



Woolverstone News

September 26th 2017

Dear All

Our Autumn leaf colours are developing beautifully; with some more dry days ahead and temperatures dropping we should be in for a treat. Some fruits have done exceptionally well. I have never seen such a harvest from our Golden Bullaces (wild plums) as we have had this year. Their cousins, the sloes, are looking good, too. Be patient! Remember to leave them until the first frost if you are able, it improves the flavour and permeability of the skin. If you don't like sloe gin they also make the most exquisite coloured jelly. Harvest is a time for gathering in the labours of the summer. It is also a time to marvel at another episode of Nature's ever-turning year.

Babergh District Council – Joint Local Plan consultation 2018 - 2036

Phil Mayhew and I attended a "briefing" last Thursday presented by officers from Babergh District Council on the Joint Local Plan consultation process for the growth of the district and where development should take place up to 2036. I don't think we learnt anything new; however, there did seem to be a genuine desire for engagement and comment from the communities they serve. They stressed the importance of responses from individuals as well as Parish Councils. Details of the plan can be found on the website at this link:

<https://baberghmidsuffolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>

You need to register your email address if you want to use the interactive pages for your online comments, the link to this is on the above page. You will be asked to register an account when you open the "BMSDC Joint Local Plan Consultation Document (Interactive)" Once this is done you will see the document in a way you can interact with. Click on the pen icon  when you wish to write something. Click on the magnifying glass icon  when you want to see what has already been written. You do not have to answer all the questions! We think there are some key ones: Q7 – 28, 55 - 68 and 74 – 79.

All responses to the draft plan must be submitted before 10th November!

There will be a Village Meeting on Wednesday 11th October at 7.00 p.m. which will allow us to share our thoughts about issues the consultation raises and answer any questions you have, as best we can. There will also be an opportunity to guide you through the online system if you are unsure or just not feeling confident. The PC will be able to consider questions and points raised in its meeting on Thursday 12th October. This, in turn, will inform its own response to the questions and gives us time to have the finished response agreed and returned by the deadline.

The Local Plan, when finalised by BDC, will plot development in Woolverstone and on the Peninsula over the next 18 years. We need to make sure we have made a detailed and careful response so our voice and views are clearly heard.

N.B. There will be a public drop-in event in Tattingstone Village Hall on 9th October from 2.00 – 7.00 p.m. Tattingstone IP9 2NA. I expect this will help with understanding of the plan and the options, but detail on the Babergh website is scant.

Please let me have your views between now and the middle of October. Thank you in advance.

Some Dates for your Diary:

St Michael's Church. Father and Son Friday 29th September 7.30 p.m.

This is a rare chance to hear the father and son duo, Andrew and Carl Sterling playing together. Andrew says that the evening will be quite informal and will include Jazz, Classical, and Soul music and some original compositions. There will be drinks and nibbles in the interval and all money made will be going to Babergh Green Party funds. A suggested donation of £7.50 would be very welcome.

St Michael's Church Harvest Songs Of Praise Sunday 1 October 4.00 p.m.

This will be followed by a BBQ, meat supplied and cooked by East End Butchers and farming visual aids provided by our local farmers.

St Michael's Churchyard. Maintenance team. Friday 6th October 10.00 -12.00 a.m.

Restoration and maintenance volunteers: keeping our churchyard and open spaces beautiful.

If you would like to join in with this venture, please come to the Churchyard prepared with tools, if you can: shears, edging tools, secateurs, rake, strimmer, wheel barrow. Hedge cutter? Anything that you might feel is useful in creating a true wildlife garden in "God's corner".

Concert: "The Long Day Closes" St Michael's Church Saturday 7th Oct 7.30 p.m.

This is an evening of music presented by the Abbot Consort of Voices who are directed by Martin Bagnall. There will be drinks and nibbles in the interval.

Entry is £10 (£5 for students) payable on the door. Money made will be given to St Michael's church funds.

BDC Local Plan Consultation Drop-in Monday 9th Oct 2.00 – 7.00 p.m.

Drop in session at Tattingstone Village Hall to find out more about the new Local Plan, look at maps and ask any questions you might have of Babergh officials.

Village Meeting Local Plan consultation Berners Hall Weds 11th Oct 7.00 p.m.

Opportunity for villagers and members of Parish Council to share our thoughts about issues the Local Plan consultation raises; and, answer any questions you have, as best we can. Official documents will be available as well as written response forms. There will also be an opportunity to

guide you through the online system if you are unsure or just not feeling confident. The PC will be able to consider questions and points raised in its meeting on Thursday 12th October.

