

# TOSTOCK CHRONICLE

298

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2010



There was much sadness on the Green on Monday 30th November 2009 when the once majestic Chestnut tree was felled and quickly reduced to a heap of logs.

Some residents had tears in their eyes and many remarks were heard

'I feel gutted to see this tree come down'

'No matter what tree is planted, Tostock will never be the same to me'

'We have had many picnics under that tree'

'I climbed it as a lad and so did my boys but my grandchildren will never have that pleasure'

'I used to wait under the tree for my Dad to come out of the pub and he would hold my hand as we walked home. Then he would give me a bag of Smiths crisps with the little twist of blue paper with salt.'

And many more comments.

One voice was heard to say 'It is only a tree',

but to many it was much more than that.

Someone else remarked that 'The tree stood on the Green like a Grandmother waiting to welcome her children back home'

In 1973 the large 200 year old Chestnut tree on the Leys was felled and was, and is still known by those who remembered it as

'THE LADY OF THE LEYS'

Perhaps the tree that has just been felled will be called 'THE GRANDMOTHER OF THE GREEN'



# Parish Council

A meeting was held on 2nd December chaired by Cllr.D.Harman  
Clerk Mrs.M.Bottomley.  
Apologies Cllrs.V.Malcom.  
Present Cllrs.M.Beales, D.Plester, P.Parsons, Ed.Wadsworth and M.Burman.  
Also present four parishioners.

At the Public Forum the sum of £162. profit from the recent fireworks evening was handed to the Parish Council with the request that this should be donated to WENT. This was agreed and a vote of thanks was expressed to everyone concerned with this event.

A question was raised that it was noted that the application to erect four single storey dwellings in Norton Road had been approved by the Planning Department but it was explained that progress could not be made until the boundary dispute had been resolved.

The consideration to co-opt a new councillor was deferred until the next meeting.

The council meeting then commenced

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th October were approved and signed.

Matters arising -

Tostock Website up-date. Information still not forthcoming so nothing to report.

Young Peoples Group Progressing and well attended.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Nothing further to be done for a few months.

No reports were received from either the County Councillor or District Councillor.

A written communication was received from the Suffolk Constabulary stating there were no crimes reported in this village between 25th October and 1st December.

Chestnut Tree on the Green has been felled and in response to the request for suggestions for a replacement tree the English Oak came on top. Cllrs.Plester and Harman will negotiate for a suitable specimen which needs to be planted as soon as possible. T.W.Landscapes will undertake this work and set up a maintenance and irrigation system.

Work on the village hall car park has been completed.

Grit bins had been purchased but not yet received.

Marquees have been purchased and delivered.

Eight cheques were presented and approved for payment.

After discussion for the provision of 'doggie bins' only one councillor was in favour and 5 voted against. Enforcement action should be exercised and if anyone is seen not to pick up the litter information should be passed to the Parish Council for the appropriate action to be taken.

Photocopier. This is now only used for the printing of the Tostock Chronicle and other village news items. The Chronicle gets bigger with every issue.

Although this is a free publication the cost is in fact covered by the precept on the council tax. It was agreed that Cllr.Harman would look into the possibilities of a lower cost of printing and will report his findings at the next meeting.

There were no new Planning Applications but Cllr.Burman advised the council that the new date for the MSDC Planning Committee to discuss the Meadow House site Application 1857/07 has been set for 23rd December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8-55pm.

J.E.W.

# Parish Council

A meeting was held on 13th January chaired by Cllr.D.Harman.

Clerk Mrs.M.Bottomley

Present Cllrs M.Beales, D.Plester, V.Malcom, Mr.Burman and Ed.Wadsworth.

Also present Dr.S.Waitkins and Mr.W.Moore both prospective new parish councillors.

P.C.Swain and three parishioners were also in attendance.

It was agreed that Cllr.Harman would remain as chairman until the Annual Parish Council meeting when new officers are elected.

