

Telstar



Stowupland News

No 341
April 2021

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EDITOR'S NOTES

APRIL 2021



Firstly, I must apologise if anyone was misled by the National Trading Standards article last month. It mentioned – ‘Some even offering vaccines or cures despite there being no vaccine or cure **at the time**’. Of course, this was not intended to mislead anyone as it has been well advertised that there are indeed vaccines and medicines that can help.

If you receive a text message or letter asking you to make an appointment for your vaccine, please do.

Dog poo is in the spotlight again! Even our young children are trying to get people to pick up after their dogs. The children of keyworkers who attend Freeman Community Primary School have designed posters that you will see on noticeboards around the village and on our own back cover.

Does it really take Primary School children to tell adults to be responsible dog owners? Our Parish Council Chairman, Sally Reeves, also has something to say on the matter. Welcome back to the helm of the Parish Council, Sally!

Patrick the cat has a lot to answer for! Apparently, Cathy is not the only doting cat owner in the village. We have more cat stories further along...

Villagers are getting very creative. Many thanks to those of you who have sent in poems and have shared their stories about building homes for wildlife. There is plenty to read about our local environment and what we can do to make it even better.

Everything in Stowupland is better if the community gets involved. This month's Telstar is a better issue because so many of you bothered to pick up a pen or tap a keyboard to get in touch, please do keep it coming! Dogs are getting a bad rap and even being outdone by cats, so if you have a good dog tale (pardon the pun), do send it in. I am always grateful for recipes of the month and if Memory Lane stirs some long-lost memory, do let us know.

As I was out and about in the village on one of my daily walks, something caught my eye. I've always wanted to ask this...Where's Wally? For those of you who haven't seen him, his photo is on our inside front cover. Apparently, he is celebrating World Book Day and I think there may be a Fantastic Mr Fox at Needham Market Library. The gentleman (sorry, I forgot to ask your name) told me his mother works at the library and it was her idea. It certainly put a smile on my face, and I hope a lot of you get to see him – I'd tell you where he was but then there would be no point in me asking...Where's Wally? Let me know if you find him.

Kay (kay.telstar@gmail.com)

Cover photo by Ace Photographer Keith Hyland

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DEAR EDITOR

Although I live in Stowmarket, I have family and friends in Stowupland. I receive a copy of Telstar from my sister each month. It is an interesting read and for a village publication I think it's first class, so well done. Looking forward to more news as, hopefully, the future improves the day-to-day life.

Best wishes Clifford Davey, Stowmarket.



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TO ALL DOG OWNERS

Dogs are wonderful companions but with ownership comes responsibility for their health, feeding, training and exercise. It is the exercise bit that is concerning me. I know we are in lockdown, or heading out of it as you read this, and there are more people out and about with their dogs but please, please, owners pick up your dog's poo. Not only is it anti-social but can cause diseases, especially in children. Most dog owners, I know, are responsible and pick up behind their dogs but the minority is spoiling it for everyone.

As I walk around our village, I have seen dog poo left beside highway footpaths as well as the public footpaths that criss-cross our lovely village. Just because a public footpath is green it doesn't mean you shouldn't clear up behind your dog. The public footpaths are there for all to enjoy and leaving dog poo around is not neighbourly. Almost as bad are those owners who bag it and then can't be bothered to take it to the nearest dog bin or, heaven forbid, home with them. I have seen bags left hanging in bushes, dropped by pathways and even left on the cricket sight screens.

There are designated bins all around our village for the sole purpose of giving dog owners somewhere to deposit the bags. These need to be emptied on a regular basis either by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) or by a parish employee. The bins near to the public highway are emptied by MSDC at a cost to the parish of around £40 per bin per year and those bins away from the public highway are emptied by our employee again at a cost to the parish. All we ask is that you bag it, use one of the designated bins or take it home to your own mixed waste bin. We have given you the facilities so please use them.

We all want our village to be a lovely place to walk and for children to run and play in safety so please dog owners do your bit.

PLEASE BAG IT AND BIN IT.

Sally Reeves

STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL – BOOKING

Following the retirement of Hugh Blanch after 15 years of loyal service we have a new Booking Secretary with a new email address and new mobile number. If you want to book the Village Hall please use the following contact details from 1 April 2021:

Booking Secretary – Colin Booker

Email – stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

Phone – 07862740830

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SIMPLE CASSOULET RECIPE

for a taste of France

You will need:

400 g dried haricot beans, soaked overnight, drained and rinsed.

1 medium onion cut into quarters: 2 or 3 crushed garlic cloves.

An 8 oz unsmoked gammon steak cut into 1-inch squares.

12 oz of neck of lamb cut into around 10 pieces.

2 small chicken breasts cut into around 10 pieces.

12 sausages – 4 each of 3 different flavours such as pork, Toulouse, venison.

1 stalk of celery sliced: 6 large tomatoes.

1 small baguette made into breadcrumbs.

It's meant to serve six people, or four with larger appetites.

Pour a glass of dry white wine and a glass of water. These may be refilled as necessary. Preparation time is short, but the cooking must not be rushed.

Put the beans, onion, garlic, gammon and 2 teaspoons of mixed herbs into a saucepan with 2 to 3 litres of water; bring to the boil and simmer for an hour.



Brown the lamb and chicken in butter; add the lamb, chicken and celery to the saucepan and push down into the liquid. Make a cross on the top and bottom of the tomatoes with a sharp knife; drop into boiling water, leave for 30 seconds. Remove from the water, peel, remove the cores, chop and add to the saucepan. Boil for another hour, adding boiling water if necessary. Fry the sausages and place these in the saucepan; ensure they are pushed down into the liquid. Cook for another 30 minutes.

Strain the liquid into a saucepan, boil and reduce by half. Meanwhile separate the chunks of meat and sausages. Cut the sausages into quarters and pull the meat into smaller pieces. Into a deep casserole dish place alternate layers of meat and beans and pour in the liquid to just cover the top layer.

Sprinkle breadcrumbs on top and bake for 40 minutes in an oven pre-heated to 160 degrees or gas mark 3. Every 10 minutes, with the back of a spoon, break through the top surface to allow a little of the liquid to come to the top. If the beans become a bit dry, add some of the retained liquid.

Serve direct from the casserole with a large glass of red wine from the south of France.



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

History does have a habit of repeating itself. So with a sensation of déjà vu, I have heard that the Village Hall might open its doors soon. So, your committee has been planning its own road map. We are aware that some of our members will feel hesitant about meeting together in a group so we have been trying to come up with alternative methods for sharing thoughts and views on the history of our local area.

Having experimented with Zoom for committee meetings we wondered if anyone would be interested in tuning into a Zoom LHG meeting to listen to Local History topics. We realise it is not an option for everyone but it is simpler than I thought, especially if you are just watching and not participating.

If you might be interested please contact Christine for more details

.....

In SLHG's 10th anniversary year I thought I would review some items from our Archives about events that show the local community's ongoing interest in their past. Last year we had hoped to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Jack and Ena Carter's **Stowupland Exhibition of Local History and Bygones**. This was held in the Village Hall and, over the 4-days of Easter 1970, more than 500 people visited the exhibition to view and chat about the 322 'relics'.



Most of them had been donated by local people, especially by members of the Stowupland **O60's Club**. I wonder how many of us still use, or to use Jack's words **'have stored in our attics and cellars things of the past that have been forgotten about'**. Previous generations had no recycling bins they kept things 'just in case'. Reusing, Recycling and Repairing was normal, just something that everyone did.



50 years ago, on May 4th 1971, the **O60's Club** held their 21st birthday party. I don't know if they had 21 candles on their cake but shown here are 3 of their founder members, Mr S Bowyer, Mrs M Stevens and Mrs V Henderson. The club had started life in 1950 as the **Old People's Welfare Club** with its first meeting being held in the BB Hut on 11th July 1950. By the 1960's Jack Carter was president of the club and often gave talks which were reported on by the local press so we know he spoke on topics of Local History.

