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Telstar

STOWUPLAND NEWS





Chairman's Column

Keith Welham, Stowupland Parish Council

November 2015

Around 150 residents of Stowupland filled Columbine Hall Barn for the public meeting to discuss the second planning application, this time for 175 homes, on the same site as the previous application for 190 homes. Residents voiced their concerns about the amount of traffic which would be generated by the development, with the only access for vehicular traffic onto A1120, which can become congested, especially at the start and finish of the school day. The traffic figures used by the developer seem to be out of date because they are based upon pupil numbers before the expansion of the schools and the increase in pupil numbers at the start of the present term. Even so, their traffic predictions show that one of the key junctions in the village will be at capacity in 2020.

Users and residents of Gipping Road reiterated their concerns about the increase in traffic since the Post Office was relocated there and they fear a further increase if A1120 becomes congested and drivers use narrow village roads to avoid hold-ups and school traffic. To encourage pedestrians from the new houses (if they are built) out onto Gipping Road without providing a footpath for its full length was deemed to be dangerous. One of the biggest traffic safety concerns is that, with just one access into and out of the development, all drivers will have to use A1120 past two schools, two churches and other village facilities to get to work, to the railway station or to A14. In places the road is too narrow for large lorries to pass each other without getting so close to the footpath that pedestrians are at risk. This would make walking alongside the road very hazardous, especially for school children.

Speakers reminded those attending that, since the influx of new pupils in September, both schools are full and the County Council would need large financial contributions to allow new classrooms to be built. But extra buildings on the school sites would mean a loss of playing fields.

There are already well over 200 separate objections listed on the MSDC website; it appears that comments from different people at the same address have been listed together so the number of individuals objecting could well be much greater, even more than to the first application. That could be because people feel that, with only one access, roads in Stowupland will, over all, be even less safe with this new proposal.

It is important that we all recognise that the new application is just that – a

completely new application. If you commented on the previous application, the comments you made will not be taken into account in respect of the new application and it is not sufficient to write to MSDC stating that your comments on the new application are the same as for the previous application. It is not too late to comment or to send additional comments. It is best to base your comments upon the effects the development will have on the area and whether or not the proposals are in line with local planning policies. We don't yet have a date for the meeting at which MSDC members will decide whether or not to approve this application but a possible date is 18 November. Please contact me or Claire if you would like to check the date of the meeting.

Claire and I met with the Planning Inspector whose job it is to decide whether or not the swap of the strip of land from The Green, required for the pedestrian and cycle link from Maple Road footbridge to the High school, in exchange for land within the school site but adjacent to The Green should proceed. We await his decision. SCC officers who attended the meeting confirmed that the scheme will be fully funded from the highways budget. However, details of how the route would be constructed across village hall land have not yet been sorted out.

Finally, a note about the Neighbourhood Plan. It is very important that as many residents as possible get involved and, please, can every resident ensure that they complete the questionnaire when they receive it. Whatever happens in respect of the application for housing on land owned by the Bloom and Carter families, we need to plan for the future of the village. If, as many residents hope, the new application is refused, it is vital that as much progress as possible is made on the Plan so that the Planning Inspector at the Public Inquiry can be informed of the wishes of residents.

Keith Welham



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District Councillor's Report

Keith Welham

October 2015

I explained last month that Mid Suffolk District Council has agreed a Members Award Scheme. I have received my first request for funding and I hope that there will be others. If you know of any club or group which might appreciate a small amount of money please let them know about the scheme. They can contact me direct.

It is no surprise that much of my time recently has involved the second Gladman application. I have read over 200 on line comments, letters and emails of comments. So far, all but one is clearly an objection to the scheme but, because of the wording, some have been classified as neutral. It is worth checking on the website to make sure that, if you have written, your comments have been listed correctly. There is still time to write; perhaps you have thought of a new comment you wish to add to what you have already sent in. I am surprised that NHS has said that there is capacity at StowHealth for new patients; I plan to follow this up. I have contacted SCC with regard to the traffic predictions and the applicant has further work to do because the assumptions made by their transport consultant appear to be unreasonable, not least their failure to take account of extra school trips resulting from schools reorganisation.

MSDC have approved applications for 1 and 2 bedroom flats in Stowmarket – 25 on the former Jokers nightclub site (all for affordable rent) and 14 flats (none affordable) near the station in place of the building used partly by Central Tyre Services. This is good news for the area but there are other brownfield sites which need to be redeveloped to provide residential properties.

There is a danger that devolution of powers from central government is fast becoming a farce. Suffolk published some information about a devolution bid to allow powers to be devolved to the county council and district and borough councils. Before this could be debated by district councils, the East Anglian informed us of a joint bid for devolution of powers to a combined authority formed of Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils and the boroughs and districts in both counties. Further information is awaited but it all seems a rush and a muddle. For instance Colin Noble (SCC leader) is saying that there will be 70,000 new houses in Suffolk by 2031 with no information on where they will be built.

Provision of solar panels on MSDC owned homes are progressing quickly – a real push to get as many installed before the end of the year. The government financial incentive will be reduced from 1 January and it may no longer be cost effective to have solar panels installed.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the examination hearing in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule.

Keith Welham

District Councillor for Stowupland Ward

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Parish Council Report

from Sandy Smith

October 2015

The Parish Council meeting opened with 8 members of the public in attendance. It started with matters of report from the previous meeting. The Clerk advised that the work on the small goalposts on the Green has now been completed and that a works order for the pothole in Rendalls Lane has been raised. Following a Play Park inspection it was found that the seats on the swings were loose where they joined onto the chains and these had now been repaired. However, it was suggested that new locking nuts should be purchased and this was agreed and the work will be carried out on their receipt. She is still waiting for the High School Business Manager to respond to her request for a meeting. After a period of 2 months waiting for 2 further quotes from tree surgeons to carry out a survey of the cemetery trees, it was agreed that they should accept the one quote received before the weather deteriorates.

The meeting was then opened up to the public. Mr Bloom gave his views on the proposed Gladman development. He advised that he had been to several meetings and felt that there had been a lot of hypocrisy and negativity towards the development when there was a desperate need for housing. He felt that Church Road had capacity for additional traffic and that all facilities within the village were within walking distance. He also felt that many of the new owners would find jobs within the village when the new Mill Lane development was completed and that money from the development could help the infrastructure. This was disputed as Gladman have stated that it should be used to increase education provision. Anna Bloom also advised that many people, including herself, were looking for affordable housing within the village and that the proposed development would help to keep the Post Office in Stowupland. Mary Bloom reported that there have been many housing developments within the village since she came to Stowupland in 1928 including Columbyne Close, Hoppgoods Estate, The Heights and Trinity Walk. She found it difficult to understand why people felt that Stowupland was becoming part of Stowmarket when the proposed development was at the opposite end of the village and why those that attended the meetings who currently had housing in the village were adverse to others having the same opportunity. She also felt that everyone wanted something different from the Neighbourhood Plan making it difficult to come to a consensus of opinion.