**PUBLIC FORUM** There was concern in the village that one of the refuse collections was a day early over the Christmas period and very few residents were aware that this had been arranged. It was suggested and agreed that a letter of complaint be sent from the Parish Council requesting that any such alterations to collection schedules be sent for insertion in the Tostock Chronicle.

**THE MEETING THEN COMMENCED.**

Both candidates and public left the meeting whilst the co-option of the new candidates was discussed. These were approved and everyone then rejoined the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising. Meadow House site. Cllrs.Burman,Harman and Plester all declared an interest and it was learned that a site meeting had been held that very morning and it was unofficially learned that planning permission had been granted for the erection of two properties but the official details were yet to be received from the District Council.

A Pin Oak tree had been purchased to replace the chestnut tree and arrangements for its planting will be made as soon as conditions are suitable. There was a discussion to have a formal planting ceremony and to make a commemorate donation to 'HELP THE HEROS' with possibly an officer from the Anglian Regiment to be present and to receive the donation. This was proposed by Cllr.Burman and seconded by Cllr Beales with all in favour. There were no reports from either the Suffolk Cty.Cllr.or the Dist.Cllr.

P.C.Swain reported one crime of the theft of diesel from a car in the village but no other reported crimes between 2nd December 2009 to 8th January 2010.

Photocopier. Cllr.Harman updated the council on his enquiries regarding a replacement machine. It was agreed to proceed further and for it to be available for other village organisations at a small covering cost.

The precept was discussed in depth and Cllr.Malcom proposed and seconded by Cllr.Beales to precept for £4,000 for the coming year with all in agreement. Seven cheques were presented and agreed for payment.

Risk Assessment. No further progress but it was requested that this be completed by the end of the financial year.

Planning Application, There were no objections to the trimming of a Walnut Tree in the grounds of Park House.

The Grit Bins have now been received after the delivery of grit. The original delivery of bins were apparently faulty.

The new development in Norton Road is to be named Ashley Close. Picnic Benches in the village. There was a proposal to place picnic tables and benches on the village green and as a replacement to the bench by the Lays pond. Four voted in favour, Three against and one abstention. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

A.O.B.Cllr.Malcom brought to the attention of the meeting that special events were to be held in connection with the 2012 olympics, but that any event must be held over the period of 23 - 25 July and a donation would be granted to all the villages partaking. It was agreed that this village should take advantage of this opportunity and that a VILLAGE FUN DAY would be held on SUNDAY 24th JULY. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9-50 p.m.

J.E.W.

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Church Services February/March/April 2010.  
St Andrew's Church Tostock

7<sup>th</sup> February 10am Joint Benefice Service Norton Church  
14<sup>th</sup> February 10am Morning Praise Tostock  
17<sup>th</sup> February 10am Ash Wednesday Service Norton School Close.  
21<sup>st</sup> February 10am Holy Communion BCP  
28<sup>th</sup> February 10am Morning Prayer BCP

7<sup>th</sup> March 10am Joint Benefice Service Tostock  
14<sup>th</sup> March 10am Mothering Sunday Service  
21<sup>st</sup> March 10am Holy Communion BCP  
28<sup>th</sup> March 10am Morning Prayer BCP

2<sup>nd</sup> April 10am Good Friday Service  
4<sup>th</sup> April 10am Easter Day Family Communion  
11<sup>th</sup> April 10am Morning Praise  
18<sup>th</sup> April 10am Holy Communion BCP  
25<sup>th</sup> April 10am Morning Prayer BCP

#### Church News

We are planning a 'Big Weekend' for Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup>, with lots of activities happening! A Fete on the Green on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and an Exhibition in church with Scarecrows (and others) in the Churchyard. This is all very much in the early planning stage, and any ideas and offers of help will be most appreciated!

The village organisations are welcome to have a stall, game, exhibition etc., with proceeds divided between the organisation and St Andrew's Church. If you would like to offer help, or have a stall, or could sponsor a programme of events, please contact Sue Marriott 270143 or Jeanne O'Reilly 270337.

