

JUNE 1958

1. Foreword.

The local government elections are over and Tostock's representation on the West Suffolk County Council, the Thedwastre Rural District Council and the Parish Council is settled for another three years. The only contested election was for the County Council, in which there were four candidates. The electioneering took place in an atmosphere of friendly rivalry.

2. West Suffolk County Council.

The successful candidate for the Beyton Division was Mr. John Walters of Slough Farm, Great Ashfield. Any questions which may arise concerning Highways and Bridges, Education, Health and County Planning will be referred to him so far as Tostock is affected.

3. Thedwastre Rural District Council.

The Councillor for Tostock is Captain R.H. Errington. The Council's responsibilities include Housing, Water and Sewerage, and Civil Defence.

4. Tostock Parish Council.

The following Councillors were elected unopposed:-

Mr. F. G. Armstrong, later elected Chairman.
Mr. A. V. Cutting.
Capt. R. H. Errington. Clerk.
Mr. F. R. Fisher.
Mr. C. H. Haselwood.
Mr. L. F. Knock.
Mr. L. A. Moore.
Mr. R. I. Mulley.
Mrs. F. M. L. Waylett.

The Council is responsible for the general upkeep of Rights of Way and all matters affecting the welfare of the village.

5. The Green and the Leys.

Mowing these common lands is the annual problem which confronts the Parish Council. A tractor and mower is at present available, and in the past Mr. Ben Buckle has kindly operated them in his spare time at a nominal fee; but now, willing though he is, he can no longer oblige. Efforts are being made to interest other villages similarly placed and press for assistance from the County Council. Of course the residents of a village must pay for the privilege of having a tidy Green, and if the County Council would hire out the machines and a gang to do the job, the tidy appearance of Suffolk villages would be part of an organisation, instead of being dependent upon haphazard methods and chance, as at present.

6. Church Road.

The lower part of Church Road during the month of June is one of the most dangerous roads in Suffolk, because the verges are not cut and high banks of Sheep's Parsley, grass and nettles obstruct the view. A small black van was nearly knocked for six by a large black car the other day. Cyclists, motorcyclists and children should be particularly careful in this road. Tostock needs the services of a regular road lengthman.

7. Best Kept Village Competition.

Tostock is not yet in a position to enter for this excellent competition, but, all the same, residents can be proud of the fact that within their powers a great deal has been achieved. They can be proud of the Churchyard and the Village Hall; the Wesleyan Chapel has been painted and looks extremely nice; some residents have mown the grass outside their garden fences; the Jubilee Seat has been repaired and remains undamaged; and, best of all, some of the gardens of Tostock are really beautiful.

8. Natural History.

A remarkable story comes from Elmswell New Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Chamen have a large family of cats, about two dozen including married daughters and collaterals. It was decided that some would have to go to that heavenly bourne where good cats go; and a vet was summoned to be the executioner. Someone must have mentioned this in the stable yard because when the vet arrived not a cat was to be found. One hour later, when the vet had left and was well on the road to Bury, the entire family appeared again.

9. Small birds have been a pest this year pecking out the eyes of polyanthus buds. Black cotton does not seem to deter them. A Norfolk gardener, Mr. Digman, says that white pepper sprinkled on the blossoms will cure the birds of this mischievous habit. Mr. Woodley, the Suffolk gardener, advises putting a pinch of salt on their tails. A Surrey gardener thinks that the solution is to plant polyanthus very close together.

10. Little Haugh, Norton.

An article on Little Haugh Hall by Norman Scarfe appeared in a recent issue of Country Life. The house was bought and modernised in 1730 or 40 by Cox Marco, who was the eldest son of a leading Bury tradesman. He lived in Cupola House in the Traverse, Bury St. Edmunds, and gave Little Haugh to his son. The accounts for the alterations and decorations are enumerated in the article. It is recorded that "the sashframes of my house at 15/- the frame" were the work of "J. Pamant with his son and apprentice, and R. Barnes, with his son Peter."

11. Newcomers.

The popularity of Tostock as a place of residence continues to increase. In the past year the village has seen with pleasure half a dozen newcomers. The Parish Council, on behalf of the residents, extends a cordial welcome to the newcomers and hopes they will soon feel at home in Tostock.