

THE IXWORTH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

ISSUE NO. 337

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'THE FRONT PAGE'

- Thank you to the Friends of Ixworth Primary school for allowing us to use some of their world tour montage of photos for our front and back covers.
- There will not be an annual meeting of the Ixworth Association this year. Next month we will publish the annual accounts and a short piece about our activities this past year.
- Thank you, once again, to everyone who has contributed to this month's Newsletter, it's been amazing how many contributions we've had during the lockdown.
- As Chair of the Association, I would like to publicly thank Paul Cook for all his work in bringing the last few months' publications to print. He has worked tirelessly and the results have been excellent. Thank you.

KEEP SAFE, EVERYONE

Material for the August Newsletter to arrive by Friday 24 July please

The Magazine is available every quarter at 60p per copy or £2.00 per year if paid annually in advance, the Ixworth Newsletter is delivered monthly, free, for the remaining 8 months.

Advertisers: Please contact the Ixworth Association Treasurer, Paul Cook, on 01359 232421.

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We are not currently accepting any new business adverts larger than a quarter page and we do at the moment have a waiting list.

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(for voluntary group rates, please contact Paul Cook)

If you have any problem with the distribution of your Magazine/Newsletter, or if you would like to help in any way, please contact Ann Mathews

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Paul Cook, Lizzy Fordham, Mary Hooker, Ann Mathews (07941152244), Ann Taylor

**(All contributions to Cousins Antiques Shop, 27, High Street, please
or email to ixworthmag@yahoo.co.uk)**

Ixworth Village Website - www.ixworth-village.co.uk

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors.

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The Ixworth Association is non-political and non-sectarian, and any political or religious group in the village is of course invited to send reports on its activities or announcements of social functions to the Magazine/Newsletter

GOOD NEWS!

FOIL is pleased to let you know that Ixworth Library will be reopening (very carefully) on Monday 6th July. This is in line with many other libraries across Suffolk.

As you might expect, safety will be paramount and there will be a slightly different service on offer *in the first instance* with the initial focus on the core task of book lending. The plan is to provide a 'Click and Collect' type service via the side door, (not the main entrance to the Village Hall). Initially there will be no direct access to the Library. Kaye and Janet will greet people at the side door to receive returns and despatch orders.

To order a book please phone 01359 231493 or email: ixworthlibrary@suffolklibraries.co.uk . Be aware that all returned stock will be quarantined for 72 hours before being re circulated.

The provisional opening times are also different; **9.30 to 12.00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**. The Library will remain closed on Wednesday and at weekends. Initially the library will be offering a limited service however staff will do their best to meet any specific requirements. And as restrictions lift the arrangements will change.

Sadly due to Covid 19 the Summer Reading Challenge this year will be online, the sign up is via: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> We will very much miss the 100 plus children and volunteers who take part in the Summer Reading Challenge and look forward to seeing you all next year!

6th July is an important first step towards bringing back our much missed local Library service. We all will need to tread carefully and in hope. Our sincere thanks to the staff team for their careful work on the re-opening.

Further details at www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/

Friends of Ixworth Library

LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN GRIFFITHS

As both a fellow resident, and your West Suffolk District Councillor, I wanted to thank not only the Ixworth Magazine but also the many people in Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe who are doing, and have done, so much to preserve, protect and indeed improve our lives here. This is perhaps even more important and impressive than ever in these very challenging COVID19 and lockdown times.

In this regard, I also wanted to draw your attention to West Suffolk's locality Scheme which enables Councillors to support local voluntary or community projects and initiatives in their Wards.

The objective of this scheme is for funding (up to £3,800 in my case this year for the Ixworth Ward) to be made available to help develop and build capacity and resilience in local communities, helping residents to take ownership of and make a difference to the things they care most about locally. It is available to people or groups for projects or activities which benefit the whole community.

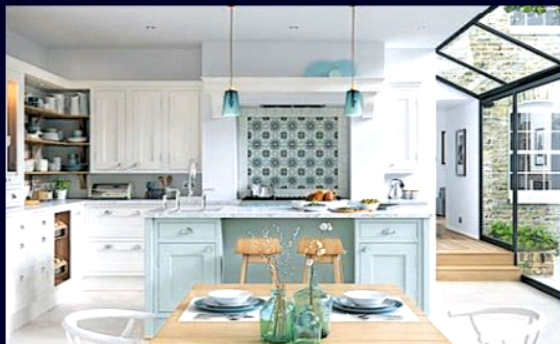
By way of just a very few examples, in past years my own budget for the Ixworth Ward under this scheme has contributed to the Brownies, sporting facilities, the Ixworth Patients Association (towards the cost of Dementia training and two atrial defibrillators), Ixworth and District Royal British Legion (towards the cost of a WW1 commemorative beacon in the village) and the proposed re-surfacing of the play area at Ixworth CE School.