The Advent Pasada was a great success again this year. Mary, Joseph and their donkey visited lots of families in the village and had many exciting adventures, going to parties, helping to deliver Christmas trees and walking in the snow. They arrived at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, to be welcomed by all the children. A big 'thank you' to everyone who took care of them on their journey.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with our Christmas celebrations at St Andrew's Church, to Sam for the Carol Service, to Frances for leading the Crib Service, to all those who generously gave presents for the Bury Refuge, to the children who performed the Nativity and to the ladies who decorated the Church beautifully. We were very fortunate to have four organists to play for our services during Christmas, Rebecca Williams, Simon Spence, Elizabeth Teverson and Matthew Walker. Thanks to them all, and to Rupert Clifton who plays for us at so many services.

The PCC meets on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at Spring Cottage at 7.30pm. The floodlights at Church were sponsored during January by Mrs Dean, in memory of the late Colonel Dean.

The Suffolk Historic Trust holds the sponsored Cycle Ride in September. For many years Miss Sherwood has organised this event for St Andrew's Church and has persuaded people to cycle. The sponsorship money is shared between the Trust, which makes much-needed donations to church repairs, and our own Parish Church funds. We now need someone to take over the Cycle Ride organisation for Tostock as Miss Sherwood would like to give up the job. If anyone can help, it is not a huge task, please contact Miss Sherwood on 270308.

## News From The Tower Of St. Andrew's.

Christmas Eve 2009 was a very important milestone in our short history, as it marked our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Christmas Eve at approximately 2.00pm a band of ringers including myself gathered in the tower to ring a ¼ peal of Plain Bob Doubles. I was joined by some of Tostock's "best Friends", namely Winston and Carol Girling, Carl Melville, Betty Baines and Elizabeth Teverson, The ringing was dedicated to Ranald Clouston MBE, who had been a great help to us while we were restoring the bells, and he bought us our treble bell in memory of his wife. When we had finished our ¼ peal there was still time for all Tostock's regular ringers to ring before the Crib Service.

On New Year's Eve we congregated in the tower again to ring out the old and ring in the New Year as we have done for the past 10 years, followed by our other well rehearsed practice of drinking a glass or two of champagne back at Ann's house!

We have already welcomed two visiting bands to Tostock this year, and are look forward to another busy and enjoyable year of ringing.

Sue Marriott, Tower Captain.

# SPANISH

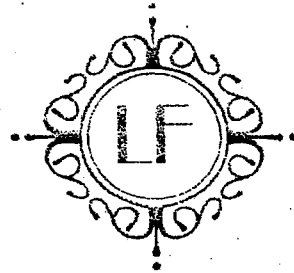


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SIGN OF THE TIMES: Tostock's Beautiful Britain award in December 1983.

This photograph was recently re-produced in the EADT. Some readers might be interested in its history. It shows John Swain Chairman of the Dist.Council presenting Mike O'Reilly Vice Chairman of the P.C. and Chairman of the VHMC with an oak framed notice board - which is still in the village hall.

Up until the late 1950's the Leys was covered with gorse bushes and bracken. Villagers decided to clear all this and working parties were organised. Another pond/pit was found on the eastern side which was filled in with 'spoils' from road workings and grassed over to create the area we now know. The larger pond was left but gradually became choked up and in April 1983 it was decided to clear it out in two stages with advice from the Suffolk Conservation Corps. The work was carried out in two stages to comply with the Wildlife Act. This is a copy of the report in the Tostock Chronicle Oct/Nov.1983. As a result Tostock was entered for the Beautiful Britain award which it subsequently won.

#### THE LEYS POND YIELDS UP ITS SECRETS

As the conservation work proceeds the first discovery was a wrought iron garden gate which it seems had lifted itself off its hinges some years ago and 'gone walkabout' in the dead of night, but apparently managed to stagger no farther than the Leys before taking the plunge.

