

TOSTOCK CHRONICLE

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JUNE 1961

1. Local Government - The elections are over and for the next three years our representatives will be as follows:-

- a. West Suffolk County Council. Mr. J. Walters.
- b. Thedwastre Rural District Council. Mr. F. Armstrong.
- c. Tostock Parish Council.

Mr. A. Cutting.  
" Lt. Moore.  
" F. Armstrong.  
" A. Henderson.  
" H. Sherwood.  
Capt. R. Errington.  
Mr. R. Mully.  
Mrs. G. Waylett.  
Mr. A. Layng.

It was decided at the Parish Meeting to have an election for the Tostock Parish Council. The Chronicle offers hearty congratulations to M. A. Cutting for obtaining the largest number of votes.

2. The Royal Visit - As announced in the press Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Bury St. Edmunds on Friday the 21st July. They are due to arrive at the Abbey Gate at 4.15 p.m. It has been published that on the route from Ipswich to Bury St. Edmunds, wherever there is a collection of people, the Royal Car will reduce speed to 8 miles per hour. As a guess it may be assumed therefore that they will pass Tostock Corner, near Tostock House somewhere between 3.30 and 3.45 p.m. but presumably more details of the times will be published. It is expected there will be quite a few people at Tostock Corner to welcome them.

3. The Lays - Residents will have seen with pleasure that Mr. Hector Mann is, with great public spirit, tidying up the east side of the Lays. His machines and lorry have been hard at work; many old tins have come to the surface in the part where the Rural District Council made a dump to fill the depression.

It is a big task that Mr. Mann has kindly undertaken. It will make a great difference to the appearance of the Lays and he deserves the thanks of everyone in Tostock.

4. The Churchyard - Every year and after every funeral it becomes more difficult and more expensive to keep the Churchyard Extension mown because of the mounds over graves. The Chronicle understands that this is realised by the Parochial Church Council and the suggestion has been made that authority might be obtained to forbid the erection of mounds in future.

It is a matter that ~~people~~ residents should ~~consider~~ seriously. Unless some action is taken the resting places of those we love and respect will be despoiled by the wilderness in which they lie. Some people think we should endeavour to remove all mounds, in both the new and the old part. Few people realise how many hours of work these mounds entail. Perhaps those who want mounds could be asked to guarantee their upkeep.

5. An Old Tostock Record - An old ~~parishment~~ bound book has come to light. On the dilapidated cover is written "Tostock Town Book 1771." It records in quaint writing, and spelling, all transactions for the relief of the poor and needy from 1771 to the end of the century.

On 13th April 1771 the Town House, where distressed persons were housed and cared for by the parish, was destroyed by fire, and the Rev. Orbell Ray lent the parish £150 to rebuild it. It would be interesting to know if any old residents remember hearing of this Town House, and have any idea where it was situated.

To provide funds a rate of elevenpence in the pound was levied on all residents; this realised about £50 per annum. The fund was administered by "Officers" (sic) consisting of two Churchwardens, two Overseers, and two Constables. The rent paid to Mr. Ray was £5:10:-d. per annum. Details of the disbursements are carefully recorded; they are entertaining reading on account of the spelling and the small sums which achieved so much.

Here are a few extracts:-

Burial charges for G. Wright's wife:-

for a coffin.	£0. 8. 0.
for the winding	3. 0.
Val Markins for laying of her	2. 6.
for Appedavy	6.

Three years later another funeral was more expensive:-

1774. For the coffin for Richard Elder. £0. 9. 0.  
 For laying forth. 5. 0.  
 For the winding. 4. 0.  
 For the Appedavy. 6.  
 Samuel Copey for the Bell and Grave. 3. 0.  
 For reading the Burrell. 2. 0.

Here are some details of clothes:-

For Britchers for the boy Jordan.	3. 5.
Given to the Widow Midson in time of need.	6.
For a blew montel.	2. 6.
For a pair of shoues.	3. 6.
For a pair of pattons.	1. 0.
Goody Wilkin for Ann Bullet's things.	3. 6.
For mending Robert Cadge's shoes.	3.

The book is being kept for safe custody in the iron chest in the Vestry.

6. Natural History - The Chronicle notes that no magpies have been seen this year. It is hoped they have learnt that the nesting sites in Tostock are precarious places.