

December - 1964

1. Village Hall.

A Parish Meeting was held on 6th October at which Mr. Abbott, the architect, showed a plan and model of the extensions he suggested for the Hall. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Reid of the Rural Community Council who spoke in favour of the plan. Mr. Abbott estimated that the present cost would be £3,000 and stated that it could not be carried out by stages. The meeting adopted the plan in principle and referred it to the Village Hall Management Committee for consideration.

The Management Committee held a meeting on 6th November. In the meantime the Chairman had discussed with Mr. Reid what action would have to be taken to carry out the plan. Briefly this entailed raising within a year £350 and obtaining, through the Parish Council, a ten year loan of £1,000, which would have to be repaid by yearly instalments. This proposal was presented to the meeting by the Chairman and after some discussion it was decided not to raise a loan and not to adopt Mr. Abbott's plan.

Instead a Sub-Committee was appointed to investigate a plan which could be carried out by stages and which would provide the essential improvements in the order of urgency. These were:-

- i. Lavatories.
- ii. A new kitchen.
- iii. Raising of proscenium arch and a permanent stage.
- iv. Dressing rooms.
- v. A Cloak Room for dances.
- vi. Electric heating.

2. Church Affairs.

(a) Christmas Fayre. This will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th December commencing at 2.30 p.m. to raise a fund for heating the Church by electricity. Many attractions are included, particularly a Draw with valuable prizes. Among the Stalls there will be a "White Elephant" Stall and there will be an Auction of second hand and useful articles. Some members of the Parochial Church Council will be making house to house visits to collect articles for the above during the afternoons of Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December. Mr. Henderson, who is in charge of the Draw, asks for helpers to fold and prepare the tickets for the Draw on the afternoon of Thursday 10th at his house from 2.30 onwards.

(b) Carol Service. Singing Carols is one of the pleasures of Christmas. Everyone is invited to attend a Special Service in the Church on Sunday 20th December at 3 p.m. Selected Carols will be sung by members of the Church Choir, the children of the Church and Chapel Sunday School, and by members of the Womens' Institute. The Collection will be divided equally between the Chapel Improvement Fund and the Church Heating Fund.

(c) Church Transport. Should any person living in Tostock have a desire to attend the Church Service at 10 a.m. on a Sunday morning, but cannot do so on account of age or infirmity, the Rector and Churchwardens will endeavour to arrange transport if notified.

(d) Christmas Day Service. Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

3. Chapel Affairs.

(a) Plans for improving the Chapel are progressing, the object being to enable films to be shown and Social Evenings to be held for young people. The cost is not yet known. £50 was raised at the Sale held in June.

(b) A Family Film Service is held in the Chapel once a month the immediate one is on Tuesday 8th December at 7.30 p.m. Anyone interested will be very welcome.

4. Coal Charity.

At the beginning of the year the Trustees asked Mr. Wolton of Bury St. Edmunds to survey and re-stake the Allotments. This he did giving his time and services free of charge. Stakes were driven in to define the boundaries of every plot. It is much regretted that some of the stakes have since been removed the Trustees appeal to Allotment Holders not to remove any more.

There are THREE VACANT ALLOTMENT PLOTS. Applications are invited and should be made to the Rector.

On the advice of the Charity Commissioners the Trustees have sold £381. 12. 7. of 2½% Consols and re-invested the money in 163 shares of the Charity Commissioners Unit Trust.

5. Womens' Institute

At their Annual General Meeting in November the following Officers were elected:-

President Mrs. J. A. Reynolds
Secretary Mrs. G. Andrews
Treasurer Mrs. S. Layng

The President and Members wish it to be known that new Members will be very welcome meetings are held on the third Wednesday in every month.

Residents are reminded that a Carol Party will tour the village on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th December; the proceeds will be given to the Fund for Cancer Research.

6. Best Kept Village.

Tostock is still the Best Kept Village and we are reminded of this by the Trophy on the Green, but Litter remains a headache. Mr. Parker thinks that the Litter Wardens are doing what they can when they are not at School. He was surprised on one Saturday at the end of November to see litter everywhere. A few days later he learnt that Mr. Bert Alderton had temporarily left the village, which explained it. Mr. Alderton has been doing a wonderful job all on his own initiative. Mr. Parker hopes he will soon be back in Tostock walking around with a basket in one hand and a long pair of tongs in the other, picking up every stray bit of litter.

7. Natural History. A red squirrel has been lately seen in Tostock. It is a rare sight; they are charming creatures; it is hoped that no-one will harm them.

In Chronicle No. 31 it was stated that "we never hear the owl now" but some people have since said they often heard it and that the writer must have gone too early to bed. The writer still thinks that that welcome sound is not heard as frequently as it used to be.

8. Postal Information.

There will be a delivery on Sunday 20th December but no deliveries or collections on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The Post Office will be open until 6 p.m. during the week commencing 14th December and will remain open during the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd December.

Arrangements have been made for extra collections starting 14th December everyone is asked to post as early in the day as possible, particularly parcels.