He and his wife, Ena, appear to have made a good team. She researched the history of our parish and further afield whilst he talked about it. In 1964 he spoke about how in Henry VIII's reign Stowupland was comprised of 6 manors and Jack **'suggested that the present Green was made up of pieces of all these manors given as common land by all the Lords of the manors.'**

Jack and Ena were very involved in many Local History projects, not just in Stowupland but across the county. They played a major role in the setting up of the Museum of East Anglia Life and in the success of the Suffolk Local History Council. Sadly, they both died before Stowupland LHG was formed but they would have been invaluable.

Neil has had an article on **'The Founding of Stowupland Church'** published in the Suffolk Local History Council's Suffolk Review. He is hoping that copies may be made available for visitors to the church.



Sandra Walker (Chair)- 01449 673296: sawalker2000@hotmail.com

Jerry Voden (Secretary)- 01449703717: voden@btinternet.com

Christine (Membership and treasurer) 01449 771430:

christine.stowupland@gmail.com

Neil Langridge (Research and publicity): 01449 616275 neil@stowman.plus.com

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VICARS OF STOWUPLAND – PART 3

The end of the 1880s saw three vicars in as many years. Their brief time in the parish meant they do not appear much in the local newspaper reports that are the main source of information for this series of article. However, their careers can be summarised.

William Edwin Beaumont was from Leeds and studied at Downing College, Cambridge, training as a lawyer before he entered the priesthood. He took up the incumbency of Stowupland in 1887 after holding a number of curacies. In 1888 he left for a position as Vicar in St. Jude's Chelsea after which he served churches in Oxfordshire, Derbyshire and finally St. Pancras, resigning due to ill health in 1908 to Cambridge where he lived until his death in 1921.

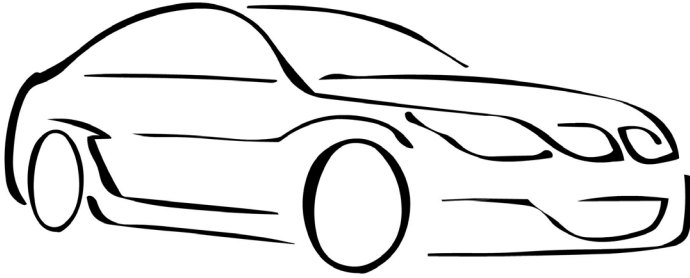
He was followed by William Henry Dalton, after graduating from Christs College, Cambridge, he followed the usual early career path of short curacies but also spent some time teaching in Malta before taking on his own parish. He was vicar of St. Jude's Chelsea from 1872 until 1888 and as the previous Stowupland vicar had moved to that parish in 1888 it seems that the Rev Beaumont had exchanged livings with Dalton. However, his stay in the parish lasted only until the following year. A newspaper reported that-
"On Saturday last the grounds of the Vicarage were thrown open for an American auction a very pleasant time was spent by a large company. The sale realised £9, which will go towards making up the church path and fencing the churchyard. Credit is due to the Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Dalton and their family for making arrangements and contributing goods. Great regret is felt by all the parishioners that the vicar, and his family are about to leave, as during their short stay they have endeared themselves to all classes of the community."

The reason for this departure was that Dalton's uncle who had been rector of Seagrave in Leicestershire had died and William Henry who had no doubt been promised the living took over from him there where he remained until his death in 1900.

As the 1880s drew to a close Sherard Montagu Statham followed the succession of vicars who had come and gone in the previous years. He was the son of a Surrey clergyman and after leaving Queens College, Cambridge, had spent time as a curate in Birmingham and teaching at his own school in Eastbourne. He also took a degree in law at Trinity College Dublin.

His later career included church posts in Somerset, Kent, Oxfordshire, and Southwark. He was also for some years chaplain to the military prison in Dover, his time here no doubt inspiring his publication *"Prison Reminiscences; One Hundred Brief Aids to Extempore Preaching; Sermons, etc."* one of several theological works he wrote in his retirement. He died at Cottisford rectory Oxfordshire in 1947.

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TELSTAR "THEN AND NOW"

a short history of our Village Magazine.

I read with interest the two articles in the February and March editions of the day in a life of a Telstar deliverer. These gave an insight into how the magazine is delivered and the interesting things that can be discussed as the distributors go round the village and chat to residents on the doorstep. I thought it might be of interest, as we welcome new residents to the village, to show how Telstar was created and where it is today.

Launched in August 1963, this was a new exciting project for village residents. Headed "Stowupland Telstar Relays news from all corners of the Parish", it was sponsored by the Parish Council. The Council Chairman at the time greeted new readers and announced that Mr Gamage had agreed to be the first editor. It had been decided to name the magazine "Telstar" after the satellite "Telstar 2" which had been launched on 7 May 1963 and had been orbiting the earth sending back information.

When you look back to those days, it seems the Parish Council were looking to inform residents as to what was happening in the village both in the community and at Parish Council meetings. In 1963 there was no instant access to information via social media or mobile phones. If my memory serves, we had telephone land lines, two channels on television, BBC and ITV, radio in the form of BBC light Programme (now radio 2) also the BBC home service (now radio 4). So, in 1963, the Parish Council notice boards were the quickest way to publicise events and what was happening in the village. The "Telstar" was to be ground-breaking for Stowupland.

It was to be published quarterly and the first edition comprised of seven typed sheets of A4 and had first reports from several organisations in the village. Reports included a piece from the table tennis club meeting in the village hall, the Stowupland and Creeting St Peter WI comprising of 70 members, President of the day was Mrs R Stearn. The meetings were held in the village hall and usually a talk or film was the format with tea and biscuits served at the interval. My wife tells me it is much the same today. Holy Trinity Church had just said farewell the Rev R.E. Lark and were awaiting the arrival of the new vicar. There is also a report on the Stowupland flower show held on 27 July 1963 with stalls and a fete. Stowupland's over sixties club had been on their annual outing to Sandringham and various locations in Norfolk. 74 members and friends had enjoyed a very good day and got home safely at 9pm. The URC reported on the very successful Sunday School outing on 13 August 1963 to Lowestoft, which was much enjoyed by the children, teachers, parents and friends. Harvest Festival was arranged for Sunday 29 September 1963.

It is interesting to note that the Parish Council and editorial column of the first edition has a very similar look to what is reported in the April 2021 edition. The Parish Chairman was calling for volunteers for the village hall committee; you will recall a similar article in a recent edition. Help was needed to continue to run the flower show; surprise, surprise, the recent Parish Council meeting had discussed repairs and a tidy up on The Green because litter was getting worse. An increase in dog poo had been on the agenda for the August 1963 meeting; fast forward to the March 2021 Parish Council meeting agenda and there is correspondence from a resident about dog poo and litter round the village.

The report from the Gipping Rural District Council encouraged everyone who needed council housing to apply as the forms were now available. The editor asked organisations to write to him with reports on what was happening at their meetings so that the magazine could expand with regular features. I hope some of our long-term residents will remember some of these events and they may take you down memory lane.

My thanks to Joyce Gardiner who lent me her first edition of Telstar; it would be nice to know if there are any other copies of early editions around the village.

Next month, I'll write about how the magazine evolved into what now we produce on a monthly basis.

Jerry Voden Telstar Committee.

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MEMORY LANE

We believe this photo is of the garage in the 1970's, however we have no further information. Do you remember what the garage was like?



Re: Memory Lane in the March Issue

I would just like to draw your attention to the 'Memory Lane' article on page 12 of the March edition of Telstar. It states that Pooles Farm was demolished in 1969 which is incorrect. Pooles farm is still in-fact a working farm, owned by my family from the late 19th century until the present day. Pooles farmhouse, as pictured in the article, is still standing on the corner of the Green although no longer under the same ownership as the farm (it was sold in 2010).