The Parish Councillors then discussed what their response to the planning application should be. They were advised that there had been 200 public comments entered onto the planning website including only one in favour of the proposed development. The District Councillor had received around 100 letters

Continued on page 9



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and e-mails. They considered the fact that Suffolk has no housing strategy and the Stowmarket Area Action Plan had agreed to housing development within Stowmarket but not in the surrounding villages. It was also recognised that some development was needed but this particular proposal was too big for the size of the village. A prepared draft letter was read out to the Councillors outlining how the application site conflicts with various planning policies and taking note of the views of the residents and with a few adjustments, it was agreed to make their objections to the planning application made known to Mid Suffolk DC. Councillor Miller also felt that infrastructure needs should be addressed prior to any new future developments.

SALC have advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group should become a sub-committee of the council in order to come under the same rules as the rest of the committees. As a working group there is no differentiation between the public and members of the group so the Parish Councillors agreed to them being reconstituted as a sub-committee of the Finance and Policy committee.

The Allotments sub-committee reported that the last inspection had gone well with the annual manure deliveries being made in a very ordered manner. There were currently 5 vacant plots. The clerk advised that there had been a number of break-ins to sheds on the allotments on the 8th October, which also coincided with attempted burglaries at 3 properties in Gipping Road and Thorney Green on the same day. The Community Events sub-committee advised that a Bingo Night is arranged for 30th October and a Community Quiz on the 20th November. The Parish Council agreed to recommendations from the Finance and Policy Committee to adopt the Freedom of Information Policy, Disciplinary Procedure and Cemetery Policy and that there should be changes to the Cemetery Fees. These changes in fees mean the cost of burials of non-residents of the village will be higher than those of Stowupland residents. Although the new cemetery policy will be issued to funeral directors for new funerals, it will take time to update family members who have current plots in the cemetery. The Transport, Traffic and Safety sub-committee reported that they had met with Phil Wright of Suffolk CC and discussed a number of outstanding issues including the failure of SCC to erect the speed activated sign onto the pole near the garage. It transpires that they only had one member of staff who was trained to carry out this work and, following a long period of sick leave, he has now been seconded to different duties so they will need to train someone else to carry out the work. He was asked if a member of the TT&S sub-committee could do it instead and he needed to check if this would be permissible. He is also going to chase 'the gateway' which has been on order since July. The group were also advised by Mr Wright that, if they monitor the HGV traffic using Saxham Street and send him the registration numbers and company names of the vehicles, he will be able to check if they have the necessary permits. They have carried out another survey of school traffic and found that there is an increase of around 30% and a 400% increase in traffic parked in Thorney Green

waiting for students coming out of school. This prompted concerns around parking on The Green and the risk to the many children walking from school who need to thread their way through all these parked cars in order to cross the road. A Road Safety Officer has been requested to witness this but has not attended as yet. Mr Wright has agreed that SCC will repair the potholes in Thorney Green and has suggested that hessian sacks filled with cement and aggregate could be laid along the edges of the Green to keep vehicles from straying onto the Green. It was agreed to trial these along a short stretch of the road where the children cross Thorney Green. It was agreed that Mr Wright should also be approached about the suggestion of a horse and rider warning sign for Gipping Road, about the missing safety bollards at various sites around the village, overgrown hedges and verges and the painting of a bus stop box on the road by the chip shop. The clerk reported that she is still awaiting the amendment made to the Parochial Church Council agreement, which needs their signature. The Environment Committee are to hold a village litter pick on 17th October. The Emergency Planning group reported that material has been delivered ready for the winter gritting but they will need details of volunteers who will carry out this gritting. They are to have a meeting about the emergency plan and will report back their findings at the next meeting. The Neighbourhood Plan sub-committee advised that they are on track for the questionnaire to be completed by the end of October. They will be putting on further displays at the URC and at the Ploughman's Lunch and may also have one at the 1st@4 Service in the church. The Clerk read out an update from the Play Park working group. They are currently liaising with Sarah Carter, Public Realm Officer at MSDC. She is helping the group to make sure they have all the information needed to present in order to secure some grant funding. Questionnaires have been completed at Playgroup, Jo Jingles and the Pre-School. The Primary and High Schools are currently doing theirs. It was also reported that a quote has been requested for some emergency repairs to be carried out to the fencing. The final report was from SALC who will be having their AGM in November and that Councillor Voden and some of the new Councillors will be attending their December meeting, which unusually, does not coincide with the Parish Council meeting.

It was then the turn for Councillors to report any issues that had come to light over the last month. Councillor Brand advised that the path leading onto Thorney Green Road is overgrown and that the lamp in Maple Road has now been repaired, however, the light now remains on day and night. Councillor Voden reported that SCC appeared to be failing to cut the verges by the allotments or in Mill Road. Councillor Bickerdike advised that there were a number of lorries speeding along Church Road at around 4am and waking people with the noise they were making. He had also had a private word with the High School Business Manager about the amount of litter being left on The Green by the students at lunchtime. He also made her aware of the unreasonable noise that was being made before 8am and at weekends by the

contractors who had been working on the school extension. Councillor Studd reported that, after rain, there was a big puddle outside 14 Thorney Green Road; the Clerk will report this. Also to request the PCSO to speak to a resident whose vehicle is being kept on part of the highway whilst it is SORN. Councillor Carter asked if arrangements had been made to transfer the historical information to a new recorder before the current recorder moves from the village. It was suggested that this is something that the Local History Society might want to take on. Councillor Bruce advised that she had seen a car parked on the pavement outside The Crown and wondered if Mr Wright would consider some markings on the pavement to act as a deterrent. Councillor Jennings reported 2 people had been parking on The Green. Councillor Welham had received an e-mail from Peter Ingram who is the Programme Director for Suffolk Better Broadband Programme which was very technical but appeared to indicate that they will be building a new structure to carry a super-fast broadband service to Saxham Street but there was no concrete date for this other than indicating it to be by early 2017. His District Council Report can be found separately in Telstar. The Clerk reported that she and Councillor Welham had met with Sue Herne of MSDC last month and that the Emergency Planning grant project was coming to an end in November and they were on target to use all the grant money received.

The Police were unable to attend but submitted a report advising that there was nothing to report for Stowupland this month. They were still investigating the arson attacks in Stowmarket and 3 arrests have been made. PC Henriksen will attend Parish Council meetings when he can as he does not wish to lose touch. SCC Councillor Green was also unable to attend but reported that he was still chasing Kier about the 'gateway' and that SCC are to fully fund (from their highways budget) the route to school across The Green.

Included in the correspondence to the Parish Council was a letter from MSDC requesting information on any short stay stopping sites for the gypsy and traveller community, which will receive a negative reply. There was also a request from a resident to allow parking on The Green for family attending an anniversary party. Another resident reported an overgrown tree in Birch Close, which overhangs her garden but is situated on land which was originally bought by a developer but not included in the properties sold on; the Clerk will research ownership of the land. Finally, a letter from a resident voiced their concerns about the loss of habitat and wildlife on the land around The Green cleared by Bosch.

Apologies for the length of the report but it was a long meeting that did not close until 9.53pm.

Sandy Smith

Parish Clerk News

Parking, Posters and Allotments

At our last Parish Council meeting we discussed parking problems in and around the village.

Whilst we appreciate that not everyone has access to a drive we are finding that vehicles are parking in such a way along some of the roads in the village that they may cause an obstruction or restrict access for emergency service vehicles. Just keep in mind, one day it maybe your family or your home that require the services of the ambulances, fire brigade, or police.