If any of you feel this might be of interest or assist them, their initiatives or projects, please do feel free to contact me or my Families and Communities Locality Officer, Nigel Yeates, at West Suffolk Council (nigel.yeates@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Cllr John Griffiths, Leader of West Suffolk Council, Councillor for Ixworth Ward

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OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - HANDLE WITH CARE AND DELIVER IT SAFELY

In May I stepped down as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. It was a sad decision in many ways, largely because the document is close to completion and I have been involved since near to the beginning of the process in 2017. As a relatively new arrival to Ixworth, working on the Neighbourhood Plan has proved to be a great way to meet people and to get to know the place in a lot of detail. As a result, I have learned a lot and been lucky enough to have forged some very good and dear new friendships.

The draft Plan, as it stands, is acknowledged to be a good document and this totally reflects the interest and input of the many residents who have contributed along the way. It has been so encouraging to see how public interest has strengthened over time with increasing numbers of returned questionnaires and growing turnout at the various consultation events.

I am particularly glad that we were able to run the Local Housing Needs Survey as the results have revealed a much clearer picture of the sort of housing that local people actually require. The survey report has also sowed the seeds for ideas that could really help individuals and families to stay in the village over time. Armed with this information, I hope that the Parish Council will see to it that future development meets the needs that local people have described.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 has presented a major impediment to progressing the Plan. This is because it must represent the views of residents. However current safety considerations make open and inclusive public consultation on the details of Site Allocation, for example, very difficult.

As the new Chair, Cllr Birrell, takes up the role, I wish him all the best and trust that he will steer the Plan to a successful conclusion. I am very proud of the work that has been achieved by the Working Group to date. Members have demonstrated a range of skills, interests and competencies proving beyond any doubt that we are a community of many talents.

Inevitably, we have faced difficulties along the way. It is a tricky process in and of itself, however we have enjoyed the advice of an excellent professional consultant, Chris Bowden. He has been worth his weight in gold. The hardest part has perhaps been engaging the trust and support of our commissioning body, the Parish Council, who have also been operating in uncharted territory. It is true that in embarking on a Neighbourhood Plan we have all been on a learning curve. I very much hope that lessons have been learned and that future Working Groups will receive full respect and support.

My personal thanks must go to Tessa Stonehouse as Vice Chair for her diligence, her sharp eyes and her great sense of fun, I don't know where I would be without her. Also to Steve Wilson whose knowledge, intelligence and creativity have made such an exceptional contribution to the Plan as it currently stands.

My sincere thanks to all who have served on the Group; together we have done a great job.

Debra Reay



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Friends of Ixworth Primary School – World Tour

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of the Ixworth Community for getting involved with our World Tour. We raised £325 over the weekend of 13/14th June, all for the direct benefit of pupils at Ixworth Primary School.



Across the village residents hosted a city in their front garden or driveway. The displays were amazing and provided facts about the chosen destination. For a small donation, anyone was able to receive a passport detailing the various locations and a map of the village showing where the displays were.

The weather over the weekend was beautiful and allowed us to really enjoy the walk looking for the displays. From London, Paris, Barcelona to New York, San Francisco, Siem Reap, Marrakesh, Hong Kong, Japan and many more. Some of the destinations are pictured on the front and back cover of this newsletter.

We've definitely been inspired to visit some of these destinations once restrictions are removed.

Thank you again for your support.

The FIPS Team

PAM'S FAMILY IN LOS ANGELES

In the news lately we could all imagine that Americans are not taking any care, or notice of, the Covid-19 pandemic, so I thought you would be relieved to hear that this is not the case. I received this email from my cousin Una who lives in Los Angeles, California - she emigrated to the US in the 1960s and has had a long and happy life there. She is widowed, has 3 adult children, Tamer, Renan and Deniz, and loads of grandchildren. Una and I are quite close and she said she would be delighted to tell everyone about her two special days. I think little Reyna will remember her birthday above all others!

