

August 1959.

1. The Green and the Leys. Every effort has been made by the Parish Council to keep these reasonably mown, but the problem has been too great.

The Green needs mowing at least three times a year. Owing to unfortunate circumstances it could only be done once; the cost in man hours, at three shillings and fourpence an hour, was £3.3.2d; the machines and petrol were provided free of charge. So three times a year by contract would be something like £20, which is a fourpenny rate, and would leave the Parish Council with no money for other things.

The Council is grateful to those residents who mow the strips outside their gardens; and to Mr. Grimwood for mowing the triangle abreast the Post Office; and to Mr. Archie Clarke for scything the verges near his house. These pieces give a glimpse of how the whole village green should look, but that cannot be achieved without assistance from the County Council. After all it is not residents alone who derive pleasure from the appearance of Suffolk villages.

The Leys presents a bigger problem. The wild growth is full of snags and those owners of mowers who have tried to keep it moderately tidy have had their machines damaged several times. The fringes have been mown once this year at a labour cost of £1, exclusive of the cost of repairs to the machine.

2. Best Kept Village Competition. This excellent competition has been won this year by Monks Eleigh (population over 400) and Brandeston (under 400). Tostock, of course, could not enter; we are too hampered by our Green and Leys. But Mr. N. Parker has visited the two winning villages in order to see how Tostock compares with them, and what chance there is of our competing in the future. He used the marking system laid down by the Rural Community Council and the results are shown in the following table.

	Monks Eleigh	Brandeston	Tostock
	Maximum Per marks .cent.	Per Marks. cent.	Per Marks. cent.
Village Centre	. 100.	. 100 .	. 60 .
Village Green	. None.	. None.	. 30 .
Ponds	. None.	. None.	. None. .
Playing Field	. None.	. 100*.	. None. .
Churchyard	. 80.	. 80*.	. 100 .
Bus Shelter	. None.	. 80 .	. None. .
Surrounds Village Hall	. 50.	. See note*.	. 100 .
Surrounds War Memorial	. See. note*	. 50*.	. See note*
Surrounds Inns	. 90.	. 100 .	. 100 .
Surrounds School	. See note*	. None .	. None .
	<u>45</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>38</u>
Hedges, fences, walls, Cleanliness of verges	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>
Advertisements, notices	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>

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	Maximum marks	Monks Eleigh Marks	Brandeston Marks	Tostock Marks
Flower & Vegetable gardens, allotments outhouses, sheds.	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>
General appearance. Absence of litter.	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Total</u>	120	111	113	75

Notes\*

Monks Eleigh. The War Memorial is inside the church.  
The surrounds to school as seen from the  
village need no upkeep.

Notes\*

Brandeston. Brandeston Hall is a private school. They  
maintain and use the playing field which is in  
perfect condition. The Village Hall is in the  
playing field; marks were awarded to the latter  
and not to the former.  
The churchyard had been trimmed by the boys of  
the private school.  
The War Memorial is in the Cemetery which is in  
a neglected state.

Tostock. The War Memorial is inside the church.

Mr. Parker points out that as Tostock had not entered for the  
competition no special work had been done on the verges, or  
advertisements, or on clearing up litter. In both Monks Eleigh  
and Brandeston the verges were clean and trim, and all had been  
done by volunteers; (a bonus to the Highways and Bridges Committee!)

The difficult part of the competition is the group for which  
45 marks are awarded, and happy is the village that has no village  
green. All villages have churchyards, and these are generally in  
various states of shabbiness. Mr. Parker says that Monks Eleigh's  
and Brandeston's are "nothing to write home about"; even  
Chelsworth, which is perfection in every other detail, has a  
churchyard that is not "up to snuff." The model churchyard and  
cemetery are to be seen in Cavendish; they are beautifully kept.

3. Keep Britain Tidy Week. A group fostered by the National Federation  
of Women's Institutes inaugurated a "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign  
during the August bank holiday. The posters were displayed in  
Tostock. Courage is required to advance this project. A certain  
man was motoring from Beyton to Tostock. Suddenly from the  
nearside window of a car ahead of him there fluttered out a piece of  
white paper, followed by a carton which had contained 50 cigarettes;  
and they fell by the wayside.

What should the man have done? He should have taken the  
number of the car; picked up the offending litter; and sent a  
report to the police.

Did he do it? No. He said he was alone in his car without  
witnesses; that the driver of the other car would have denied all  
knowledge; and had forgotten who was in the car with him. Which,  
of course, is all me eye and Betty Martin.

4. Council Bungalows. Thedwastre Rural District Council accepted the recommendations for allocation of tenancies for two bungalows which the Tostock Parish Council had forwarded as a result of a secret ballot.
5. Contact with the County Council. The Parish Council are grateful to Mr. John Walters, our County Council representative, for attending their meetings. He has already helped the village in a certain matter and made our Council feel that they are in touch with the County Council.
6. Natural History. Did anyone hear the cuckoo after 1st June? It has been a lovely summer but what happened to the cuckoos? His or her note, both the male and female birds utter it though generally the male, is part of the joys of summer.

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