It has also been noted that cars are parking on the pavement; this can force pedestrians to walk into the road which can be very dangerous and can cause accidents. It is most important to keep the footpaths clear for wheelchairs, pushchair users, the partially sighted or people with small children, as they may be forced to walk in the road, which can be very dangerous and cause accidents.

Please park your car with consideration for others!

The Parish Council would like to clarify the funding of the posters and flyers which have been provided to fight the Gladman development. The posters were funded jointly by the Council and the SOS group.

The flyers were printed and distributed by the SOS group with no contribution from the Council.

Everyone driving through Stowupland can see the large laminated posters for the 'Save Our Stowupland' campaign. They make it clear that residents will fight to keep their beautiful village.

We still have some allotment plots available to rent. It would be nice to see some new faces over there. There is a great sense of community over at the allotments, they like nothing more than to meet for a good natter and I hear you can even get a cup of coffee if you speak to the right people!

Please contact me if you are interested in an allotment or have any queries with any of the above.

Claire – Parish Clerk
01449 677005



*Marion Harris – Tel. 01449 770895
or email: marion@astronomer.plus.com*

October Meeting

‘Suffolk at the Time of the Plague’ was a sombre title but we frequently found ourselves laughing during Pip Wright’s talk. The fleas that carried the bacillus of bubonic plague were parasites of black rats but equally ready to bite humans. A black scab would form at the site of the bite. After an incubation period, the symptoms included coughing and sneezing which readily spread the disease. Infection was thought to be through ‘bad air’: smoking and bunches of herbs were believed to give protection. The rats lived in the warm thatch of houses; there were no ceilings and so, if a rat was killed by the bacillus flea (“Oh blow! I shouldn’t have done that!”), the departing fleas had a good chance of finding humans to bite.

The plague was termed ‘The Black Death’ by historians. They noted that it tended to recur every 20 to 30 years between 1349 and 1665 and mostly in warm weather. Parish registers show huge peaks in the numbers of deaths recorded. Fairs and markets were cancelled and university terms deferred at these times. Sadly, no infected community in Suffolk took the brave decision to isolate itself: people fled if they could and attempts at isolation, like the chains at Needham Market, came too late.

Eventually the population of black rats was so reduced that the plague ceased to recur. The black rat is now an endangered species, suited to warmer climates, while the brown rats that are now common are not hosts to the same type of flea. Bubonic plague is considered to have been destroyed worldwide.

We greatly appreciated Pip’s talk and look forward to welcoming him again in August 2016.

Memories, Memorabilia...

Anything about the village’s past is of interest to us: its people, their work and pastimes, its land and buildings. Documents and photographs are treated with great respect and can be copied and returned. Our collection of memories is growing; send an email, get someone to email for you or have a chat with one of our members, who will be happy to write everything down. We would love to hear from you.

Do you Wonder where you Wander?

Steve Williams' excellent book about Stowmarket street names is available from the Tourist Information Centre at MEAL, price £8. We are looking forward to Steve's talk on the topic in February and copies of the book will also be available then.

Neil's Notes

Stowupland Churchwardens' Account Book Part 2

Among the expenses associated with the upkeep of Stowmarket Church recorded in the account book, major regular items involved the church bells - maintaining them, buying new bell ropes and paying the ringers.

As well as being rung for Sunday service the bells were rung on occasions of national rejoicing:

1806 "paid for ringing on Nelsons victory 14s." (Trafalgar - the previous October)

1810 "paid for ringing on the jubilee day 17s." (George III had reigned for 50 years)

or of national mourning:

1820 Ungless bill for ringers on his late majesty's funeral day 17s. 6d.

(Henry Ungless was landlord at The White Hart in Crowe Street.)

An entry for Sept. 8th 1827 as follows-

"Bocking for tolling gleaner's bell 7s. 6d."

(The sexton rang a bell at 8 in the morning and at 7 in the evening. Traditionally anyone could glean, that is collect the left-overs from the harvest in the fields during this time.)

Bell ringing was then, as now, thirsty work. Luckily The Rose Inn was just a few yards away!

1835/6 Robert Thomas bill beer for ringers £1. 12s. 6d.

In the tower of the church can still be seen the "gotch", a large wicker covered jug dated 1780. It has a capacity of 4.5 gallons and was filled with beer for the ringers.

Opposite the church near the present site of The Queens Head stood an inn named The Bell and one of Stowmarket's lost inns standing somewhere near the river was named The Eight Bells after the number of bells in the church tower.

Talking Point

We asked how the name of The Crown Inn originated. It is a common name. In Stowmarket, there was a Crown in Bury Street, first named in documents of 1624, while the Crown in Crown Street was built and named in Victorian times. In 1660, many pubs were renamed The Crown in honour of Charles II, such was the relief in the country at the end of Oliver Cromwell's strictly puritanical regime. Our Crown Inn perhaps dates from the 14th century and Crown Farmhouse from the 15th century. Were they both named, or renamed, in 1660? When does the name first appear in documents? This is getting to look like another job for Neil!

Refs. 'Stowmarket, Combs and Stowupland Pubs' by Neil Langridge and Brian A Southgate.

'A History of Britain in its Pub Signs', Part II, by Elaine Saunders).

For our next 'Talking Point', in the absence of any other evidence, Mill Street may have been named because, along with footpaths, it led down to the water mill on the Stowupland side of the Gipping. What became of the water mill?

Programme

Nov 4th *'Entertainment in Elizabethan England'* by Sarah Doig

An exploration of the various forms of entertainment in Elizabethan England including music and dancing at court and on the village green, what the common man got up to in the inns and taverns of the time, the genteel games played indoors and outdoors by the nobility and how all levels of society came together in the theatre.

Dec 2nd *'Cakes, Ale and Partying: Feasting and Fundraising in Medieval Suffolk'* by Kate Jewell

The title says it all! A little seasonal fare to add to refreshments will be appreciated.

We meet at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome and refreshments are available. Admission is £1 for members, £3 for non-members.

We look forward to seeing you.

Holy Trinity Church Letter

Revd David Swales

Dear Friends,

Coming! Ready or not!

That would make a good motto for the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday 29th November. For 'Advent' means 'coming'. And Jesus has promised that one day he will come as King. There will be a new world – a new Kingdom. What's more, he also said that he would come unexpectedly, without warning, and so we should always be ready. Ever since Jesus said these things, people have reacted in a variety of ways.

'Give us a clue'

Some have treated Jesus' words, "no-one knows the day or the hour", as a riddle. Surely, God has left clues, and if we can only 'crack the code' we can work out the time of Jesus' return.

But the Bible is not a puzzle book. God tells us plainly the things he wants us to know. And on this one Jesus said 'no-one knows...!'

'No problem'

Some have decided that if there is to be a new world, then the 'old' one doesn't matter. So what if there are wars, starvation, cruelty, injustice? All of this is no more than a prelude to the new Kingdom, so why bother?

Well, God doesn't appear to think like this! Throughout the Bible our love and concern for our neighbour in this world is a key part of our faith in God.

'Crisis? What crisis?'

But the vast majority have made the opposite mistake. Rather than looking forward to the end of this life, they have fooled themselves into thinking that it will go on forever.