Una wrote:

It was Mother's Day here yesterday (May 10) in the United States, it's a different day from the U.K. Renan and family decided to come and visit me. We all stayed outside the house in the back garden and we kept our "social distance". It was lovely to see them after so long, even though we couldn't hug and kiss. Ozkan and Darlene had a great time picking lots of loquats and oranges from my trees, and Derek and Darlene enjoyed picking lettuces from my vegetable patch. I got a parcel in the mail last week from Tamer. It had a note in it saying, "Hi Old Bean, Here's your stay-at-home relief package". In it were three DVDs, 2 tins of kipper snacks, and 4 packets of flower seeds. I suppose I had been whining about being bored staying at home and this was his response to keep me occupied, watching movies and working in the garden. I have always loved kippers and cannot find them anymore. The next best thing are tins of kipper snacks but our local store has stopped selling them, but Tamer can still find them in Texas, so he always brings me some when he comes, or, in this case, mails me some. I also received a vase of flowers and a balloon from Tamer, a vase of flowers from Deniz in Oregon, and Renan brought a bunch of flowers and two bars of chocolate and a \$25.00 gift card for Albertsons. So I got a lot of loot this Mother's Day!! As well as seeing Renan and family and reminiscing about our visit to England in 2018. It was a very nice day.

The little girl next door was 9 years old on Saturday and instead of having a birthday party her parents invited me to a Birthday Parade. All the guests drove around the block honking their horns, with their cars decorated with ribbons and balloons. There was a table at the curb-side and we dropped off our gifts for Reyna through the window and received a little box from Reyna's mother. She was wearing a mask and just dropped the box in through the passenger window onto the seat. I found out later it was a cupcake with icing and sprinkles on it, bought from a bakery, a kind of mini birthday cake. It was fun and a nice change from sitting at home alone.

All for now. Take good care of yourselves. Stay safe.

Una (submitted by Pam Cornell)

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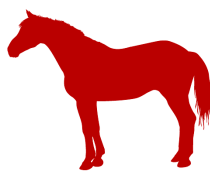
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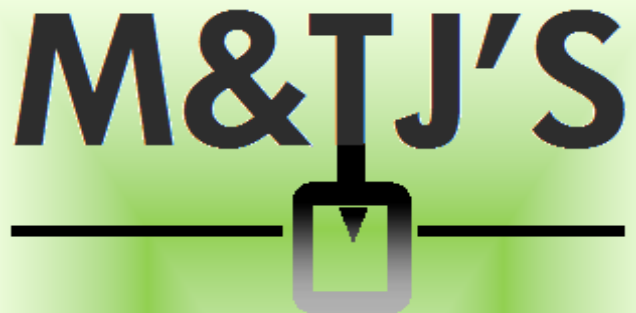
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A TALE OF TWO MUMS

Our tale begins with a five hour car journey up the A1 to County Durham (only joking!), it was actually to South Tyneside. It's mid-February and reports about Covid-19 are beginning to appear across TV and radio news broadcasts. A small number of fatalities had been reported and most people were going about their daily lives, concerned but relatively untroubled.

The weather is foul on the Saturday night. We've stepped out in the face of Storm Dennis and are literally blown across Newcastle city centre. Predictably, hords of young folk in minimal dress, are dashing to pubs and clubs, whilst we struggled to catch our breath. Our trio, that's my partner Deb, her Mum Susie, and yours truly, are happy to be wearing our best winter coats as we arrive at a popular Turkish restaurant, to be greeted by extended family and friends on the occasion of Deb's brother's 60th birthday weekend.

The next day, the three of us head south. The driver's vision is crystal clear; Susie has packed her suitcase and will be staying with us in Ixworth for a five week holiday before returning to the north east. By then, Spring would be upon us. What could be simpler!

As February ticked into March, it became apparent that the 'Virus' was not a short term hazard but a menace that could be with us for some time to come. Susie and Deb went off for a few days break and when they came back, all the talk was of a nationwide run on toilet rolls! Why? Good question. Three months on, I am still asking myself why?

By the week beginning 16th March, the writing was on the wall. Coronavirus had captured everyone's attention and was already dominating our nightmares. Predictions of what was coming our way were grim. Deb and I had to reason with Susie that her plans for going home were not just in jeopardy, they were cancelled. She accepted reluctantly.

By the Friday of that week, I had begun to shut myself down, understanding that it was unwise to go anywhere and have contact with anyone other than my household, due to my longstanding respiratory condition. So began my imposed exile, which continues as I write this article.

By Monday 23rd, the nation was compelled to watch Boris Johnson on TV announce the 'Lockdown' and then to consider its potentially massive implications. I received a text and a letter from the NHS directing me to stay put and 'shield' as I was deemed to be 'extremely vulnerable' along with 1.5 million others. This immediately called for both Deb and Susie to respect the instruction and keep me company. We were locked down together.

