

Woolverstone News

January 31st 2017

Dear All

The first snowdrops are showing, the evenings are slowly stretching out and the birds are changing their song. Spring – the great awakening - is on the move. There is a delicious anticipation in the air, albeit tempered with caution. There is so much to do and so much to see. If you are out walking over the next few weeks try and take in the sight of the carpet of snowdrops in Manning's Lane, on the right just as the lane drops down from the level towards Deer Park Lodge. I remember walking back from one such outing a couple of years back and being caught in a flurry of snow! Spring teases and will be here when it is ready.

Some Dates for your Diary

Horsepond's Green Saturday 18th February 10.00 – 12.00

Bees are having a really hard time at the moment. Did you know we now have to import bees to keep our fruit and vegetables growing? One of the reasons that our humble Bumblebee numbers have plummeted is the loss of the habitat they need to survive. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust says that 97% of flower-rich meadowland has been lost in this country since 1930s.

Our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty project team is now trying to do something to address this sad fact. Their idea is to create "pollinator patches" and we are involved. We have been given a host of pollinator plants and seeds to create patches of flowers that will encourage bees on Horsepond's Green. (Last year the village was given three fruit trees to plant on the Green as part of the Orchard project. All survived the summer.)

There will be a working group to dig, plant and sow on Saturday 18th February. We are meeting at Horsepond's Green for 10.00 for a couple of hours. If you would like help with creating our very own pollinator patch then just come along and join in. I will email more information before the time.

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

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.

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.

If you can't make the Saturday sweep, you can 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. If you can't make the BRCU, you can always choose an area to adopt, and do that at some point over the weekend.

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.

Ganges

We are still waiting to hear whether we will be given leave to appeal the decision made in the High Court in July 2016. Although the support has been strong, we are still raising money to pay for our legal representation. If you missed the pledge process last time round, if you thought you would do it later and then it was too late, if you would like to support our cause further, please make contact with me and I will send you a pledge form so you can help us.

Wildlife Heaps and their Importance Notebook: Mike Norman, "The Studio", Main Road.

It has been noted that I maintain a pile of garden debris on the island at the entrance to Glebe Lane, and another just inside my front fence. Both these piles consist mainly of woody material – broken branches and twigs, and some leaf mould. They may be unsightly to some, but not to the myriads of wildlife which dwell, breed and rely on such habitats for their very existence.

And why do they need to exist? Mainly, apart from their aesthetic appeal, as a food source for creatures further up the food chain, mainly insect eating birds, (which most are at some stage of their lives) and many four-legged creatures – hedgehogs, voles and smaller carnivores for example, Stag beetles, the largest of their kind in the UK, rely entirely on rotten material in their larval stage. (The Shotley Peninsula is a hot-spot and is recorded as such on the national register) Grass snakes have also been seen in the vicinity.

In the past, most of the country was covered with a layer of vegetable detritus; on the forest floor, under hedges and beneath ferns on the heathlands. Wildlife abounded in unheard of numbers. Butterflies, even over the past few years, were fairly common, but 2016 saw a terrible decline, with only a few of the common ones being in evidence at all.

Now there must be a correlation between the sad decrease, in the number of birds particularly, and the lack of food sources now obtaining. I can tell you that since I moved to Woolverstone in 1959, many varieties were common; Bullfinches, House sparrows, Siskins, Greenfinches, Gold crests and Turtle doves for instance. Less common though present were Nuthatches, Tree creepers, Barn, Tawny and Little owls, and alongside the Marina Road nesting Redstarts.

It is assumed that most people love and enjoy wildlife and would wish to encourage it to flourish. So, if you haven't got one already, build a wildlife heap somewhere at the back of your beautifully tidy and manicured garden. Feed the birds, put up nest boxes, grow a clump of nettles for Red Admirals, Peacocks and small Tortoiseshells, and try to look on that unsightly pile of garden rubbish as a thing of beauty as it is to the thousands of insects and small mammals for which it is a haven without which their very existence is threatened.

Michael Norman. The Studio, Woolverstone Jan 2017.

[If there are things that you would like to share with the Woolverstone Community, please let me know. It would be great to include short, topical features from within the village.]

Police Connect

Police Connect is a new service providing information about what is going on in our local area; local policing matters, news, Crime Commissioner, emergencies and so. The service is free. You can sign up for the information that would be useful to you - a bespoke service so you don't have to wade through a lot of things that are irrelevant to you. There's more information in the Police news release at the end of this newsletter.

Saturday Market at St Michael's Church Woolverstone. February 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: Woody's butchery, 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.

Make this part of your Saturday. Drop in and see what's on offer!

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.

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)

Police Connect

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/aboutus/ourservices/policeconnect.aspx>

Police Connect is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone.

There is no charge for this service - all messages you receive are free.

You can register to receive information about the issues that most matter to you and be among the first to be alerted by police in the case of an emergency affecting your area.

You can choose to receive regular updates on crime and public appeals, safety advice and meetings and events. There is the option to receive information about a range of specific interest areas – such as 'rural' or 'rivers and coastal' – as well as updates for business owners and news from your Police and Crime Commissioner. The choice is yours.

Benefits of Police Connect

There are lots of advantages to knowing what is going on in your local area or areas you are interested in - such as where you work or where a vulnerable relative lives.

You can take steps to safeguard yourself and your property, you may need to change plans, or re-route, because of an incident nearby or you may even be able to help us solve a crime.

If you are a member of a 'watch' scheme, Police Connect information keeps you up-to-date with the latest issues. It's also a great way of finding out about local policing events and meetings.

By receiving messages through Police Connect, you are kept in the loop.

Keeping you informed, keeping your community safe

Information from the public is a major help in the fight against crime. We need your help to make your community a safer place.

By taking a few moments to fill out a simple form, you become more informed about what's happening in your community and can become more involved in helping to prevent and reduce crime.

How to register

The simple online process takes only a couple of minutes and will ensure we have the most up-to-date contact details and preferences for you.

Help tabs in the top left hand corner will help guide you through the sign up process. Alternatively, you can follow our step by step guide.