Mrs Beryl Bewley

STOWUPLAND WI

Since the previous newsletter, we have been informed of new guidelines from the government detailing when we will hopefully be allowed back to enjoy our monthly meetings once more.

At this point in time, I am expecting we will have our first get together on Wed 16th June.

Obviously if the situations alter before this date, it may need to be changed again, but I am hopeful that by then we will all have had our 2nd vaccinations and can enjoy our usual June treat of strawberries and cream.

I miss seeing you all and can't wait to celebrate with you in the summer!

P.S. I will be sending you all some correspondence regarding the WI subs
Colleen (President)



STOWUPLAND GOOD NEIGHBOURS

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It is some time since an article from Good Neighbours appeared in Telstar. This does not mean we have ceased to exist. We have continued, albeit in a much-restricted way, to help villagers when we could, subject to Government restrictions.

Our volunteers are currently part of the vaccine rollout, most of whom have already had their first dose. Once we have had our second vaccine and the requisite time has elapsed to gain maximum protection, we hope to be able to offer the help we used to do pre-COVID-19.

Please be patient with us, we do want to get back to our helpful ways, but we must do it safely to protect you and ourselves. So, until we get the advice from Government that we can resume our usual activities, please keep safe.

Cathy Welham

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GENEALOGY, FRIENDSHIP AND REMEMBRANCE

"Genealogy?" I can hear you say, "how boring!"

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This pastime has led to finding lifetime friendships and a lot of fun over the years.

Let me tell you how.

Back in the early 2000's (I can't remember exactly when) my good friend and neighbour Pat decided to hold an Auction of Promises which was held at Columbine Hall Barn. A lovely evening was had by all, with wine and nibbles plus the chance to be able to bid for some item, event or activity of your choice, all proceeds to go to Charity.

Pat had asked me whether I would "promise" something for that evening. She suggested maybe offering to give someone a free piano lesson as I am a music teacher. I wanted to offer something different and as I had been researching my own and my husband Hugh's family very successfully over the years, starting by spending a few days holiday in Gloucestershire and tracing Hugh's family back to the early 1500's, decided that that would be a more interesting thing to offer.

I put my name on the list and waited, on the evening, to see if anyone would be interested. Much to my surprise someone offered for me and the next day I had a phone call from the person in question. She was someone that I had never come across before in the village.

We arranged to meet for coffee and made plans to go to the Record Office in Ipswich to help start her off. Little did I know at the time what a long and happy friendship it would turn out to be.

Irene and I hit it off immediately. I felt as though I had known her for years. We duly went to Ipswich and this visit sparked her interest, although her family came from the Liverpool/Bootle area mostly. We then decided to go to London to try to do some research there. This was the first trip of so many which we made over the years. We used to go at least once a month and discovered a mutual love of red wine and eating out which became one of the highlights of the trips.

I discovered that Irene was a stalwart of the village, a strong W.I. member who was also Chair and a member of the church at Stowupland, both of which I had never had an interest in. Despite our differences in this respect, we became firm friends. She did such a lot for the village including starting off the very enjoyable Lent Lunches at the Church and helping to organise the Stowupland Flower Festival and a lot of you will remember her and her husband, Tim.

Hugh and I became good friends with them both and we used to visit each other's houses for meals and once went out for a trip on their boat on the Broads for the day. Tim and Hugh got on very well indeed and used to discuss all sorts of topics like "sorting out the Government" and lots of other controversial things.

Irene and I visited London so many times over the years. She was very successful in tracing her family and was in touch with distant relatives through her research.

It was a great shock to her family and all her friends when she died very suddenly a couple of months before Christmas. Tim had died a year or two before this.

I know that a lot of you will remember Irene & Tim with great affection as we will.

She has left a big hole in our lives, but I will always think of her with great fondness whenever I am doing research. I still continue to work on my Suffolk family amongst others – the list for research just grows and grows.

All this just goes to show what starting out on Genealogy can lead to!
Go on – try it for yourselves!

Chris Blanch

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SAM'S CHAT

Hello everyone,

School: I am going back to school and stopping home-school. I am happy because I will get to see my friends again that I haven't seen in a long time. I am also excited to stop learning off the computer and because I won't have to worry about printing anything as our printer stopped working. The only thing I do not like is I will have to play football.

Running challenge: I just managed to complete my 50 miles in a month on the last day of February. Because of the snow I couldn't run every day like I wanted, so had a lot of miles left at the end. We did run up and down the garden to get to a mile and left a pathway in the snow. When the snow disappeared, I ran round and round the garden for 5 miles. I was so glad it was over because every day I would come back home feeling dead with energy. My sister finished her challenge to do marathon distance a few days before the month ended and daddy and mummy finished their challenges too. So, you won't see us running around the block anymore. Well, you will see mummy as she is training for a big run.

There is a good orienteering app we have been doing that goes around the village. It is called MapRunF. We had to find 15 stops as quickly as possible. Me and Mummy raced against Daddy and Jessica. There is a course around Cedars Park too and other places that we might try once we are allowed to go to places.

Karate: Daddy spent so much time making the garage so it's ok for us to do karate on Zoom but soon we will be allowed to go back to real classes where we did karate before lockdown. It depends on how the Covid rules change. He still wants to practise in there.

Birthday: it's my birthday soon and it's going to be in lockdown again like last year so I can't go anywhere again. We will be just stuck at home where normally we would go somewhere fun. I will probably play a game online with my friends. I hope lockdown ends soon so we can go to other places and not just stay at home. It is boring. I just want to go to the cinema and then go to the pub for lunch afterwards like we used to.

Online escape room: On my daddy's birthday, as we couldn't go to a proper escape room, we did an online escape room. It was just like a normal one but just online. They had things like encryption codes and maps and equations and working out the numbers to unlock safes and things. It had something for each of us to work out and it was very challenging but fun at the same time. We did another one a few days later. We all helped.

Time to get ready for school. We only have been there one day this year, so I am excited but also scared. We are not back for long because Easter holidays start soon.

Sam.

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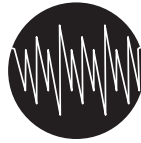
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STOWUPLAND CRICKET CLUB



After what has felt like a long winter, Stowupland Cricket Club is pleased to announce the return of cricket, pending UK Government and ECB approval. We are optimistic for a full season of fixtures and training for all our Senior and Junior cricketers. The season opens with a replay of the abandoned final from the end of last season, featuring Stowupland 2nd XI vs Woolpit 4th IX at Woolpit, 12.30pm on 10th April.

Our Junior training programme will run each Friday evening from 9th April through to 27th August.

- Ages 5-11, 5:30pm to 6:15pm. Softball cricket. This will include the ECB All Stars and Dynamos Cricket, including a Girls only group for 2021.
- Ages 11+, 6:30pm to 8pm. Hardball cricket

The children will also have lots of the opportunities to play in matches for the club throughout the season.

Our Senior sides, (2 Saturday, T20 and Midweek teams), have busy seasons planned and we are always on lookout for new players and supporters.

As restrictions are lifted, we hope to open the bar and barbecue and invite families to join in the fun.

For further information please email *Melanie Blanchard* - mcblanch@hotmail.co.uk

STOWUPLAND BOWLS CLUB

Because of the ongoing situation with Covid 19 we are not yet in a position to confirm a starting date for our bowling season, as is the case for fellow clubs and other outdoor sporting organisations. It is not fair to speculate but we should have definite news for inclusion in the next Telstar. No doubt there will be news before this edition is distributed but, as of today (5th March) we are in the dark.

However, the bowling green is on course for being suitable to play thanks to the hard work by our Greenkeeper Nick Chamberlin and his new assistant, Ken Coulling, who have endured some nasty weather in recent times.

Most, if not all of our members have received either one or two vaccinations by now and they are keen to show their expertise on the green.

Unfortunately, I submitted the wrong telephone number for our Chairman in the March edition and if anyone tried to make contact with him, I apologise as I do to Frank also. Frank Boxall's number is 01359 244591 and he is ready to receive any calls from potential applicants who would like to take up bowling.