The other Mum implicated in our drastically changed domestic circumstances is mine. Sheila has been a resident of Blackbourne View in downtown Ixworth for six years. It was formerly described as an Assisted Living complex but has recently been dubbed as an Extra Care facility. During normal times, we have tended to visit Sheila most days of the week, arranging her appointments, occasionally cooking meals, taking her out shopping and for social trips. Basically, we augment her four times a day visits from staff carers.

The team at Blackbourne have been under a lot of stress as they work to ensure the safety and well-being of their residents, and take the necessary measures to protect themselves, and therefore those they are responsible for. Only essential visitors were permitted. They have done a brilliant job and should be thanked and congratulated. In the meantime, it's been extremely hard and frustrating for Mum and ourselves, and for millions of other families, who have been condemned to deal with the effects of long term separation and social isolation.

Whilst I have not been able to see my Mum, Deb has been a vital link between us. With staff co-operation, she has been able to communicate with Mum through the back door of her flat, at a social distance. This has enabled short but crucial chats and a channel for supplying Mum with my regular home baked cakes. She has also achieved a few strange but incredibly valuable social video chats for Mum with me and my siblings.

Now we are in a period of gradual relaxation of regulations, Deb has managed to give my Mum a few

wheel-chair excursions around the village to savour the fresh air and soak in the Summer sunshine.

Twelve weeks on, and I finally got to greet my Mum in person when Deb wheeled her up to sit in our garden. That was a big moment for me and Mum. Equally for Susie, as the two Mums shared some rare and precious moments in the outdoors. The first thing Sheila commented on was how wonderful it was to tune into the plentiful bird song. To us, it was even sweeter music to hear her say that, and confirmed our sadness about how the curfew had stamped out the simplest daily pleasures for so many elderly people.

Although I was on a 'priority' list, we have only just landed a supermarket delivery for ourselves and my Mum. Where would we have been without the pure kindness of local friends Lesley and Tessa, and suppliers Chapmans, Hillcrest and Woosters Bakery, who have kept us afloat with shopping and pharmacy support?

Thank goodness the weather has been on our side, and much gardening has occurred, as have reading, baking, writing, games of dominoes, bagatelle and quoits, jigsaws and the inevitable TV box sets. We too were first timers taking to those congregational but sometimes unsatisfactory Zoom sessions!

We've clapped with, waved at and chatted to neighbours – special credit to the lovely family of Louise, John, Alex and Ben who have kept our spirits up with their daily front lawn activities outside 5 Crown Lane.

Big thanks must go to our miraculous Mums for keeping us on our toes for the past four months and unwittingly helping us forge a new regime for these troubling times. Sheila is slowly recovering her social contact and Susie is packing her bags ready for the adventure that awaits her when she arrives home. There's a sense that we might be ready to contemplate a degree of so-called 'new normality' and Deb and I can return to a leisurely retirement, still back in the bunker!

Warren Lakin

PARKING REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

On the 6 April 2020, civil parking enforcement (CPE), issued under regulations within the Traffic Management Act 2004, gave West Suffolk Council the power to enforce all parking restrictions within the district. These powers were issued under regulations within the Road Traffic Act 1991.

These parking regulations (for example yellow lines and parking bays) exist to control where vehicles are permitted to park. They are an effective means to help address the safety of road users and to tackle congestion. In some locations, the demand to park exceeds the space available. Parking restrictions can also allocate parts of the road for different types of parking, for example limited waiting bays for shoppers, resident parking bays and disabled parking bays.

Enforcement

The main purpose of on street parking enforcement is to maintain road user safety and prevent congestion, by tackling drivers who park on yellow lines and in other restricted areas.

West Suffolk Council employs civil enforcement officers (CEOs) who patrol streets where parking regulations apply, as well as the public off street car parks. They check whether cars are parked appropriately and issue penalty charge notices (PCNs) to vehicles parked illegally. However, civil enforcement officers do not just issue PCNs, they are also customer focused and can give directions and advice on where to park.

You can make West Suffolk Council aware of any illegal parking by completing the Report a Parking Infringement form online. Please consult the Parking and No Waiting Restrictions page before completing the form. We will endeavour to deal with the issue subject to having accurate information and resources.

Editors' Note – We understand that a CEO visits Ixworth at least once a week!