As soon as we think that, then we lose any sense of urgency, of being ready. Seek God, and try to know him better? Maybe tomorrow. Offer our abilities in God's service? Ask Him for help with our faults and our sins? We'll get round to it sometime. But for the time being other things seem much more important: career, leisure, financial security, social success. Ready? Ready for what?

That's why we need Advent. Not a time for being miserable, or scared stiff; but for stopping and thinking. A time for getting our priorities right.

A time for getting ready.

Your friend and vicar, David

PS - Advent Sunday (Nov 29th) is marked by a service in Haughley Church at 11am, including a visit by Simon Snell, Christian Aid's Regional

Co-ordinator in Suffolk and there will be a thought provoking performance by our churches' Drama Group.

Holy Trinity Church

Vicar: Revd David Swales Tel: 01449 675503
Curate: Revd Chris Hood Tel. 01449 677257
Churchwarden: Mrs Ann Doubtfire Tel. 01449 770363
Mrs Sue Hayter Tel. 01449 613710

Church Email: holytrinityuk@hotmail.com



www.facebook.com/haughleybenefice

Services in November 2015

Nov	1st	9.30am	Parish Communion
		4.00pm	1st @ 4 Service – <i>church with a difference!</i>
Nov	8th	10.50am	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE also with ✧ Trinity Starz ✧
		6.30pm	Evensong (B.C.P.)
Nov	15th	8.00am	Holy Communion (B.C.P.)
		9.30am	Morning Prayer - Stewardship Sunday
Nov	16th (Mon)	10.30am	Songs of Praise at Steeple View - <i>All Welcome!</i>
Nov	22nd	9.30am	All-Age Family Service
		6.30pm	Parish Communion
Nov	29th	11.00am	Benefice Service at Haughley

(B.C.P. = Book of Common Prayer)

A REMEMBRANCE PRAYER:

Father of all peoples and lover of souls, in this month we hold in grateful remembrance those who died in time of war, we pray that the leaders of the nations may seek your righteousness so that the whole world may find your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FAMILIES!

Please come along to the **'1st @ 4' SERVICE** on Sunday, 1st November at 4.00pm and enjoy this popular **'Church With A Difference'** (with some snacks afterwards)! Then please come to our bright and friendly **ALL-AGE FAMILY SERVICE** in church on Sunday, November 22nd at 9.30am. Do stay and have FairTrade refreshments with us in the hall afterwards!

Holy Trinity Church (continued)



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE – NOVEMBER 8TH AT 10. 50 AM

It would be good to see lots of people come to this Annual Service when the names of all those from Stowupland who served in the two World Wars and died are read. "LEST WE FORGET".

A poppy wreath will be laid as a mark of respect at this act of Thanksgiving and Remembrance.

We welcome the children as Trinity Starz will also run.

STEEPLE VIEW:

The residents warmly invite you to join them for their Songs of Praise Service at Steeple View at 10.30am on Monday, 16th November, which is followed by a short Communion for those who wish to stay.

BEETLE DRIVES:

Come along to enjoy a chat and have some fun in congenial company at the Beetle Drives which will be held on Tuesdays, 3rd and 24th November in the Church Hall. All are most welcome to join us!

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH:

No Ploughman's Lunch this month, but see below!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE:

Come along to lunch at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 21st November and browse a wide variety of stalls from which you can buy your Christmas presents. Bring the children to meet Father Christmas (from 2.00pm)! Enjoy a lunch of Baked Potatoes with a variety of fillings, also, other lunchtime snacks and sweets will be on sale. Refreshments available all day. See Back page

WEEKLY COFFEE CHURCH:

Holy Trinity Church has an Open Church & Social Session from 2pm to 4pm each Wednesday. Come on in and enjoy your Parish Church, for a free cup of tea/coffee and a chat in the Church Hall, or to wait for children coming out of school, maybe for a quiet prayer, or just to enquire about church activities etc.

FOOD BANK BOX:

If you would like to donate items for the Food Bank to help those in need of a helping hand, we now have a box at the back of the church for you to leave your items. Thank you!

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:

Our well-appointed Church Hall is available for your party, meeting or function. For bookings or for further information, please contact John & Ann Parsell on tel. 01449 672592.

CHURCH 100 CLUB:

Congratulations to the following winners of the September Draw;

1st No. 85 Mrs M Wiggins : 2nd No. 7 Mrs B Carson :

3rd No. 33 Mr R Hall

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS. We welcome into the family of Christ's Church:-

13th September Chloe Nobbs
Obie Nobbs
Noah Nobbs
Molly Griffiths

WEDDINGS. Congratulations to those who have recently married:-

26th September Gavin Crysell & Karina Leggett

Telstar is also available as a link on the Parish Council website:

www.stowupland.org

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Book Group:	Patricia Hodgkins	01449 672127
Baby and Toddler Group:	Liz Purnell (Email liz@rllmuk.co.uk)	07810 442424
Bowls Club:	Susan Boorman	01449 614673
Country & Western Dance:	Winston & Janet Adams	01206 501866
Dance Club:	May & Paul Durham	01449 672601
Local History Group:	Marion Harris	01449 770895
Short Mat Bowls:	Pam Fayers	01449 770080
Sprts & Social Club:	Mark Campbell	01449 614390
W. I.	Judy Clarke	01449 615386
Community Events	Keith Welham	01449 673185
Mobile Library:		07721 879855

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Holy Trinity Church Church Yard Tidy Up

'What a day'

Saturday the 10th of October turned out to be a wonderful day in many ways, firstly it was sunny, dry and pleasantly warm, a real English autumn day that you only see in picture-books or country calendars.

About twenty of us gathered with a plan to tidy up the churchyard and by 9.30 the whole place was a hive of activity. One of the main objects was to reshape the yew tree which over the years had grown so tall and untidy looking that it was beginning to hide the church spire from passersby, as this was quite a big job in itself some of the work was completed the day before and now the shape is complete and pleasant to look at.

Other work such as trimming and lopping other trees was being carried out, clearing the 'wild' area under the horse-chestnut tree, trimming the hedges, weeding, clearing brambles and lots of other tidying jobs. Of course all of this work produced lots and lots of cuttings which were disposed of by transporting them away in cubic meter builders bags, at least thirty journeys were made to get it all cleared.

At about 11.00 a shout went up that refreshments were ready and we all went into the church hall where bacon butties, cakes, biscuits and drinks were awaiting us, it was like being at a scout camp, everyone looked happy. A little later after the sweeping up and clearing was finished there was a satisfied atmosphere of achievement around, with smiling faces everywhere. This was a great effort and thanks go out to all those who took part.

We hope that Saturday was just the start and we can do it again next year.



Countryside Rambler

Brian Ward

I must mention the weather before I go rambling on about the wildlife I have seen. The sunny days were really special and most welcome and enhanced the autumn colours that were spectacular, especially the maples and the cherry trees. Good weather leads to glorious sunsets and we were treated to some stunning ones over the past month.