Everyone stay safe and hopefully we can begin sharing bowling jokes again very soon.

David Begg

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Citizens Advice

www.midsuffolkcab.org.uk – 01449 676060
or 01449 676280 – 5 Milton Road South,
Stowmarket, IP14 1EZ

Doctor

Emergency – 999
NHS Direct – 111
Combs Ford – 01449 678333
Stowhealth – 01449 776000

Emergency Numbers

Power Cut – 0800 31 63 105
Gas Leak – 0800 111 999
Water Leak – 0800 771 881

Good Neighbour Scheme

HELPLINE: 07591 539621

Member of Parliament

Jo Churchill – jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk -
Constituency Office, 10 Hatter Street,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LZ – 01284 752311
House of Commons – 02072 198487
<https://www.jochurchill.org.uk/>

Mid Suffolk District Council

www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
Keith Welham – keith.welham@midsuffolk.gov.uk -
01449 673185

Police

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us>
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>

Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC 14443 Stefan Henriksen – Police Station,
Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1NJ
stefan.henriksen@suffolk.pnn.police.uk - Phone. 101

Samaritans – 116 123

Stowupland Village Website

www.stowupland.com

Parish Council Website

www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud

Suffolk County Council

www.suffolk.gov.uk

Gary Green – garygreen@suffolk.gov.uk
- 07545 423824

SCC – General Contact No. 0345 606 6067

Schools

Stowupland High School -

www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk - 01449 674827

Freeman Community Primary School -

www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk - 01449 612067

STOWUPLAND by Grace Sochacz

In Stowupland you will find a road,
Cars, Tractors, and Lorries,
They all pass this way,
Mostly carry, corn, rape, beet and dung,
The smell of dung just lingers on,
If your washing you have just done,
All night long, the sound of drying,
In the barn the corn is gleaning,
All farm animals are kept out of sight,
Plenty of public footpaths can be found,
But! Public transport is out of bounds,
Life is lonesome up this way,
Neighbours in their homes they stay,
The lonesome quiet, just lets me dream,
About the places where I have been,
Places where the grass is greener,
Where cows and sheep in meadows grazed,
I long for the smell of new-mown hay,
The mist in the valley, and the bleat of the sheep,
The trickling waters to dangle my feet,
In Stowupland are not to be found.

TWENTY TWENTY ONE VISION

How is your writing going! My poetry book for all ages has moved to ONE and I am brave enough to share it with you.

One

It's easy when you're little,
When numbers are so strange.
You're not expected to count far,
Or have a number range.

The first whole number you will learn,
Will be the number one.
It's one of this or one of that,
A very easy sum.

But later when you move on,
It gets more complicated.
Other numbers come along
But all must be related.

Then, when you get much older,
When numbers might go far,
You change numbers to a letter
And call it algebra.



The Really Lovely Poetry Company

R.R.G.

SUDOKU PAGE

1

	5			4	9	8	1	
9		7			3			
	8	3	6		5			
		2			4	1	7	
1							5	
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2

8								7
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				1				
	4		9		5		2	
3	2			9			8	1
	5		1		7		4	
	7		8		3		9	

Find completed puzzles on page 39

Rachel Eburne – rachel.eburne@midsuffolk.gov.uk -
01449 673311

MSDC General Contact No. 0300 1234000

Mobile Library - 07721 879855

Parish Council

Sally Reeves – Chairman - 01449 745739

sallyreeves@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Keith Welham – Vice Chairman - 01449 673185

keithwelham@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Philipp Deal - 07957 623326

philipdeal@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Laura Johnson - 07826 851030

laurajohnson@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Paula Murton - 07906 677817

paulamurton@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Ray Studd - 01449 676606

raystudd@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Jerry Voden - 01449 703717

jerryvoden@stowuplandpc.co.uk

John Hayward - 01449 674717

johnhayward@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Laura Beeson - 07918 808387

laurabeeson@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Clerk to the Parish Council – Claire Pizzey

parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk - 01449 677005 2

Broomspath Road, IP14 4DB

Parish Council Minutes of meetings and agendas are available on the Parish Council Website
www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud

Vets

Cedarwood – 01449 676966

Stowe Vets – 01449 613130

Village Hall Bookings

Colin Booker – Phone - 07862740830

stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

Village Clubs

Baby and Toddler Group – Kelly Woolnough –
07776 206430

Book Group – Patricia Hodgkins – 01449 672127

Bowls Club – Graham Newman – 01359 240846

Community Events – Keith Welham – 01449 673185

Country and Western – Pat Murphy – 01449 677405

Dance Club – Mary Durham – 01449 672601

Local History Group – Jerry Voden – 07951 086383

Short Mat Bowls – Pam Fayers – 01449 770080

Sports and Social Club – Andy Parkin – 07796 274905

- www.stowupland-sports-and-social-club.co.uk

Stowupland Cricket Club -

www.stowuplandcricketclub.co.uk/

Stowupland Falcons Football Club -

stowuplandfalconsfc.co.uk

Stowupland Sports Centre –

info@stowuplandsportscentre.co.uk - 01449 672531

Stowmarket Willdife Group – John Thompson -

swtstowmarket@gmail.com - 01449 676471

W.I. – Mary Coltart – 01449 678403

coltart2001@yahoo.com

COUNTRYSIDE RAMBLER

BRIAN WARD

It is the first week in March, as I write this, I look out of the window; it is quite cool outside and rather gloomy. I long for the sun and the temperature to rise. By the time you read this the blossom will be in the hedgerows and in a few weeks' time our feathered summer visitors will be with us. Normally the chiffchaff and willow warbler will be seen and heard, but I can't wait to hear the joyful twitter of the swallow and the melodious call of the blackcap. As I get older it is the small insignificant things that brighten my day. I caught a glimpse of a peacock butterfly fresh from hibernation recently, the warmth from a rare sunny February day had lured it out of its hiding place. Primroses are quite abundant locally and they are always a joy to see, the diminutive violet is often overlooked as it nestles amongst the grass. Snowdrops have flowered and gone, but bluebells are starting to bud up and soon we will have a blue carpet in our woodlands.

A few months ago, I put up an owl box locally in the hope that the little owls would take up residence after their roosting/nesting tree blew down in the high winds. Little owls prefer to nest in natural tree hollows rather than a box; but to my surprise I often see them sitting nearby and they have been seen in the box, fingers crossed we may see owlets in 2021. Almost daily I see buzzards in the sky, we have at least one pair locally. I believe they reside in Gipping Woods and hunt over the arable fields that surround Stowupland. You will often hear their mewing cry as they drift on the thermals, often only a speck in the sky but you can still hear their far-reaching call.



The queen bumble bees are out of hibernation and looking for somewhere to start a new colony. Also, ladybirds are evident on warmer days, they are the gardener's friend as they devour aphids that attack our plants. I often observe our local roe deer population and the bucks at this time of year are in velvet which they will soon shed in readiness to attract the does and start a new generation. Some of the local bucks are distinct, one in particular has only one antler but still attracts the ladies.

Hopefully we can soon travel further afield to enjoy our great outdoors. Stay safe and well

DOWN TO EARTH

It happens every time - I am bewitched by the simple greenness of everything. That luminous fresh lime green that begins speckling the hedgerows this month until by its end, the trees and all the hedgerows are fully out and clothed in blossom. Certainly nothing characterises April as much as the range of greens shining like stained-glass windows.



Newly Emerged Hornbeam

There is a group of plants that grow very well for me every year, whatever the weather. They never fail - what are they?.....weeds.

All weeds are a nuisance, but some are much more of a nuisance than others. The real horrors are the perennials and some combination of these is found in every garden in the land. These include:

Ground elder Couch grass
Creeping buttercup Bindweed
Horsetail

Less disastrous but still needing control if they are not to become a real headache:

Docks Stinging nettles
Thistles Brambles
Dandelions

There are a number of ways of dealing with these, but it goes without saying that prevention is better than cure. Always check plants that you buy or are given, especially woody plants that can easily host the roots of ground elder or bindweed.