Please also note that car parking charges across West Suffolk were re-instated on Monday 15th June



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ARTHUR BAYLAY AND HENRY WILLIAM OXLADE SEELEY – THE MISSING NAMES

In my article on Ixworth's VE Day celebrations in 1945 (published in the June Magazine), I gave a list of Ixworth's war dead that included Henry Seeley and Arthur Baylay, neither of whose names appear on our war memorial and I wondered why.

It was normal for servicemen to be commemorated on their 'home' memorial and the list for Ixworth was considered by the Parish Council in 1947. The PC minutes show that four names were raised as being uncertain; of these Patrick Dobbin was included on Ixworth's memorial but the others were inscribed at Stanton and Pakenham. Henry Seeley's name does indeed appear on Stanton's memorial but Arthur Baylay's case is more complicated, and his link with Ixworth is more tenuous.

Henry William Oxlade Seeley was born in 1902 in Botesdale, where his parents ran the Cherry Tree Inn. In 1932, he married Annie Cotterell who was recorded in the 1939 register as living in Ixworth High Street with her brother, Samuel Cotterell a master baker, and his wife, Annie, but there is no mention of Henry. Henry served in the Royal Ordnance Army Corps and was killed on 28 May 1941 during the Battle of Greece. He was buried in the Phaleron War Cemetery in Athens and his name appears on the Athens Memorial. I have been unable to determine his link with Stanton.

Arthur Baylay was born in 1913 near Stoke-on-Trent and in 1939 was working as a colliery labourer. He was called up in 1940 and married Rosa Reade, a clerk in a boot and shoe warehouse, at Stoke in 1942. He served as a Royal Artillery gunner in Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Italy before being invalided home in October 1944. His sister, Elizabeth, was married to Jim Farrow who ran the High Street Bakery in Ixworth and in 1939, his brother, was working there as Jim's delivery driver. So this was where Arthur came to live temporarily after his discharge and it seems he really took to the area. He joined the Ixworth Branch of the British Legion and ultimately went to live at the Steam Bakery at Hopton, near Diss. He died in West Suffolk Hospital in June 1946 and members of Ixworth British Legion acted as bearers and formed a guard of honour at his funeral at St Mary's Church, Ixworth. He was buried at Ixworth Cemetery and is commemorated on a memorial inside Christ Church, Stoke-on-Trent, his birthplace.

With grateful thanks to Steve Wilson (Ixworth Archivist) for his assistance

Sue Spiller (History Recorder for Ixworth) ixworthrecorder@hotmail.com 01359 231229



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP (NPWG)

With the event of the Corona Virus lockdown, and following advice, all work on the Neighbourhood Plan was suspended on the 23rd March 2020 by the Parish Council, as the NPWG is a working group of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is committed to completing the plan. The NPWG has a new Chairman, Cllr Ben Birrell and new Vice Chairman, Dr Stephen Mann who will oversee the work to complete the work already undertaken.

There are some vacancies on the working group for residents of Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe who may wish to contribute to the closing stages which will lead to the publishing of the plan. These vacancies will ultimately be conferred by the Parish Council.

Any person wishing to serve should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, pc@ixworth.net

Cllr Ben Birrell, Chairman

SET IXWORTH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

SET Ixworth School, part of the Seckford Education Trust (SET), has been selected for inclusion in Education Excellence 2020, as one of the country's top 100 performing and improving schools.

Inclusion in the annual publication about the education system and school successes follows an Ofsted inspection in September where they confirmed that SET Ixworth School was 'Good' in every measure.

Headteacher Mark Barrow, who joined in September 2017, is delighted that Ofsted have called the school 'a very happy community where pupils are well prepared for adult life'.

He said: *"We've come a long way since being classed by OFSTED as 'Requiring Improvement' in June 2017. This report is vindication of the incredible hard work and professionalism by all staff and students, along with the unflinching support of parents and carers. We should be very proud of our fine School. It goes without saying that we will continue to strive to provide the best education we possibly can".*

The school is now oversubscribed for the first time in Year 7. It is also opening a Specialist Centre for students with communication and interaction needs in September 2020.

James Wellesley Wesley, Chair of Seckford Education Trust, said: *"Headteacher Mark Barrow has built confidence at every level of the School and has brought the vision of our Trust to life. The 'Good' outcome was very well deserved".*

SET Ixworth School provides secondary education for students age 11 – 16. It is managed by the Seckford Education Trust along with SET Beccles School, SET Causton Junior School, SET Maidstone Infant School and SET Saxmundham School. Visit <https://www.ixworthschool.org.uk/> for more information.