Autumn is the time for Red and Fallow Deer to rut and most people who witness this event treat it as a privilege to be there. I recently did my early morning stint and was at Dunwich Heath area before sunrise. I could hear the stags bellowing in the distance, an eerie sound as it penetrated the heavy morning mist. I used a footpath along the edge of the heath following the sound of the bellowing stags and I soon came across three stags with their harem of hinds. I watched at a distance as these majestic animals strutted their stuff, hoofing the ground to intimidate any rivals and several of the lesser stags were soon seen off. As the herds disappeared into the early morning mist I thought I must return later in the day when the sun is up. From the heath I went to Minsmere Reserve and was treated to some magnificent views of the Bearded Tits and during a previous visit was fortunate to see an Osprey catch a fish in the lagoon in front of Island Mere hide, apparently it stayed for a few days. Also spotted were a Barred Warbler and a Red Necked Phalarope along with many other waders and a few late Hobbies.

On talking to a fellow photographer in one of the hides he told me he had just photographed one of the resident Otters attacking a Cormorant. The Otter apparently dived and came up and grabbed the cormorant by the neck and dragged it into the reeds. I have heard several reports of them tackling wildfowl and even a goose. With the Badger fence now in place are the otters going to pose another problem as they will predate most things in their environment.

One evening I was lucky enough to find a young Hedgehog just starting to forage, the light was still quite good so I decided to follow at a safe distance. It ventured onto a rough grass field and in a space of about ten minutes devoured mainly worms and grubs at an astonishing rate. It's quite amazing how much they consume, no wonder gardeners like them.

Other places visited over the past few weeks were Captains Wood at Sudbourne to watch the Fallow Deer and Blickling Hall, a National Trust property with a large lake in the grounds which you are able to walk round via a good path; also Bromswell Reserve near Woodbridge where I photographed a Common Lizard six feet up a tree sunning itself. I always thought of them as ground dwelling reptiles. I have also seen a lot of Emerald Damselflies this autumn, I believe they must be spreading their range.

My wife and I spent a few days in Yorkshire and spotted a few Red Grouse on the moors on our way to Whitby where we stayed. This charming harbour with its crab and lobster pots stacked on the quayside and the old abbey ruins on top of the hill is typical Yorkshire at its best.

Yes, I did return to see the Red Deer later that day and what a spectacle it was with two large stags challenging one another. It ended up in a clashing of antlers with much pushing and shoving, lasting quite a while with the hinds looking on. I could not believe the ferocity and strength of these beasts. In the end there was a victor and the challenger ran to the woods for cover.

Please don't forget to feed the birds in the coming months and the Autumn Watch will be on the television for us all to enjoy.

Brian Ward.

“Sleeping Beauty” ballet

**Performed by the Russian State Ballet
Saturday, March 12th., 2.30 p.m. at Ipswich Regent theatre,
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Out and about, and... another Questionnaire?

Wasn't the 150th Celebration Day at Freeman Primary School great? All those old photos of sons, daughters, and friends kept me occupied for ages. The NP Steering Group were pleased to have a display there, and it was good to see so many people thinking about the future of the village as well as enjoying reminiscing about the past.

Members of the Steering Group have taken our display around a number of local groups and events, and it has been good to meet so many different villagers and discuss what we like and dislike about living here, and thoughts about the future of our wonderful village.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group were pleased and a little surprised that the questionnaire we distributed in May with Telstar was so well supported. But we've moved to the stage where we will soon be drafting the plan for consultation, and in order to do that we are busy working on a 'proper', more detailed, questionnaire.

We feel this is very important, as it will help us draft the policies in the plan that we will be asking you to consider early in the New Year. We will also be producing a Youth questionnaire for the younger members of families in the village. After all, they are the future, and it is important that we get a range of views – a real cross-section of our community.

If you have access to a computer it would be really helpful to complete the questionnaire on-line. You can do it over a number of sessions as it will be saved each time you log-on. We will also be using volunteers to deliver and collect the paper versions, so no one will be left out. You may also see groups of two or three of us around the village carrying out a character appraisal of the parish during November – so let's hope for some crisp, clear autumn weather (like we are enjoying as I write this in mid October).

We will be looking forward to making some real progress once we've analysed responses to the more detailed questionnaire, and planning the next phase of preparing our Neighbourhood Development Plan. So, please do complete the questionnaire on-line or for collection in November.

Jackie Ward

Chair, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (a Sub-Committee of Stowupland Parish Council)



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Drivers wanted!

We are urgently seeking a few more volunteer drivers to join our happy band in serving the transport needs of so many dependent people in our community.

Some of our highly valued and long-serving drivers have recently had to step down, while others are engaged in part-time employment or have school-age children, and consequently we occasionally find ourselves unable to fulfil a request for assistance especially during the summer months when holidays are taken.

Providing transport for medical appointments is the most significant part of our work and is appreciated for being a door-to-door service with someone on hand to help with a walking aid if necessary. The majority of trips are local, with the occasional journey to Ipswich or Bury hospital being the extent of our travel area. Closer to home, several of the social activities taking place in the village are only accessible for a number of regulars because of the availability of an organised car service.

After a few initial formalities, including a DBS (formerly CRB) check, our volunteers are free to accept or decline a request at will, and there is always an experienced person available to offer re-assurance in the event of a query. Motoring costs are reimbursed by users of the scheme.

If you feel able to offer a little bit of your time each month in helping your fellow residents, I shall be delighted to hear from you. My telephone number is (01449) 771430. You will be more than rewarded by getting to know the many inspiring and grateful people living on your doorstep!

Christine Williams, Chair



COMMUNITY BINGO

ALL CASH PRIZES

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

AT STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL

Doors open at 7.00pm Eyes down at 7.30

EVERYONE WELCOME

(OVER 18'S ONLY)

November Dates

Sun	1	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	2	Afternoon Fellowship	2.00pm	URC Chapel
Mon	2	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tues	3	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Tues	3	Beetle Drive	2.30pm	Church Hall
Wed	4	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	4	Book Group	2.00pm	
Wed	4	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Wed	4	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
Thurs	5	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sun	8	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	9	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tues	10	Mobile Library	9.30am	Jubilee Court
Tues	10	Mobile Library	9.55am	The Green
Tues	10	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Wed	11	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	11	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Thurs	12	Parish Council	7.30pm	V.H. Meeting Room
Thurs	12	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Fri	13	TELSTAR DEADLINE DATE for Dec. & Jan. issue		
Sat	14	Jumble Sale	2.00pm	Village Hall
Sun	15	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	16	Afternoon Fellowship	2.00pm	URC Chapel
Mon	16	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tues	17	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Wed	18	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	18	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Wed	18	Neighbourhood Plan W.G.	7.30pm	URC Chapel
Wed	18	W.I. – Ipswich in 1915, the year the WI began, and A.G.M.	7.30pm	Village Hall
Thurs	19	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Fri	20	Community Quiz	Doors open 7.00pm	Village Hall
Sun	22	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	23	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall

Tues	24	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Tues	24	Beetle Drive	2.30pm	Church Hall
Wed	25	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	25	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Thur	26	P.C. Finance & Policy Meeting	7.30pm	URC Chapel
Thur	26	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Fri	27	Coffee Morning	10.00am	URC Chapel
Fri	27	Community Bingo	Doors open 7.00pm	Village Hall
Sun	29	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	30	Afternoon Fellowship	2.00pm	URC Chapel
Mon	30	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall

If you wish to attend one of the events listed, and would like help with transport, please contact Good Neighbours on **07591 539621**

December Dates

Tues	1	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Wed	2	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	2	Book Group	2.00pm	
Wed	2	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Wed	2	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
Thurs	3	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sat	5	P.C. Cemetery & Churchyard W.G.	10.00am	The Churchyard
Sun	6	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	7	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall

Future Events in 2015

Dec	14	Afternoon Fellowship – Carols	2.00pm	URC Chapel
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Diary Dates

Contact Marion by email: marion@astronomer.plus.com or Tel: 01449 770895
For contact details for clubs / groups etc. See page 19

Stowupland W.I.

After the previous month's break, it was pleasing to see so many members and visitors at the September meeting. President Colleen welcomed everyone. Following the singing of "Jerusalem" the business was dealt with, including reminders of the forthcoming Group meeting, for which Stowupland is the host W.I., and the commencement of providing refreshments at the Garden Club meetings, which give a welcome boost to the W.I. funds.

Our speaker was then introduced - Jennifer Gibbs, who made her entrance in the colourful costume, as worn by the women in the Turkish village where she lives. She fell in love with Turkey on the first trip she had made abroad in the early 90s and decided to live there. Her partner, Mustafa, fell in love with Suffolk on his first trip to the county, so now they both spend summer in Suffolk and return to Turkey for the winter. The womenfolk in the Turkish village are wonderful needle workers, making the most exquisite items. Although there is electricity, they don't spend any time watching TV or even reading. Each evening, they go to call on someone in the village and if anyone does not get a visitor, they will go out and make a visit themselves. Even during this social time the womenfolk are still crocheting, sewing or working the most delicate cross stitch and when animals are taken out to pasture by the women this activity continues. They also hatch silkworms to make their own silk, which again is beautifully embroidered. What do the men do while their women are so industrious? They whittle pinewood! Jennifer had brought many samples of the women's work, which she sells on their behalf while in Suffolk. Her table was soon surrounded and many items sold, to doubtless re-appear as very acceptable Christmas gifts. Following refreshments, the raffle took place and then the results of the competitions. For the flower -1st. Lesley, 2nd. Brenda, 3rd. Anna. For a piece of stainless steel - 1st. Rebecca, 2nd. Pam. 3rd. Christine. Lesley brought her winning flower to show everyone as it was the W.I. Centenary rose, specially cultivated for 2015, with both a delicate colour and lovely scent.

The autumn Group meeting had Helen McDermott as the speaker and what a joy she was. We heard a very humorous talk as she told of her various adventures and misadventures as she went from a 10 year old would-be ballet dancer, through stage work in her teens to radio broadcasting and then TV, going back again to radio. As she had to leave to catch a train back to Norwich just after 9 p.m., she missed out on the delicious array of cakes provided by Stowupland, the host W.I. It was a very good evening with special thanks going to Allen, who set out all the chairs before the meeting, enabling members to sort out all the other necessary preparations.



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Hi everyone! From Alex Houghton

You may remember reading about me and my crazy challenge to walk from London to Cambridge in the July issue of the Telstar. I thought it would be nice to do a follow up to let everyone know that I managed to complete the walk on the 29th-30th August, but it was not without its difficulties!

Firstly I'd like to thank the people who were exceptionally generous and donated to support my fundraising work; it really helped to keep me going during the tough times (and there were plenty of those....)! You may remember that I had started training in April for the challenge, which involved long walks of varying durations every weekend, the longest of which involved walking to Bury St Edmunds and back in one day - a total of 31 miles which unfortunately happened to fall on a day of torrential rain! A couple of weeks later, I also managed to damage my heel (a suspected tear in my Achilles tendon), which placed a big question mark over my participation in the walk.

Nevertheless, I patched myself up as best I could and got myself to the starting line, ready to depart from Hackney Marsh in London at 08:30 on the Saturday morning. We set off at a steady pace but by 10km the padding I had placed on my heel to protect it had caused my boots to start rubbing my left foot. A quick rest stop and some patching up meant we were ready to set off again. A few more rest stops and we were starting to feel tired but hopeful that we could reach the end, despite the increasing number of blisters developing on my feet! We reached the midpoint stop just as it started to go dark and were greeted by friends and family who had come along to support us, which was fantastic but made it very difficult to get motivated to set off again as it was now very dark and cold!

As we journeyed through the night exhaustion started to set in, and as we reached 72km (the next major rest stop) I was struggling to put my shoes back on as the number of blisters on my feet was now approaching double figures! We rested here until the sun started to rise so we could avoid the motion sickness we were feeling caused by walking by torchlight, but unfortunately this just meant our muscles started to seize up! This combined with the blisters meant I shuffled most of the remaining 28km, but friends and family came to walk parts of the remaining distance with us, which gave me the strength to soldier on!

We crossed the finish line at 14:30 on Sunday afternoon, 30 hours after we started, exhausted but still smiling (or maybe grimacing... it's hard to tell!!!). Since completing the walk a number of people have asked me whether I would do it again and the answer, at the moment at least, is a resounding no! That being said, I am so very pleased I did it and had the perseverance to see it through to the end. At the time of writing, I have raised £1,129.49 for the Diabetes Centre at Ipswich Hospital and have proved to myself that I am stubborn enough to complete even the most ambitious tasks I put my mind to!

Thank you once again to the people who have been kind enough to

support me on my 'little adventure'; if anyone would like to donate, you can still do this by visiting my Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/alex-houghton3. I am now in training for my next endurance event..... Sleeping for as long as possible.....

Alex Houghton



Stowupland Bowls Club

Bill Cook

Stowuplands Bowls Club celebrated their 40th birthday this summer. Having reached the finals of the Thurlow Shield we fielded a mixed team of characters at a final played at Needham Market where we were runners up.

We had success in the Tuesday Afternoon league when Stowupland B team won the league and were promoted to the 1st division. A special thanks to our captain John Mollett who led the team to a possible record points score throughout the season.

September 12th was the clubs finals day and closing drive. Pam ward and Colin Swain picked up the mixed pairs trophy. Pam Ward also won the women's two wood trophy and Colin Swain won the men's two wood and triples trophy.

Fun was had on our presentation night and the quiz created a buzz of skulduggery and answers that were on the tip of peoples tongues, however we managed to finish the night with laughter.

Finally I would like to express our appreciation to all the women who volunteered to provide excellent food and support at all our events throughout the season.

Sue Boorman Secretary 01449 614673



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Sam's chatter

Hello from Sam

I like asking questions. My favourite is why. I use it a lot. It takes us a while to get out of the house because of all my questions. Jessica has started asking why too. Sometimes we ask different questions at exactly the same time. Here is an example of our conversation today.