The second thing is to avoid the situation getting bad - or at least any worse. Tackle weeds as and when you see them. In practice, this means that it is a constant job. But - and I think this is really important and underrated - weeding is at the heart of gardening. I use it as a chance to get close to my plants and judge the state of the soil as well as keeping Columbine looking beautiful. So, don't see weeding as a terrible chore imposed on you, but try to enjoy it.

With all perennial weeds the best way to remove them is to dig them up by their roots. With nettles and brambles it is quite easy but bindweed, ground elder and couch grass re-grows from the tiniest scrap of root and are very brittle, so it is very easy to break off a piece and leave it in the ground. Don't be discouraged. All of us miss bits of root. Just go back if you notice re-growth and dig some more out. In time, you will get on top of it as well as dramatically weaken it and reduce the spread. If this is not possible, either because the roots are entwined amongst a hedge or shrub, or because digging is just not an option, mulching is always a viable tool in the anti-weed armoury.

I am afraid that there are lots of annual weeds to contend with too:

Groundsel Chickweed
Sow thistle Shepherd's purse
amongst many other offenders.

Dealing with these is simple. Hoe them and hoe them often. There is an old saying that if you need to hoe then you are not hoeing enough. Always hoe on a dry day, preferably in the morning so that the weeds will wilt and die in the sun (they can and will often regrow in the wet).

Weeds are an excellent indicator as to what will thrive in different parts of your garden. For example, docks will indicate a deep, rich but heavy soil. Horsetail will only grow where there is lots of moisture and nettles are a sign of high levels of nitrogen.

Failing all of this, you can always eat your young nettles in spring as a vegetable (like spinach) or as a soup - they are exceptionally rich in iron - although personally I have never been that hungry.

I have been pruning our hydrangeas. A lot of people prune too early or too hard. The way to prune a hydrangea is as lightly as possible. Look at the plant carefully before you cut anything. There are two kinds of shoots - the ones that carried last year's flowers which may still have the remains of the old flower heads at the end and unflowered shoots, which will have a fat growth bud at the end tip. Follow the flowered shoots back down to a strong healthy side-shoot and cut just above it. That's all there is to it. Whatever you do, don't cut off the shoots with the fat green buds at the end - they're the ones that will have this year's flowers.

April is one of the busiest months for a gardener - there is much to do.

You can:

Plant out first early potatoes.

Sow tomatoes, cucumbers and chillies in a greenhouse.

Direct sow outdoors lettuces, carrots, radishes, beetroot, salad leaves, peas and spring onions.

Sow bedding plants under glass.

Plant out onion sets.

Sow hardy annuals straight into the ground such as poppies, cornflowers, marigolds and love-in-a-mist.

Sow runner-beans under glass in pots at the start of the month or direct where they are to grow towards the end of April.

Sow sweet-peas at the base of supports.

Check for aphids on roses and rub them off before they develop into major infestations.

Pinch out the shoot tips of fuchsias to make bushier plants.

Open greenhouse doors and vents on warm days making sure you close them again at night.

Enjoy the longer evenings, the first genuine heat from the sun and the frenzy of birdsong. This is the reward for all those long, cold winter months.

NURTURING NATURE

It cannot have escaped anyone's notice that many of us have taken solace in the Natural World around us during these tough times. Perhaps nature nurtures our wellbeing, not least making us want to be in the great outdoors.

Stowupland has always been a great place to go for a walk, a jog or cycle. We are lucky to have so much open space and footpaths to enjoy, but have you ever stopped to wonder how that space is cared for?

The environment around our homes is more important than ever and perhaps we should all take some responsibility in how it is managed. Our District Councillor announced the No Mow May project in line with the Mid Suffolk District Council Biodiversity Action Plan which you can find here: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/green-light-for-councils-biodiversity-vision/>

Headline commitments include:

- developing a wildlife network map - to help identify and create important wildlife corridors, and tree and hedge planting areas. This will aim to enhance connectivity and improve management of existing as well as future Local Nature Reserves and wildlife sites in the district
- planting wildflower meadow verges and changing strict grass cutting regimes where suitable; encouraging bees and insects
- ***working with town and parish councils and local communities to identify areas where trees and hedges can be planted***
- increasing hedge planting through the DEFRA Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant scheme, and helping to fund planting which isn't eligible where possible
- developing a Supplementary Planning Document linked to the Joint Local Plan - to strengthen biodiversity protections and set out the districts' expectations for design, landscaping and open space elements of new developments
- exploring the possibility of a green burial site

There are lots of activities that we, as residents, can do to encourage more wildlife into Stowupland. There are links on the council website for some of those activities. We should all take pride in where we live and it's easy to get involved. You will read that Brian, our very own Countryside Rambler, has put up an owl box and that Keith, our District Councillor, has built a bug hotel. In my own back garden, I have been 'rewilding' and have created a very small meadow alongside a pond, a hedgehog house, bird boxes and bug hotels.

In the summer there is no place nicer to sit and be surrounded by flowers, birdsong and the buzzing of the bees – heaven! It's a very small plot so anyone can do it. Even if you don't have a garden you can plant some wildflower seeds in a pot and still enjoy them.

So, we can all do a little in our own gardens, but what about the bigger picture? Our District Council wants to work with us so perhaps we should properly engage with them to get a Stowupland that meets our needs and wants rather than just accepting what comes our way. I, for one, would love to see our verges full of wildflowers. If you are interested in joining together for a better, wilder, Stowupland, get in contact with me in the first instance - kay.telstar@gmail.com, and I will try to bring us together.

MY BUG HOTEL

The woodshed looked as if it could fall over at any time, so I carried out a safety inspection. I found two pallets upon which had been delivered stationery supplies from the time I worked on the 2011 census. I'm sure I had saved them for a purpose and that purpose was about to be realised.

Together with several three-foot lengths of various sizes of timber they would form the frame of a bug hotel. All I needed now were a great many lengths of timber, branches, small tree trunks and the like. A few old fence posts were cut to length, branches cut from overgrown trees were collected up and so filling the frame commenced.

I could see that this would be a long job; decisive action was needed so I cut down the two elder trees in our back garden. On a windy night in February a dead tree fell over. Branches and twigs were cut to appropriate lengths and introduced into the structure.

I fitted a roof which I have now treated with wood preservative. Unfortunately, Patrick has continued to show far too much interest in the bug hotel. He either sleeps on its roof or crouches beside it. I fear that, as well as the usual insects, there may be a family of mice living in there before too long.

My next project is to sow a wildflower garden around the bug hotel so that the guests don't have to travel too far for pollen.

Keith Welham



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STOWMARKET ECO FUTURE GROUP



My project recently has been adding a pond to our garden. We had an area under an evergreen tree that was pretty dead and unproductive even though it is on a front path and gets plenty of light in the afternoon. Any wildlife group will tell you that one of the best things you can do for nature is to add some water to encourage bio-diversity. Tree roots in the way of digging were the obvious problem and I didn't want to spend a fortune so after a lot of looking at different ideas, I found and bought a £10 water butt stand in a local builder's merchant and half-buried upside down it makes a great little pond. I used pebbles and logs to make it look bigger than it is and it is planted up with cuttings taken from other plants in the garden. I did swaps with my neighbour too which is a great way of getting new plants. It's important to put something in the pond that creatures can climb on – just in case something falls in accidentally.



Our facebook group now has over 300 members and as you can see there are many ways to make a positive difference to our planet.

If you would like to join me and more than 300 other people on Stowmarket Eco Future facebook page for more ideas and local eco actions, you would be very welcome.

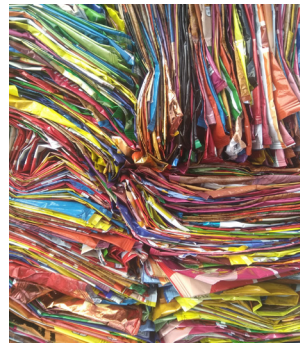
Stella Davis, Onehouse

It's been a busy month for Stowmarket Eco Future Group

Wow!! We calculate that 8000 crisp packets have been collected in 4 months. These will all be recycled instead of going to landfill. Collection is at Red Gables Volunteer Centre, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket 2-4pm on the first Sunday of each month.

Individuals and families are organising their own litter picks – mainly on a Friday. It makes our local area a much nicer place to live and also stops litter harming wildlife.

A lot of effort and energy has gone into trying to influence politics and processes. Two cases of habitat destruction (one in Stowmarket and one in Needham Market) have made the local press. Group members have also been making their views known to local and national politicians on the Gateway 14 proposals, and the Climate and Environmental Emergency Bill.



Flattened crisp packets

As you can see there are LOADS of ways to be involved with helping the planet. We now have over 300 people in the Facebook group – You are very welcome to join us.

IT'S AN OLD CAT'S LIFE

Keith removed me from his lap and got up and took his mug to the kitchen. The March Telstar lays open on Page 20 and there I saw an article by young Patrick Welham. Thought I would read what this youngster had to say. Reluctantly I have to admit it is a good piece.

The first paragraph helps highlight the plight of some cats. Luckily kind people were about and it all turned out ok for this cat and her kittens. Later the mother was operated on and therefore stopping continual litters.

Sadly, as humans know, circumstances can change. Lives can change. Lives can end. Brief paws (see what I did there) while I meow "Circle of Life" from my favourite film, The Lion King. I wanted to write just about cats, but Keith said I must include stupid dogs, Also fluffy bunnies, hamsters, horses and ponies etc., etc. To any cat reading this I only relented after lots of stroking and several Dreamies treats.

Around Britain there are lots of different people and organisations that rescue some of the many abandoned or homeless animals. Please visit one of these if you are getting a pet. The rewards of love and happiness for both people and rescued animals are enormous. Now, if you are thinking why is this pampered cat lecturing us –

My name is Amos. I was given the name after I was caught and taken in by Suffolk Animal Rescue (SAR). Some people think cats will survive "in the wild". Not everyone liked me being about. Some people want to scare or hurt you. I scavenged for food but mostly went without. I found places to hide and shelter. I was originally a domestic cat but for years I had to survive on the streets of Ipswich. Last summer when I went to SAR, I was very thin and in poor general health. I am no longer a functioning tomcat. I was found to be FIV+ and have several cancerous growths, including some on my liver. I am thought to be 18-20 years old. On 21-10-21, I had been living in Trinity Walk 6 months. I share my home with Heidi who is a similar age to me. She came here 17 years ago from SAR. I am not allowed outside but have no wish to go. Heidi feels the same. I love sitting on the window ledge watching the snow and rain. I lay in various 'hotspots' in rooms where bright sunshine has streamed through. Heidi and I have leg joints that are not so good these days. Some of you humans will understand this. Various solid boxes have been set up by the bed and sofas to help us. Unfortunately, Keith keeps bumping into them and for many seconds the air turns blue. Oh, and if you are wondering how I get to the window ledge – one sofa is under a window.

So, please consider a "rescue" when getting a pet. Please get male and female cats and other pets neutered. Several organisations will help with the cost. If you can give and/or raise money for organisations that help people or animals. They have lost a lot of income this past year but hopefully things will get better. Please consider older rescue animals. They will love to spend their final months loved and cared for.

Thank you for reading this.

Amos Riches

DEAR PATRICK...

What a joy it was to read your lovely story about your cat – ‘It’s a Cat’s Life’.

I really do enjoy the Telstar magazine, as so many of us do, in Stowupland. I haven’t been here long but have found everyone I’ve met so far, exceptionally friendly and helpful.

However, since moving here I very sadly lost my most precious cat ‘Stiggy’. She really loved life and we really loved her.

At 8am one morning, just before my birthday, Stow Vets rang to say she had been taken to them by a wonderful young couple (but sadly she had died). Bless them, they had the decency to take her so that she could be examined for signs of a chip, which she duly had, so they were able to contact me. I can never thank them enough.

Many people were amazing when I lost Stig, but one friend wrote me this wonderful poem, which I would love to share with all who have experienced such sadness.

Ode to Stig – died 17-9-20

Humans always told us,
Two heavens, one for us, one for you,
But now that we’ve arrived here,
We know it’s just not true –

Our sadness is we’ve left you,
Alone and so bereft,
But believe me, when I tell you,
In truth I never left.

A meow along the hallway,
A cry within the breeze,
A warm spot in the flower bed,
A flash within the trees.

One day, Heaven’s Gate will open,
And you’ll stand outside the door,
One step and I’m beside you,
Just as we were before.

*By Jean Beasdale
For Stiggy*

I do hope cat lovers realise just how kindness and understanding helps so much.
Sue Hughes

Thank you, Sue, for sharing this with us. Ed.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

NEWS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STOW VILLAGE



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Dear Friends;-

Creation proclaims the Easter story in the greening of the bare earth, and blossoming of the hedgerow. Nature has journeyed with us through the seasons Winter to Spring for the second year now of pandemic, and whatever our trials through bereavement, lockdown and distancing, nature keeps the faith in the enduring promise that life begins anew.

Perhaps the seasons turning will hold some promise of life as we once knew it returning, perhaps as the faithful return to their praises together, returning to their gathering places, the bird's chorus of field and hedgerow may find company in praise of Creator and new life.

My favourite Easter Carol – they're all my favourite – is worth reading for its poetry and poignant reflection on the journey of release from winter's gloom to liberty free from Pandemics darkness.

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that never He would wake again:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

As the journey to the cross was full of betrayals and falsehoods, the journey from the cross in Jesus seen again is full of hope and joy. As we begin our journey from pandemic may we remember the compassion in which we held each other, the lessons of our care in our mortality, and the lessons of nature's liberty, if only briefly, from our exhaust, intrusion and despoilment. Pray we do not go back unthinking to how we were, but let us care more for each other, for nature, and in our re-building be mindful ourselves to re-build creation's glory and capacity to sustain and provide abundance of life. For as Jesus' resurrection attested to the enduring glory of His coming among us, we too may glory together to make this our purpose 'I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness.' Good News Bible John 10:10

Yours in Christ; Brin.

Rector at Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland.

You may like to follow the Easter Story with us at:-

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2082/benefice/>

A PRAYER:

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will. Amen

PLEASE NOTE: All services may be subjected to change by government rules in force at that time.

Services in April 2021

4th Apr	9.30am Easter Communion
11th Apr	9.30am Worship for All
18th Apr	9.30am Morning Prayer
25th Apr	9.30am - 10.30am Church Open for Private Prayer

Our own parish webpage AChurchNearYou-Stowupland is getting over 150 views a week, and across our three churches – Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland, over 400 of you take a look each week. So, we hope we will be able to get our plans online whatever our haste in the changes of these coming weeks.

AChurchNearYou – Stowupland
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2086/>



U.R.C CHAPEL

NEWS

Minister: Revd Robert Sheard

Telephone 01449 678173

Another month has passed, and the vaccines are being rolled out with speed so hopefully we can look forward, in time, to more 'normal' things to come. We still have to be extremely careful. This has only been able to happen due to the dedication of the NHS staff and volunteers, thank you to them.

What a lovely time of year as we see God's beauty all around us as the spring flowers are peeping through. Such vibrant colours to brighten up each day. Hopefully, by the time you get this magazine it will have warmed up and enabled even more flowers to bloom.

Currently services at the Chapel are still suspended as we decided it was the safest thing to do. Unfortunately, there will not be a service at the Chapel on Easter Sunday but there will be one at Stowmarket URC. We hope to resume services during April some time, having regard for what is happening with the virus at the time. Look for a notice in the Chapel window.

