

# Woolverstone News

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

*Dear All*

Towards the end of March our natural world changes dramatically, literally bursting forth. The hedges develop green patches which then blend together eventually erupting with the white blossom of the Hawthorn. Our trees, each to their time, start to unfurl their leaves. The first I notice, even before the elder, is the marvellous Weeping Willow, in the grounds of Dairy House as you walk towards the church, with its almost golden leaves. Then there is a glorious procession towards the end of April. Will it be Ash first or Oak – splash or soak? What a fine time of year!

## **St Michael's Churchyard**

A group of volunteers worked for two mornings at the end of March to clear the churchyard of overgrowth and cut the grass, nettles and weeds back. Clearing this off will, in time, lessen the nitrogen content of the soil. If we do this often enough we will be able to encourage the sort of wild grasses and flowers that will enhance this beautiful and peaceful place.

Having worked to bring the vegetation under control we now have to keep it that way! To that end there is 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".

## **HMS Ganges development**

Work has begun clearing the site for the HMS Ganges development. Last month I attended a Shotley Parish Council meeting at the invitation of Barrie Powell, Chair of the PC. I hope we can now work together towards maximising the benefit of the development for our communities and minimising the impact. We particularly need to look at how to create a quieter and safer flow through the village(s). I sincerely hope we can work together towards this end.

## **Some Dates for your Diary**

### **Saturday Market at St Michael's Church Woolverstone. April 8th. 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.

- Coffee, tea, bacon butties, Woolverstone sausages
- 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

Take a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

## **Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 8.00.

## **Parish Councillor**

Laurie Mayer has decided to step down from the Parish Council as he and his family are seeking to relocate. Therefore 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\*\*\***

Unfortunately, our new clerk, Denise Parkinson, has had to step down from the role of Clerk to the Parish Council which means we now have a vacancy. We are urgently seeking her successor.

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."*

## **Spring Clean**

Thank you so much to all those who gave up their time to help with the "Spring Clean" at the beginning of March. For a while the Main Road, the lanes and the paths through the village looked splendid. Thank you to those who pick up litter all year round to keep the village looking good.

## **Community Speedwatch**

We are losing one of our Community Speedwatch team to Chelmondiston when Nigel and Helen Bailey move. 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. (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](mailto:simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk))