

TOSTOCK CHRONICLE No.3.

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1. Once more there is progress to record; and so another Chronicle emerges. First the Chronicle would like to say a word about itself. Mr. B. J. Reid of the Suffolk Rural Community Council, a good friend to Tostock, has introduced the Chronicle to the Editor of "The Village", a magazine published quarterly by the National Council of Social Service, price 1/-. The Editor has said he will include the three numbers of the Chronicle in the Winter number of his magazine. So Tostock is on the way to immortality.

2. Graveyard Extension. On 6th September the wall was finished. It looks extremely well. Built into it is the Commemoration Stone (3ft. x 1ft. 6 ins. x 6ins.) on which is encribed "This Churchyard wall was built by Tostock men who gave their services in 1955". The Mason who supplied the stone intimated it was very heavy. Too heavy for the little Ford Van which first went to fetch it. Too heavy for Mr. Aubrey Mulley's trailer. At last Mr. Jewers brought it out in a 5ton lorry. And there the Stone lay, near the wall, a problem and a weighty one. It was thought to weigh a quarter of a ton. A crane or sheer legs seemed to be required. But no-one need have worried, Mr. Ben Buckle and Mr. Pat Everitt rolled up their sleeves, spat on their hand and lifted it gently into place.

Before the wall was finished a bottle containing the signatures of those who built the wall was deposited inside it, near the Stone. A small collection of coins was buried with it. A similar ceremony was carried out by Queen Victoria's orders a hundred years ago when the foundation stone of Balmoral Castle was laid in 1853. Ivor Brown in his book BALMORAL says "There was a cavity in which a bottle was laid containing a parchment record signed by all the family; it also held current coins". Tostock has followed a Royal precedent.

By 27th September the evenings were too short to allow of voluntary work being carried on in daylight. And as by that time the fencing was nearly completed and the rest could be done on a Saturday afternoon, it was decided to have a little celebration in the Gardeners Arms at 8 o'clock that evening. It was a cheerful party. One or two impromptu speeches were made, one or two rounds of drinks were stood, and the Rector made a good speech thanking all who had taken part in this combined operation. He hoped soon to arrange with the Bishop to consecrate the extension, and he would, if he could, have it on a Saturday afternoon so that those who built the wall could attend.

3. The Village Hall. There is little to record. Work on the Hall, had, literally, to go to the wall! It was sad to see the ragwort rearing its prolific head where so lately the ladies had been clearing up the weeds and debris. But that will soon be remedied, now that the Management Committee can give their whole attention to the Hall.

4. A Bus Shelter. Representatives of the Parish Council met the Deputy Council Surveyor on 22nd September. Thanks to Mr. Jewers, who showed that he had missed his vocation and should have been a barrister, the Deputy Surveyor agreed to modify his previous ruling that the shelter would have to be eighty yards west of Tostock Corner. He is now prepared to advise the County Council that the distance can be reduced to Thirty yards. This makes a considerable difference.

The Thedwastre Rural District Council have been considering whether or not they can make a contribution. It seems probable that they will; and possibly the County Council too. And Tostock must provide the rest, either on the Rates or by voluntary subscription. So much money is wanted for so many things that it looks as if a bus shelter will have to be, for a time, a vision of the future.

5. Village Green, the Leys, Footpaths and Rights of Way. One advantage of autumn is that the grass does not grow. The Parish Council, with a sigh of relief, were able to defer consideration of this problem till next spring. There are signs that something may transpire.. Someone at the Gardeners Arms said something about the Happy Gang tackling the Leys next summer. And someone else said he had bought an old horse mower and rake which could be towed behind a tractor. If that should work the whole Leys and Green will look as trim as the part which Mr. Mann has mown, for which by the way he has never been thanked. Perhaps he will accept this honourable mention instead.

6. Conclusion. Not yet in sight!