However, our Minister is streaming a Sunday Service on Zoom each week at 10.30am. Also Pause for Prayer is on a Thursday morning each week at 9.30am for half an hour of devotion, which is also on Zoom. The code for both is 878 9703 9806 password 269834 if you would like to join with us you are most welcome.

Joyce Gardiner

MINISTERS MESSAGE

Mark 16: 6-7

6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here — he has been raised! Look, here is the place where they put him. 7 Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: 'He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.' "

Dear Friends,

As we approach Easter, we prepare to celebrate the biggest festival in the Christian calendar, we look forward with joy to celebrating that our sins are forgiven. For most people Easter is just a time to eat chocolate, so for those people who don't realise what Easter is truly about, all the things that are associated with Easter, eggs, flowers, lambs, baby chickens, all are to do with new life. Sadly, the other day I saw food covering for an Easter item which had a dinosaur on it, this is more with selling the item than anything related to Easter.

Easter is very much to do with new life, that was bought about by the death of Jesus, and his resurrection, which means that all of us can start again. The Easter message is about the hope that this brings, that we are all saved.

Last Easter we were unable to celebrate Easter in our Churches because of the Covid 19, hopefully this Easter will be different that we will celebrate Easter with a church service taking place within our churches, even though it will not be totally in the way that we would wish.

As we celebrate Easter perhaps the message of Easter will resonate with us more, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who took on our sins so we can have new life in Him, that from His death gives new life!

We can now see a light at the end of the tunnel with Covid 19, and the roll out of the vaccines, but we all need to continue praying, so that we can soon be out of this international crisis that we find ourselves in. May the Easter story show that there is still Hope, Love and Grace and that things will get better, and we will see new life in the world.

However, you celebrate Easter have a happy healthy time.

Yours, *Robert*

Reverend Robert Sheard Minister of the Stowmarket group of Churches. The group consists of Stowmarket, Debenham, Mendlesham, Haughley & Stowupland)

SUDOKU PAGE ANSWERS

Solutions for page 25

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

It's good to be back in the saddle, so to speak, after three months off. I hope you have all kept safe and that many of you, like me, have had your first vaccination. We have a roadmap out of lockdown now and hopefully something to look forward to. By reading the notes of the Parish Council meetings you will know what is happening in our village but I will just pick up a few points you may be interested in.

Planning permission has been granted for the building of a new stand alone Special Educational Needs unit for 18 pupils and associated parking places on Stowupland High School land. We have as always concerns regarding the safety of the entrance to the school and extra traffic generated.

The Linden Homes development access road build has caused several problems for residents of Thorney Green Rd and Marshalls Meadows. Lorries seem to feel they can use any private roadway or track to turn in and footpaths have been blocked meaning residents have to walk in the road.

We had quite a list of complaints at the February Parish Council meeting and all have been forwarded to MSDC and, we understand, Enforcement Action has been taken to ensure that Linden Homes abide by the planning consent. Our thanks to District Councillor Keith Welham for his help in this matter.

The development opposite The Chapel has started and as this is only a small development let's hope it doesn't cause too many problems on a busy road through the village.

As I write this in early March the planning application is in for another 80 dwellings at Trinity Meadows. These are planned for behind Thradestones Meadow and will be discussed at the March Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish Council has also been approached by a company working for Taylor Wimpey with plans to build behind the allotments and down towards the bottom of Mill Street. The proposal your Parish Council has seen is for 300 dwellings and a possible site for a primary school and nursery school. This land was identified in MSDC Joint Local plan as potential for housing. Your Parish Council has objected to this at the consultation stage of the Joint Local Plan and continues to do so. Our District Councillors are arranging a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and the MSDC and SCC Infrastructure Teams to try to understand the thinking behind another school in the village and what plans there may be for any improvements in existing road layout.

Outline Planning permission has been applied for in respect of the Gateway 14 development. This development is linked to the Freeport scenario for Felixstowe. Your Parish Council has concerns about any impact on the A1120 both during construction and after construction from increased traffic and therefore we had to object to the application.

The post trial on The Green has been assessed and I thank those residents that took the time to let us know their views both for and against. It was decided

that the trial has done what it set out to do and that is to protect The Green but any continuation of the project along Thorney Green should wait until the council find out what Suffolk County Council propose to do about the sandbags. In any future installations it was decided the posts will be slimmer and placed slightly further apart. The next area to be tackled is that outside M&M Butchers. The Green has gradually been eroded by cars and the plan is for posts from Willow Wood to roughly halfway between the butchers and junction for The Green. Costings for this will be discussed at the March Parish Council Meeting.

You will see elsewhere in the Telstar I have a grumble about dog fouling, but I am also concerned about the amount of litter in our village. We have regular volunteer litter pickers as well an employed litter picker and I thank them all for their efforts, but everyone needs to play their part so, please if you are out and about in the village take your litter home.

Lastly, a thank you to Mike Hawkins and his son for clearing footpath 32 during the recent snows.

Stay Safe

Sally Reeves

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

APRIL 2021

2021/2022 Budget

At the Council meeting on 23 February, the administration put forward budget proposals which they had amended in the run-up to the meeting.

In response to the Green and Liberal Democrat alternative budget proposals, the portfolio holder put forward an amendment to his recommendations. The result is that cross-party working groups will be set up to advise on projects to be funded from the additional £4 million allocated for investment in the local economy, housing, communities and wellbeing of residents.

The proposal that Council Tax be increased by 1.66% was carried by one vote; this is equivalent to 23p per month for a Band D property. We both spoke against and voted against the increase.

Council House Rents

An increase of £1.25 in Council House rents was agreed by one vote; we both spoke and voted against this increase.

MSDC Financial Report

The latest financial report shows that MSDC incurred additional costs due to Covid of £1.1m and a reduction in income of £950k. All but £138 of these losses has been reimbursed via central government grants.

The anticipated total underspend for the current year to the end of March 2021 is £1.8m. The underspend on staff due to unfilled vacancies is £450k. Many key areas of provision of much needed services to our residents are underspent. However, the target for investment in commercial properties across the country is likely to be met despite a huge loss in the value of properties already purchased.

The medium-term forecast is that by the end of March 2021 MSDC will have built up a cash surplus of £8m, excluding New Homes Bonus which is expected to be £1.6m in 2020/21.

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account is heading for an underspend of £2.7m in 2020/21. This is almost entirely due to delays in developing new council homes. To keep the underspend as low as possible, a substantial programme of acquisition of homes for rent is being undertaken in the last 3 months of the current financial year.

Brown Waste Bins

Collection of brown bins has recommenced. Residents will be reimbursed for any missed collections since the service was paused due to operatives needing to self-isolate following a positive Covid test of one of the crew.

Linden Homes Development

Keith has received a number of complaints, including continued use of Thorney Green Road for deliveries, damage to footpaths, single way working and working hours. These have been passed to MSDC Planning Enforcement. Keith is also in regular contact with the site manager and he has responded well to concerns reported to him.

Development opposite the URC

Site works commenced before the developer had submitted a Construction Management Plan (CMP). Keith has spoken to Landex and to MSDC Planning Officers. There are a number of issues which are not covered in the draft CMP, including use of the bridleway, timescale for completion of the site access direct from A1120, and restriction of deliveries to outside school start and finish times.

Food for Families in need

To help avoid our most in need families going hungry over school half-term, Mid Suffolk District Council have funded food and activities, including a kit to build a bird box. Help will also be given over the Easter school holidays.

Disabled Facilities Grants

The new Independent Living Service started in December 2020 and the whole process of assessment and funding of adaptations to privately owned homes has become much more efficient. If you know of anyone who is finding living at home difficult and might benefit from adaptations to their home, please let us know. Adaptions to council owned properties are dealt with by the MSDC Housing Management Team.