The second, and to the Ecologists much more exciting event, was the sighting of a Crested Newt among the rushes. Evidently "there's life in the old pond yet" and this encourages the hope that the effort is being made just in time to save this little wildlife sanctuary as well as enhancing an attractive approach to the village.

Other residents in the photograph reading from left to right are - Mary Rouse, Evelyn Nunn P.Cllr, Ray Rouse, Bernard Siffleet Dist.Cllr, Bill Hoadley P.Cllr, Jean Wheeler Clerk to P.C., Daisy Moore, Len Moore, three members of the Dist.Cll. centre male Ray Melvin and Tony Villar Chairman P.C.

Three residents - Chris Buxton, P.Buckle and Trevor Cocksedge continued to act as pond wardens, but as Peter eventually took over most of the work it became known as 'Peters Pond'.

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# Tostock Village Association

**Regretably Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committee A did not share our opinion about the unsuitability of the Meadow House site for development.**

**However the members of the planning committee have imposed stringent requirements on the applicant concerning the affordable housing contribution.**

**We have general and specific concerns about the handling of this matter on the part of the officers and committee and to this end we are seeking legal advice on the options open to us.**

**WATCH THIS SPACE !**

## *Tostock Bookgroup*

*"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer was generally agreed to be a worthwhile read by the 13 members who braved the snow for the January meeting at Rosemary Lister's house. We also had a Secret Santa Lucky Dip, each contributing a paperback we had read. This provoked much hilarity as they were unwrapped and discussed!*

*The February Meeting will be held at Jasmine Cottage, the Green, the home of Ann Gath, on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. We will discuss "The Cellist of Sarajevo" by Steven Galloway. Library copies are available from Julie Harrison, 270247.*

*On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, we will meet at Rookswood, New Road, by kind invitation of Jeanne O'Reilly. The book planned for this meeting is "The Return" by Victoria Hislop.*

JH

## Service in the Croft, Tostock

15th FEBRUARY

An informal short Service is held on the  
3rd Monday of each month at 10.00 am.

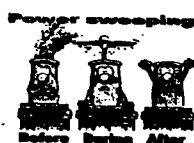
There is time after the service for tea,  
coffee, cakes and a chat. All are welcome  
to come and share in the fellowship,  
which is enjoyed by an increasing number  
of people from the village. Yours in  
Christ, Reverend Sam Long

15th MARCH

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## Tostock Past and Present - Winter Newsletter 2010

Happy New Year to all our members.

We have put together a wide ranging programme for 2010 which is detailed below. **All our meetings will be on the first Tuesday of each month at the new time of 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated.** Our membership fee remains at £10 pa and the visitors fee will be £3. The exception to this will be for the 3 Clive Paine lectures when the charge will be £3 for members and £4 for non-members.

### Programme

Tues Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm - **AGM** + Linda Scoles **"The Yanks are Coming"** (An American view of a Suffolk Village)

Tues March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm - Ron Murrell **"The Green Children of Woolpit"**

TUES MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 7.30PM - CLIVE PAINE (NORTON PT 3)

"VICTORIAN NORTON"

Tues April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm - Dave Steward **"Suffolk Churches & Their Treasures"**

Tues May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm - Grant Elliot **"The Secrets & History of Monopoly"**

TUES MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 7.30PM - CLIVE PAINE "SUFFOLK FOLKLORE"

Tues June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm - Linda Burrows **"The Women's Land Army in East Anglia 1939-1950"**

TUES JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM - CLIVE PAINE - VISIT TO SHELLAND CHURCH

July - Outing to Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse date to be finalised

Tues Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm Peggy Cole MBE **"My Life Story"**

Tues Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm Peter Driver **"It's a Grave Business"**

Tues Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm A speaker from The River Gipping Trust **"The River Gipping"**

