
- Antiques and Art work

And take a chance for a good natter with friends and neighbours.

Broadband Service in Woolverstone - Paul Rogers says:

Many of us in Woolverstone suffer from poor Broadband services due to the ageing BT infrastructure. Although BT have upgraded the local cabinet for high-speed fibre broadband a great many of the older houses are not connected to this and there are no plans for BT to change this. I have asked both BT and their Openreach agent and received the same negative response.

Additionally there are no alternative services such as cable as the infrastructure is not in place. I contacted VirginMedia to request an update on whether they have plans to introduce cable services to our area and the response was that this depends on demand. They suggest that we encourage the community to follow this link and register interest:

<http://www.virginmedia.com/cablemystreet/>

There is no commitment and there is the promise of discounts to sign-up if the service is ultimately installed. In addition to giving people the choice for cable internet and TV services it would also remove the need for satellite dishes on the houses.

If you agree with Paul and want to register your interest use the link above.

HMS Ganges development

As you know, our request for an appeal to the Judicial Review decision in July was refused. Our opposition is now at an end and we need to work to minimise the impact of this development coupled with that at Shotley Marina. I have written to the Chairman of Shotley Parish Council asking for their support in ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to minimise the impact on Woolverstone and the other villages along the B1456.

Thank you to all who have supported us in so many ways over such a long period. (Remember the tractor drive up the B1456!) We worked hard, a great chunk of our lives, for nearly 15 years to prevent this. We had only one opportunity to protect our village; we had to take it and we did our very best. Sadly, sometimes that is not enough.

We are still collecting donations towards the legal costs we incurred. If you meant to support us, but somehow didn't get round to it, it's not too late! You can still do it. Cheques should be made payable to Woolverstone Parish Council. Please send your donation to: Simon Pearce, Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council, Quantrill's Solicitors, The Peninsula Business Centre, Wherstead Street, Wherstead, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP9 2BB

Community Speedwatch

We are losing one of our Community Speedwatch team to Chelmondiston when Nigel and Helen Bailey move. If you would like to be part of the team, please make contact with me.

Pollinator Patches

A small group met at Horsepond's Green last Friday and Saturday. We planted all the bulbs and plant plugs provided by the project. We look forward to seeing some results as we progress towards summer.

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)