Solar Carports

MSDC is planning a project to generate electricity from solar panels on car ports constructed over existing car parking spaces on council owned land. The electricity generated could then be used in adjacent council owned buildings. A business case for a solar microgeneration project at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre was approved by Cabinet on 8 March.

Councillor Keith Welham
keith.welham@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01449 673185

Councillor Rachel Eburne
rachel.eburne@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01449 673311

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

MARCH 2021



The Zoom meeting opened with 10 Parish Councillors and MSDC Rachel Eburne; and I was joined by 2 other members of the public.

Councillors' Report:

There was no report from SCC and the District Councillors' report can be found elsewhere in Telstar. Cllr Welham did add that the surfacing of the new entrance onto the B1115 from the Linden Homes site is to be taken up and re-done, which will mean that construction traffic will once again be using the temporary entrance on Thorney Green Road for a while.

Matters of Report:

The stump grinding work in the cemetery has been completed and the signage for the basketball area has been put up. Quotes are being sought for the construction of the 1.5 metre footpath on The Green. The Clerk is awaiting information from organisations in respect of Fit Villages and Most Active County projects. The WI have agreed with the Chairman that the tree will be planted in October/November. A letter has been sent to the Chip shop owner. Following a meeting with SCC Cllr Gary Green, he has indicated that some money will be available to help towards the costs of posts at the side of The Green and removal of the sandbags; he also advised that the bus funding will be withdrawn in May instead of in November. The PC will call for a meeting with SCC about this. All other matters are either awaiting action or on hold until end of lockdown.

Public Forum:

A resident made clear his concerns about the phase 3 Bloor site. These included the possibility of Camomile Close being used by construction traffic and overall concerns as to how this traffic will access phase 3; only one entrance to the development causing traffic congestion/safety issues; the lack of speed calming measures on Oxlip Way bearing in mind its proximity to schools/play schools. He also felt that the play equipment on the current site was geared towards older children and no plans for play areas for young children were to be included in the new phase. He was also concerned about the drainage capability as Bloors are having to constantly flush out the drainage system on the current site, let alone when the new phase has been added.

Internal Control Statement:

It was agreed that the internal control statement for the year ending 31 March should be signed and sent off.

Parish On-Line Subscription:

Councillors agreed that the parish on-line subscription for the mapping tool software should be renewed.

Safer Route to School:

The section of the safer route to school across The Green is due to have its final surfacing layer added and the Parish Council will chase this up with SCC and for the section through to the school to also be hard surfaced. SCC will be asked for a timescale for when this work will be completed, as there is a fear that SCC will continue to drag their heels.

Annual Parish Meeting:

The Chairman advised that if and when the Annual Parish Meeting is to be held, it must be held between 1 March and 1 June. However, there is currently no advice from Government regarding remote meetings which must not be held after 7 May but Covid restrictions will not cease until 21 June at the earliest, making it impossible to have a face-to-face meeting. The Chairman has therefore taken the decision that there will once again be no annual parish meeting in 2021 and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be brought forward to 6 May to ensure that this can be undertaken by Zoom. Future face to face meetings will require far more room than is available at the URC Hall so will need to take place in the Village Hall which will necessitate a change of day as there is no space on a Thursday. It was proposed to move it to the second Tuesday in the month.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Cemetery and Churchyard – It was proposed that Barking Forge should repair and re-hang the front gates at the Church at the same time as they are fitting the new gates at the cemetery.

Environment – A quotation was agreed for the post project in Gipping Road. It was also agreed that a community litter pick should be organised for 26 June with a community volunteer day on 24 July to undertake other odd jobs around the village. There are 2 new volunteer litter pickers who are out every day and thanks are due to the owners of Plain English and Nutshells who helpfully relieved them of their heavy sacks after cleaning up the Rendalls Lane area.

Footpaths – A proposal from the SCC Rights of Way Officer to resurface the section of FP62 by The Retreat pond was discussed and accepted, but it was not agreed to accept a surfaced length across The Green to the road. It was agreed to resume the footpath sub-committee, but a new lead will be required as Cllr Murton no longer has the time to continue in this role.

Planning:

Two separate planning applications from private residents have been received for erection of cart lodges and these were supported.

A submission of details on the access, appearance, layout, landscaping and scale were received in respect of the proposed development of 80 properties south of Gipping Road. After much discussion the majority of the Councillors felt that they had no other option than to support the application as most of the residents have been calling for the provision of a crossing at the Co-Op and this seemed the only way this was going to be built, subject to a safety assessment by SCC. The design put forward for this crossing appears to meet the minimum standards and would normally include safety railings, but these have been omitted as they would block a resident's entrance. It was felt that SCC would be unlikely to accept any comment from the Council so they will rely on the safety assessment but would like to know why this application should be approved by SCC when it is included in a housing development application; when it was assessed as part of a feasibility study provided to the Council, it was not deemed suitable to have a crossing at that location. The Council agreed to make the following recommendations to the Planning Authority: Camomile Close should not be used for construction traffic, and to be informed how and where this traffic will access phase 3; a formal delineation in the form of low railing should be placed between the site and the track leading from Gipping Road.

Members also raised queries about drainage provision when this has already proved to be a problem to the original site and pointed out that footpaths should not have a surface that allows dangerous materials from the base course to work their way to the surface as has been the current method on the original site and alongside Gipping Road. A suitable access to Thradstones Meadow needs to be identified for maintenance vehicles preferably from Oxlip Way rather than Gipping Road. Councillors remain concerned that the outline planning permission was given in direct contravention of the Neighbourhood Plan, but there is nothing that can be done about that now; further objections to the principle of the development are no longer relevant. Two notifications of planning approval were received in respect of erection of an outbuilding and store, and a new stand alone block for the High School.

The visibility splays at the exit from a new property in Gipping Road are sub-standard and in contravention of its planning permission; as a result there have been a number of near misses with vehicles entering the traffic flow. A formal request for enforcement action is to be made by the Council.

Play Park:

It was agreed to accept a quotation for the tree surgery work and the removal of a piece of play equipment from the play park; although Members felt the latter quote was a little expensive, it was time critical to have this piece of equipment removed. It was also agreed to formally re-open the play park once the relevant signage is in place.

Transport, Travel and Safety

It was agreed to action the resumption of Speedwatch with two members ready to go and one to be trained. The speed gun is due to be re-calibrated but the company that undertakes this task are not answering their phone at present so its use will need to be discussed with the Police.

Complaint to Ombudsman:

Following the alleged contravention of times when the new car park is used at the High School, the complaint was escalated to the Ombudsman on advice from SCC, but the Council have been advised by the Ombudsman that, as an authority, they are unable to bring a complaint against another authority so it cannot be progressed. However, an independent resident can make a complaint; in view of this, the Chairman will speak to the residents who are affected by the car park and see if they would like to take up the case with the Ombudsman and if they do, will provide them with the necessary evidence.

Correspondence:

Correspondence was noted from the Village Hall regarding a dog poo bin and will propose that if the Village Hall are prepared to purchase and install the bin, the PC will pay for MSDC to empty it. A message from a volunteer litter picker about disposing of the resultant bags of litter to MSDC can be overcome by registering with Mid Suffolk, who will then provide special bags that can be left with their black bins for collection. There was also correspondence from SCC regarding the street lighting inventory, from a resident about the dog poo reported on the footpath between the Village Hall and the Primary School, and from a planning applicant about their access.

The meeting closed to the public at 9.36pm.

Sandy Smith



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THE TELSTAR TEAM

Editor - Kay Easter – kay.telstar@gmail.com - 01449 677261 – 16 Oak Road
Kay welcomes contributors to the magazine, either one-off articles or regular columns.

Business Advertising - Sally Wray - adverts.telstar@hotmail.co.uk - 01449 676612
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To let the village know the date and venue of your event contact Neil to be included in the diary dates.

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Telstar – for the community, by the community.

From the Telstar Committee

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dog
poo

dog poo bin

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