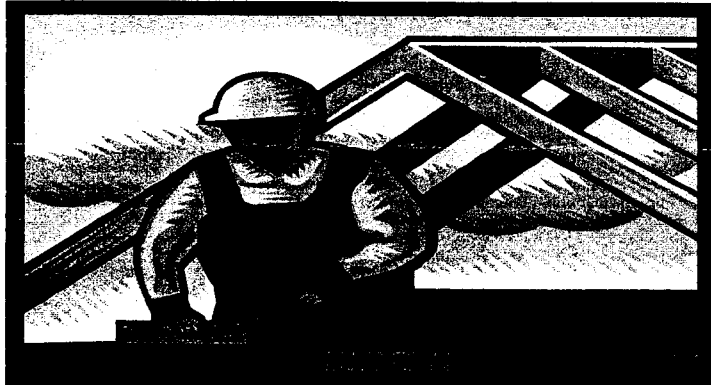
Sat Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Eastern Angles Theatre trip followed by supper at the Gardeners Arms (to be arranged)

On behalf of all the members, the committee would like to thank Brian Symonds for carrying out the duties of treasurer and we hope that the move south works out well. We welcome Derek Beales to the committee, who has volunteered to take over from Brian. We look forward to seeing you all at our meetings.

Anthony Scully (Secretary) Tel 01359270482 email [a.r.scully@btinternet.com](mailto:a.r.scully@btinternet.com)

# **BUILDING WORKS**

## **WOOLPIT HEALTH CENTRE**



**Building work starts on the construction of two new consulting rooms on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Work will be in progress until the end of March 2010.**

**During this time car parking may be difficult during certain times of the day.**

**We apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst work is in progress.**

**The Gardners Arms Landlord Steve wishes it to be known that as from January he has arranged with the Woolpit Health Centre to collect prescriptions from them which can be collected from the Pub on Thursday mornings. People can either phone or E-Mail their repeat order from the surgery and then pick them up locally.**

**Also starting in March it is hoped to open the Potting Shed for morning coffees. Watch out for further details**

A VERY BIG **THANK YOU** TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED THE ELDERLY AND LESS MOBILE RESIDENTS DURING THE BAD WEATHER OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD BE IT SNOW CLEARING OR SHOPPING AND GENERALLY MAKING SURE THAT 'ALL WAS WELL'. HOW VERY LUCKY WE ARE TO LIVE IN SUCH A FRIENDLY AND CARING COMMUNITY.

### Church Social Committee

Apologies to anyone who battled through snow and ice to get to the scheduled January Coffee Morning... we did try to inform as many regulars as possible that we had decided to cancel. In future, if there are really bad weather conditions, please phone Julie Harrison on 270247 to check.

The February Coffee Morning, in the Village Hall, is planned for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10.30am with a Valentine's Day theme, The 9<sup>th</sup> is also the date for March, following our usual pattern of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Bingo will be on the last Tuesday afternoon of the month, so Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> are the next two dates, at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Looking to the summer, we hope to have a **Wedding Flower Festival** in the church on the weekend of July 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Fete on the Green on the Saturday. For this we want to invite anyone who has a wedding dress... their own or a relative's... and would like to display it, along with suitable flowers, photos etc., to get in touch with Julie Harrison on 270247.

JH

### CAROL SINGING

Thank you to all who turned out on a most inhospitable evening to sing carols. Thank you to you all for contributing and listening to us. Sorry we didn't get round to sing to everyone ; an hour and a half was long enough on such a night.

Thank you to Cynthia Dean for her generosity and the brandy, which kept us all going for a little longer.

Thank you also to Simon and Nicola for the very welcome mince pies and mulled wine.

We were able to send £345 to the hospice.

# Midsuffolk Mobile Library — Route 8— calling on alternate Mondays

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Perkins Way

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Tostock

Gardener's Arms

4.10pm—4.30pm

## Dates for the mobile library visits in 2010/2011

January 2010 11th 25th

March 2010 8th 22nd

May 2010 3rd 17th

July 2010 12th 26th

September 2010 6th 20th

November 2010 1st 15th 29th

January 2011 10th 24th

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