Monthly Morning Market at St Michael's Church. Saturday 14th Oct 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 can pre-order meat for collection. There will be local fruit and veg from Tattingstone and specialist artisan breads from Anchor Bakery. Plus:

- ✓ 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, shrubs, trees and bird food
- ✓ Antiques and Art work
- ✓ Cards, quilting

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

Friends of Woolverstone Foundation meeting Berners Hall Thurs 26th Oct 7.30 p.m.

"Friends of Woolverstone" is the name chosen by a group of people who arranged the Open Gardens event and the Zoe Todd concert in the Ipswich High School during the summer. The aim of the group is to organise a range of events, occasions and services for the people of Woolverstone which showcase our village, village hall and brings people of the village together. In doing so, it will also raise money for Berners Hall and other village projects.

There will be a founding meeting of the "Friends" on Thursday 26th of October. The founding members will adopt a constitution, choose a steering committee, and make suggestions/plans of how to meet its aims. If you would like to be part of this group, please come along to our foundation meeting.

Ipswich High School for Girls

Many of you will have read or heard about the changes at Ipswich High School for Girls. From 11th September it has been renamed Ipswich High School and has a new owner. Numbers at the school were falling and the Girls Day School Trust no longer saw a single sex school here as viable. The school has been sold to a Chinese company (called Guangdong) who specialise in educational books and renewable energy. The 'deal' has been managed by the London and Oxford group (a London based investment and advisory company focused on China and Japan).

As numbers have fallen in recent years, the main aim seems to be to return total pupil numbers to around 700. We are told that the new owners aim is to increase numbers at the school by going co-ed using the 'diamond model'. This is effectively a phasing in from September 2018, of accepting boys, initially in the junior school and sixth form, but separating them between Years 5 and 11.

There is also an aim to attract overseas pupils (from China and elsewhere) and, in the future, offer boarding opportunities. The initial 'thought' is to convert the accommodation in the old stable

block, as used previously for Woolverstone School. As yet, no detail planning or feasibility has been undertaken into whether this is the best location for the boarding facilities.

In the information given to parents, there was mention of increasing revenue through offering 'summer international schools', 'expanded residential summer clubs' etc. on the site.

There appears to be no guarantee or covenant, as part of the deal, to stop Guangdong just closing or moving the school and redeveloping a "prime" site. We shall have to wait and see how the next chapter in Woolverstone Hall's history develops..

Helping our Community

Local History

It would be great to collect and digitise more photographs and recollections from the past in Woolverstone. The history of the Widows Homes, Berners Hall, Woolverstone House, the Saw Mill at the Timbers, the Post Office in Number 24 Main Road, war time recollections to name but a few. Most recently, gathering recollections from the period at Woolverstone Hall of the London Nautical Training School 1947 -1952.

So, could we set up a Woolverstone history group? If you think you might like to be part of helping to set up this group, contribute photographs or memories or write up a topic, then please make contact with me or Jen Young. Let's see what we can do!

Still looking fora Berners Hall Booking Secretary

We're still looking! Can you help?

Berners Hall Management Committee urgently require a willing volunteer to take over the position of Booking & Hiring Secretary.

Duties to include:

1. Taking telephone and email enquiries from new and existing Hall users
2. Arranging all bookings and viewings and advising hire charges
3. Completion of hire agreements
4. Showing the available facilities to new hirers
5. Collection of payments, issuing receipts, passing payments to treasurer
6. Unlocking & locking before and after an event
7. Liaising with other BHMC members on a regular basis
8. Maintaining current Booking diary

Some of these duties, i.e. unlocking & locking, collecting payments & issuing receipts may be shared with a member of BHMC

You will need to be prepared to use your own home phone and mobile to take telephone enquiries and also an email address to receive and send electronic data.

Your telephone numbers and email address will be advertised, together with your name only (no address) as being the contact for all enquiries relating to Berners Hall.

Although this is an unpaid voluntary position, any reasonable incurred expense will be reimbursed subject to prior agreement

For more info please contact current Booking Secretary –

Jenny Double on 01473 780535 or alternatively

Sarah Hutton on 077540 75684 or email: sarahhutton7@btinternet.com
Regstd Charity no - 304842

Parish Councillor

We still have a vacancy for one 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)

Community Speedwatch

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)