

PARISH COUNCIL: Thirty four parishioners attended the open meeting in December to discuss the proposed precept for a 2p rate for the purpose of repaying loan towards the purchase of land to extend the playing field. Long discussion took place with regard to the need for the extra land and it was felt to be in the interests of the whole village to go ahead with the purchase. Through the Parish Council Mr. Armstrong had negotiated with Mid-Suffolk District Council and had managed to obtain grants totalling £1,300, thereby considerably reducing the amount to be borrowed. The Village Hall Management Committee were investigating the possibility of a very low interest loan rising to a maximum of 8% and with the grants from Mid-Suffolk the amount borrowed could be covered by a 1p rate over eight years. Concern was felt in the event of a higher interest rate loan and the Chairman personally guaranteed to meet the difference of the extra rate if need be. The proposal to accept the 1p rate was put to the vote and carried 24 for with 3 against. There were seven abstentions including 4 minors.

Concern has been shown regarding the bad state of some footpaths in the Parish and the respective landowners have been requested to re-instate them.

A SOLO CLUB has been formed for Divorced, Separated, Widowed and Single folk between the ages of 25 and 60. Meetings are held on Mondays at 8.00 p.m. in St. Mary's Institute, Bridewell Lane, Bury St. Edmunds. Anyone interested can obtain further information by telephoning Pakenham 31495.

The Precept for 1981/82 was discussed at the last Council meeting and thanks to the very careful budgeting by the treasurer Mr. F. Armstrong this has been set at $\frac{1}{2}$ p. Together with the 1p agreed as above this means that the precept for this Village will be a $1\frac{1}{2}$ p rate - about the lowest for the Mid-Suffolk District. Thanks were also recorded to Mr. Kevin Spencer for his Editorship and Mr. Charles Marriott for his free printing of the Tostock Chronicle.

Readers are reminded that there is a FREE PEST AND VERMIN CONTROL SERVICE available. The Council control officer attends this village on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can be contacted by phoning Stowmarket 5234.

Following a few instances of petty theft, the Police have asked parishioners to be more vigilant and security-minded in the locking-up of garages, sheds, outhouses etc. Leaflets on the subject are available at the Post Office.

CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW, TOSTOCK - The Services in February and March will be as follows:-

February	1st	Joint Service for the 3 Parishes at Norton	10.30
	8th	Matins	10.00
	15th	Family Service	11.00
	22nd	Holy Communion	9.30
March	1st	Joint Service for the 3 Parishes at Tostock	10.30
	4th	ASH WEDNESDAY Lent commences	
	8th	Matins	10.00
	15th	Family Service	11.00
	22nd	SUMMER TIME BEGINS. Holy Communion	9.30
	29th	Mothering Sunday - Mothering Sunday Service	10.00

The Carol Service was held on 21st December 1980 and was conducted by Mrs. South. During the Service the children took their gifts and placed them around the Christmas Tree and these gifts were subsequently taken to the Battered Wives Refuge in Bury St. Edmunds.

A short Crib Service for the children was held on Christmas Eve at 3.30 and Holy Communion was at 11 o'clock on Christmas morning - both services were well attended and were conducted by the Rev. Nicholas Cribb.

Following the untimely death of Mrs. Joyce Chamen we find ourselves to be the Legatees of £1000 which she left to the Rector and Church Wardens of St. Andrews Church, Tostock. Mrs. Chamen will be greatly missed. Although she rarely attended the Church in person she gave us her support in every conceivable way on many occasions over the years. Our sympathy and condolences were sent to her family at the time.

On 7th December a pleasing ceremony took place at the Joint Service at Tostock conducted by the Rev. J. Hall, when he consecrated a gift of Cruets and Linen from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dahl. Mr. Dahl was a Warden of this Church but he and Mrs. Dahl left to take up residence in Bury St. Edmunds.

The Rev. John Hall, after consultation with all three parishes, is arranging a Lenten discussion group on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. Two of these will be held in private houses in Tostock, the other four equally divided between the other two parishes.

We have pleasure in welcoming Canon Chapman back amongst us after his temporary sojourn in Yugoslavia where he was Chaplain to a Group of mixed nationalities aged over 60, some 400/500 in number. He has asked us to include a message from him on his return.