Q. Why do you have a plaster on your arm Mummy? Is your arm poorly?

A. Yes, I just had a vaccination

Q. What is vaccination?

A. It is a special medicine to stop me getting ill.

Q. Why do you have vaccination?

A. For when I go to India

Q. Why are you going to India, Mummy?

A. I am going on a trek to the Himalayas

Q. What is a Himalayas?

A. They are mountains (she showed us a picture)

Q. Can children come to Himalayas?

A. No Sam

Q. Why?

A. You are too little

Q. Oh, I want to come to Himalayas with you Mummy. Can I come when I am bigger?

A. Yes, if you want to Sam.

Q. When are you going?

A. Bonfire night

Q. Oh, you will miss fireworks. Why are you going?

A. It's my 14th challenge.

Ah, now I remember. Mummy and Daddy have been raising money for the charity for Cerebra in memory of my half brother Thomas. Thomas was born with Cerebral Palsy and died when he was still a baby. Cerebra help children like Thomas. He would have been 14 this year so Mummy has been doing 14 challenges in 14 months. She has completed a 12-hour spinathon dressed in a pink monkey onesie, swam a mile in Alton Water, a bungee jump, a tri-athlon, given up wine and chocolate for ages! Oh and by the time you read this Mummy and Daddy are hopefully clean after doing a muddy obstacle race called the Whole Hog. The trip to Himalayas is Mummy's 14th challenge. I will tell you all about it next time.

If you would like to donate money to this cause please go to the charity page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/Tinker>

You can find out more about Cerebra here: <http://w3.cerebra.org.uk/>

I hope Mummy comes back safe. She needs to take us to the Christmas Fair at the Village Hall on November 21st. Father Christmas will be there. I can't wait to tell him what I want this year.

Sam x



C.M. Hayward

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The
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Reformed
Church

U.R.C. Chapel

Minister: *Revd Chris Wood*

Telephone 01449 678173

It is with great sadness we report the death of Mrs Mary Forsdyke on 25th September 2015. Mary had been a very loyal member of the Chapel for many years and before becoming ill made a great contribution to the Chapel. She was always very willing to help, especially with her cooking skills. Although she had been ill for some time you never heard her complain. A lovely lady who will be sadly missed. We extend our love, sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

On Friday 25th September we held a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support resulting in a sum of £341.40 being raised for this very worthwhile cause. It was a very busy morning for all our helpers, our thanks are extended to them. Thanks are due to all who made cakes and gave draw prizes and to those who so generously supported this event.

The date for our next coffee morning is **Friday 27th November 2015 10am to 12noon**. There will be a Christmas draw as this will be our last coffee morning this year. The next one will be Friday 29th January 2016.

Although no charge is made, donations are given and currently these are going towards the alterations we have made to the toilets, making them accessible to all, and the kitchenette. We would love to see anyone who would like to drop in for a 'cuppa, chat and a cake.'

Friends from Holy Trinity Church joined us for our Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October and £227.28 has been sent to Water Aid. This was made up of £150.80 from the morning service £50.03 from the afternoon service and £26.45 from the sale of fruit and vegetables at the afternoon fellowship. The remainder of the harvest gifts have been taken to the food bank.

We are holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 14h November at 2pm in the Village Hall. Any contributions will be gratefully accepted with the exception of electrical goods which I am sorry to say we cannot accept. Please contact any Chapel member or bring it to the Village Hall after 12 noon but before 2pm. We would also like you to come and spend. In addition to Jumble and Bric-a-brac there will be a Raffle, a Tombola and Cake stall.

Services at the URC Chapel are held each Sunday at 10.30am and we cordially invite anyone who wishes to join us in our worship. A warm welcome awaits you.

Our speakers for November are as follows:

01 November	Revd Peter Ball
08 November	Revd Richard Edwards
15 November	Mary Durrant
22 November	Rev Mary Playford (Holy Communion)
29 November	Nicola Glasse

Afternoon Fellowship

We recommenced our meetings on Monday 4th October when we had an interesting talk, by Revd Chris Wood, about the Harvest Festival and when it was first started to be celebrated.

Our Speakers for November are as follows:

02 November	Rev Chris Hood (the Curate, Holy Trinity)
16 November	Social Afternoon
30 November	Rev Mary Playford

We welcome anyone who would like to join us at our meetings (male or female). Come and enjoy the interesting speakers and the fellowship and of course, a cuppa.

Mary Clark

Chris Wood URC minister 'MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD

I'm given to understand that for more than 70 years, guests on Radio 4's Desert Island Discs have been asked to imagine that they are a castaway on some imaginary island, and are given a Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare to read, then asked to choose their eight favourite records. Recently it has been suggested that senior producers at the BBC have discussed the possibility of dropping the Bible to reflect the demands of our increasingly secular society.

It would appear that some guests, despite the circumstances being 'imaginary' have objected to the idea of being stranded with a Bible. For instance, comedian David Walliams has allegedly said in 2009: 'I don't want the Bible. I don't like the Bible', and complaints have been raised by the National Secular Society, believing that guests should be able to create a 'paradise' of their own choice. Maybe it should be pointed out that the Bible includes examples of people trying to create their own 'paradise' but always with disastrous consequences

To reject the Bible seems strange when it is still recognised that it remains the most popular book of all time, and has been translated into more languages than any other book. Added to which, those who have a computer possess the ability to access many different versions of the Bible digitally (Gateway Bibles is one such web site!). Added to this, hymns based on the Bible ('The Lord's My Shepherd'; 'Abide with Me'; and 'Jerusalem' to name but a few) remain popular both in churches and secular gatherings.

There's a constant danger that Christianity is being pushed ever further and further to the sidelines in our increasingly secular society, yet there's no getting away from the fact that a great deal of the fabric of our society has come about from people of faith who took the Bible seriously and sought to live out their lives following its teaching. This nation, I believe, would be a great deal poorer in its

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social fabric had it not been for those with vision or passion to create something better for benefit of all – especially the poor, the vulnerable and the sick –so that God’s Kingdom might be revealed on earth as it is in Heaven. As the Apostle James would argue: ‘faith is expressed in action’ (James 2: 24)

For me, the Bible, throughout my life, has been a constant companion, in which I continue to find understanding, encouragement, enlightenment, guidance, support and direction for all manner of situations and circumstances. I never tire of its words, and even those that are terribly familiar maintain a freshness that I encountered on first reading. For instance from the Old Testament I regularly take heart in the wonderful words of the Psalmist: ‘If I lift up my eyes to the hills, where shall I find help? My help only comes from the LORD, Maker of Heaven and earth’ (Psalm 121:1 – 2). Then from the Gospel, the incredible words of assurance spoken by Jesus as He was about to depart from this life: ‘Observe all that I have commanded you. I will be with you always, to the end of time’. (Matthew 28: 20). Finally, from the last book of the Bible, words that we can trust: ‘The One who sits on the throne said: ‘Behold I am making all things new!’ (Revelations 21: 5). And that’s only for starters.

So the Bible may be going out of fashion to some within our society, yet, personally, I can’t think of any better reading companion should I find myself alone on a desert island, because, in reading, I would be constantly reminded that I was not actually alone, but that the Lord was with me just as He promises in holy scripture. If in any doubt, look up Psalm 139 (my favourite Psalm!) which reminds us that we cannot go anywhere without the LORD’s hand guiding us and holding us fast (verse10) – not even if we wanted to!