Letter from Canon Chapman - It is so nice to get home again to the warmth and fellowship of parishes like Tostock. Being away for Christmas made us feel very homesick. But there was work to be done and a great privilege to share with the Roman Catholics in their church for midnight Mass - to shake hands and embrace many Yugoslavs, and then on 7th January to share with the Serbian Orthodox in their service in the 14th century church in Dubrovnik with its wonderful and powerful singing - no seats, one stands all the time - some 2½ hours, women on the left and men on the right, but again a warm fellowship. And not least our own English service in the hotel. Never once in 7 weeks and 6 weeks in The Spring did I hear a Yugoslav child crying - they are made of laughter and courtesy. (like Tostock !).

Sunday School - Weekly collections have amounted to £9.54. The children have decided to share this between the National Association for the Deaf and the Spastics.

VILLAGE HALL: At last we are able to report that funds are available to purchase 2½ acres of land behind the Village Hall for use as a playing field. We hope to exchange contracts during February and complete the purchase in July.

Approximately 400 shrubs and trees have been obtained and will be placed around the boundary of the new playing field and in selected places along the site of the old A45 road.

New cupboards are being purchased as part of a plan to completely refit the kitchen by the end of the year. A public phonebox will be installed in the hall early in February.

TOSTOCK W.I. NEWS: Tostock W.I. held a Christmas Party for all the Senior Citizens of the village, instead of their usual December meeting. After a few carols, members served a delicious tea, including a Christmas cake made by Mrs. Roberts and given by Mrs. Andrews. A draw was made for a number of small parcels and the afternoon ended with an excellent entertainment by members of Woolpit W.I. accompanied on the piano by our Vice-President, Mrs. P. Reynolds. The President wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Mr. Reynolds proposed a vote of thanks to the W.I. on behalf of the visitors.

In January, in place of a speaker, the W.I. had a hilarious evening of games with members "having a go" at Table Tennis, Darts, Scrabble, etc., and finishing up with a Beetle Drive which was won by Mrs. P. Reynolds.

OSTOCK BROWNIES: The Brownies' next event will be the Jumble Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 7th February at 2.30 p.m., admission 5p. This will be a joint venture with the newly formed Elmswell Brownie pack. If anyone has any jumble they would like to donate, please contact either Mrs. Spencer (tel. 70395) or Mrs. Andrews (tel. 70858) who would be happy to collect it. Proceeds will help pay the annual subscription fee to Headquarters, now at £2.50 per Brownie.

As a result of our successful Christmas Mini-market, the Brownies decided, after much discussion, to send a donation of £40 to the Blue Peter Appeal for homes for crippled people, £25 to Jimmy Saville's Stoke Mandeville Hospital Appeal and £25 to the newly formed Elmswell pack. A further £65 has been set aside to cover the cost of the telephone installation in the Village Hall. The pack would like to thank all the kind people who supported them in various ways.

Early in all our Brownies living in Elmswell have now transferred to the Elmswell pack and this means for the first time in many years there are one or two vacancies at Tostock.

Tostock Brownies will be joining other Brownies and Guides for a Thinking Day Service at Woolpit Church on Sunday 22nd Feb. at 3.0 p.m.

OSTOCK PLAYGROUP: Our thanks go to all those who contributed to our Carol Singing in December. Although it was a wet night and a few were unable to come owing to illness, we raised £21.9¹/₂p which has been sent to the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths. A few tickets are still available for our dance on Sat. 14th Feb. (St. Valentine's Day), from Mrs. Julie Harrison (tel. 70247) or Mrs. Doreen Buckle (tel. 70605).

OSTOCK CRICKET CLUB: The Club confirms its support for the Village Hall Management Committee's decision to purchase additional land for recreational purposes. A donation of £330 is pledged from the Club comprising £50 from Club funds and £280 from personal loans from members. Various fund raising activities will be organised for 1981 starting with a Barn Dance in the Village Hall on Sat. 21st March. More space is needed for Barn Dancing than for modern dancing, so tickets (price £1.75) will be limited to 100. Book early to avoid disappointment with M.L. Spencer (Beyton 70395).

OSTOCK BRIDGE CLUB: Meetings will re-start on Monday, 9th February. All Bridge players are welcome. Unless we can increase our membership we may be forced to fold up the Club.

T.O.A.D.S.: After two public performances, the Pantomime "Sinbad the Sailor" has proven to be highly entertaining in the true T.O.A.D.S. tradition. There will be a full report in the next Chronicle.