God Bless

Chris

(Rev’d Chris Wood – minister of Stowmarket, villages and Debenham URC’s)

A terrific thank you from the S.O.S group

Thank you so much for the necessarily fast response to all our many helpers:

- to every one of the over 200 people who wrote to object to Gladman’s current application
- the 10+ deliverers of the S.O.S flyer about how to object
- everyone who has a poster up (please get them up for mid-November and the MSDC visit, if you haven’t yet)
- the anonymous donors who paid for the vast majority of the costs of flyers and posters
- the PC who paid for 60 of the first run of posters and donated £100 + VAT for the second run
- everyone who gave a donation for the second run posters

It still costs rather a lot, but we have posters all over the place!

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A cracking start to the season for our adults, with our reserves winning their first 4 league matches. The first team have made a good start with a win, a draw and a loss. The A's have started well with a couple of wins, a couple of draws and a loss, which is a great start for a young team with 4-5 16 year olds playing. The 1st team also went through the first round of the cup easily with a resounding 9-0 win over Bildeston. We also welcomed a new A-team manager this month, so we now have a full complement of managers for our adult teams which is great news.

Our youth teams are now well under way and have seen some great football across all the age groups. A quick round up shows both our U12's doing well, U13's off to a great start, and our U14',15's and 16's all starting the season slow.

For the girl's teams, the new U10's are enjoying their football with 9 girls playing. U11's are doing well, U13's are doing great with 3 wins out of 3, and U14's have started slowly!

We are looking for local businesses for shirt sponsors. If anyone is interested, please get in touch.

Please come and support your local teams, we play adult football Saturday afternoons, KO's at 1400/1430 and youth football on Sunday mornings at 1030. Tea and coffees available to keep you warm whilst watching some great football....and it's free to watch!

Stowupland Cricket Club

Good news! In last month's report I said that hopefully I would be able to report that all 3 of our teams have been promoted. Well... 2 of our teams are definitely promoted as the Saturday XI won the two counties division 8 West League and the Sunday 1st XI was runner up in their league. Unfortunately the Sunday second XI came third in their league and it is still unsure which league they will be playing in next season. But going on previous years, 3 or 4 teams have been going up, so hopefully this will be the same, resulting in 3 promotions out of 3 for the club.

The Saturday XI sent their strongest team of the season away to Eye in a must win final game of the season. Bowling first, all bowlers bowled superbly to restrict Eye to 114-6 off their 45 overs. Our batsmen made light work of the total to win by 5 wickets to secure promotion. Fantastic effort

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from all players involved throughout the season and we are looking forward hopefully to gain another promotion next season.

After a disappointing loss to Nowton, the Sunday XI needed to win 1 out of their last 2 games of the season. They comfortably beat Risby away by 6 wickets in their final match to finish runners up and gain promotion into division 2. Like the Saturday XI, this was a great effort from the team to secure back to back promotions and we look forward to a more challenging season next year in division 2.

Reporting last month about the Sunday 2nd XI's first defeat in 23 games, they followed this up unfortunately with another 2 defeats. Finishing the season losing the last 3 games. Their first loss came away to a re-arranged game against Worlingworth, then again losing to Woolpit academy, so unfortunately finish 3rd in their league. Promotion is still unsure yet, but more will be known at the league AGM at the end of the month.

After a successful President's Day on the bank holiday Sunday we were due to travel and play a tour game away to Irthlingborough CC on the Monday. But due to heavy rain overnight this was unfortunately cancelled. We are hoping for better weather next season to make the trip and again we hope to travel to Hailsham CC for another 3 day tour.

Again this year we had a very successful and enjoyable end of season dinner at the Cedars Hotel supported by many playing and non-playing members of the club. Congratulations to everyone who won an award. I'm already looking forward to seeing what next season brings as we will be celebrating 50 years of Stowupland Cricket Club. We will be looking to celebrate this event, so keep your eyes peeled for further information. We are having winter nets starting in January at Finborough School. Any current and new players are always welcome. Please look on our website (www.stowuplandcricketclub.co.uk) or our twitter page (@stowupcc) for times and dates.

That's all for this season. Thank you to all involved and see you all again next season.

Jo Abbott, Chairperson

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Speed Watch Stowupland

The Transport, Traffic and Safety group are still working to improve safety within the village with continued Speed Watch operations. We continue to monitor our 'speeding hotspots' with a fair degree of success. When I say success, I do not mean catching speeders, but quite the opposite, by getting motorists to slow down! Although we still catch them, there is slight decrease in the amount we are recording and reporting to the police.

We recently carried out another schools traffic survey and true to our beliefs, following the change in the schools system (moving from three to two tier), there was a marked increase in the amount of cars being used to ferry students to and from the schools. The survey was carried out on Tuesday 22 September between 8 and 9am and again in the afternoon between 3 and 4pm. It was the size of the increase that was a little surprising as, after all the figures were collated, we found an overall increase of nearly 30%. But the biggest increase was on Thorney Green where the increase was nearer 400%! This is also the area that gives us most cause for concern as there are a lot of students attempting to cross a chaotic stretch of road. Parents continue to park on the Green with no regard to the safety of the students or indeed the beauty of our Green as they churn up the edges. If you are one of those drivers, please consider an alternative.

The update on 'The Gateway' at the entrance to the village from the south is that it has been ordered and I'm hopeful that it may be installed in the next few weeks! We also carried out a HGV survey in Saxham Street where there is a 7.5 tonne weight restriction. There are a number of companies who are permitted to use the road, but the consensus is that there are some Lorries using the road illegally. Registrations and company names were noted and submitted to the authorities who will check to see if indeed they hold permits. We await those findings and will let you know when we get the results.

Winter is almost upon us and with that in mind, I would remind you all to ensure that your vehicle has its pre-winter checks completed. Please check that your lights, windscreen wipers, and of course your tyres are all in working order and roadworthy. Please also make sure your radiators have the correct strength anti-freeze and your windscreen washer fluid is also at the correct strength.

In closing, I wish you all a very happy festive season and more importantly, stay safe.

Kind regards,
Morris

Congratulations to Allard's Post Office

Since the move of the village Post Office up to Allard's Farm in August last year it has been a busy period for Anna and the staff, adjusting to the new location and the extra facilities of the shop and cafe. The village has also been getting used to it. Happily they were recently nominated for Best Post Office. This is a national competition that means they were competing against well established businesses all over the country, so the competition was to a very high standard.

The results were announced at London's Grosvenor hotel earlier this month and our Post Office came second with a rating of "Highly Commended." So, many congratulations to Anna and her staff and our thanks for keeping the Post Office going.



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District Councillor Award Scheme

Are you a member of a club or group in need of some additional funds? I have £5000 to be divided between volunteer groups, sports clubs indeed, any organisation that makes a positive contribution to the community of Stowupland. I have application forms and details of the criteria to be met in order to qualify for funding. Keith Welham 01449 673185.

Closing date for applications is 8 January 2016.

MSDC Community Achievement Award

Do you know someone or a group of people who deserve to be recognised for what they do for the community in Stowupland? If so, please give me a ring. Keith Welham. 01449 673185.

FROM TELSTAR COMMITTEE

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www.stowupland.org

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Claire Pizzey

2 Broomspath Road, IP14 4DB

01449 677005

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You can contact the Clerk as follows:

Tues – Thurs from 10.00am – 12.00noon

Mid Suffolk District Council:

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Keith is happy to help you with any District Council matter.

Suffolk County Council

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gary.green@suffolk.gov.uk

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