WISE WORDS

Every book has an ending but the library of life is infinite - Merlin

Submitted by Stephen Backhouse



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IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Extracts from the Minutes of meeting held virtually via Zoom on 20th May 2020 at 7:30pm

Attending: Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs Sophia Wilson, Nick Laughton, Pam Shelton, Terry Lilley, Ben Birrell and John Rowe. Also Attending: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE, D Cllr John Griffiths MBE and five members of the public.

Public Forum

The resident of 52 Street Farm Lane, planning application DC/20/0600, wished to request that the Parish Council (PC) support her application to fell the Maple tree. The resident explained that the tree roots were causing a lot of damage to the drainage in the area and to her neighbour's drainage system. A replacement tree, more suitable to the area, would be planted if permission were given to fell the Maple tree. The Chairman suggested speaking with District Councillor (D Cllr) John Griffiths to see if he would be willing to speak with the tree officer at West Suffolk to assist in this application. D Cllr Griffiths requested the resident contact him to discuss further.

Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

- Community Support - Thanks to all the community for all their efforts in the Community during these unprecedented times due to Covid-19
- Covid 19 - Suffolk County Council (S.C.C.) have been updating residents regularly on their website
- Boundary Review - The boundary review that was ongoing has been postponed, so divisional boundaries will continue for the foreseeable future. If there any further discussions of this issue I will report to the PC
- Hempyard Bridge – Monthly inspections are being carried out and the reports forwarded to the PC
- Vehicle Active Sign (V.A.S.) C Cllr Spicer enquired if the V.A.S. sign had been deployed in Ixworth Thorpe recently or was the pole damaged. Cllr Wilson stated the pole was not damaged and the sign had not been deployed recently. C Cllr Spicer stated she would investigate this issue and inform the PC when the sign will next be deployed in Ixworth Thorpe
- Roundabouts – C Cllr Spicer commented that the two roundabouts within the Parish had been cut and enquired if this had been completed by S.C.C. or Marketing Force. The Chairman replied that the PC were unsure at this point
- Highways – C Cllr Spicer stated she would keep the PC informed of any upcoming issues.

Cllr Lord asked if there was any further information of the progress of the footbridge over the by-pass. C Cllr Spicer stated there was nothing further yet, but she would investigate. Cllr Lord also asked, that as the Government had made a statement stating more money would be available for cycle paths and footpaths, had S.C.C. received any of this income yet. If they had, would this be made available at local level, such as Parish Councils, to improve their community? Cllr Lord also highlighted the overgrown pavement along Thetford Road in Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe. C Cllr Spicer stated she would investigate both areas.

Cllr Wilson wished to highlight that as the pavement in Ixworth Thorpe was overgrown the sand from the bank was running to the drains and were still blocked.

Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE

- Weekly Reports – D Cllr Griffiths reported he would make sure all PC members would get the weekly reports from West Suffolk
- Covid 19 – £35 million pound has been granted in business rates relief along with £35 million pound in grants to eligible business within West Suffolk
- Volunteering – Community groups across the District have been setting up various community groups assisting with various tasks needed by the most vulnerable in society. The homeless at this difficult time had especially been helped
- Waste Collection – Waste collections from the brown bins will restart on 1st June 2020
- Parks – parks are still open within the District (not play areas) and are beginning to fill up. As they are being used more the West Suffolk are reintroducing car parks fees to Park car parks
- Persimmon – The planning application is still ongoing.

Cllr Laughton wished to thank DC Griffiths for arranging for the fly tipping at the Village Hall to be removed.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that as all were aware, the Parish Council on 23rd March 2020, agreed to postpone work on the Neighbourhood Plan. One of the reasons for postponement was that one of the next major stages of the plan was a further public consultation to show the amendments since the last consultation. The Parish Council are still fully committed to completing the plan.

Sadly, the Chairman had to report to members that five of the working group had chosen to resign from the group. The Chairman and all members wished to thank all those in the group for all the hard work they had undertaken to get the plan to this point. The plan was one, if not, the biggest project that had been undertaken in recent years. It was agreed the Chairman write to each member who had resigned to thank them on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was agreed to hold a meeting at 2.30pm on 3rd June 2020 to discuss the next stage and agree how to proceed to complete this vital piece of work.

Housing Needs Study

The Clerk reported that Community Action Suffolk had contacted the PC to arrange a meeting to move this project forward. It was decided to discuss this further when the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group met next.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Chairman reported that correspondence had been received about anti-social behaviour in Peasecroft Road. A discussion took place and it was resolved by all the Chairman could lobby all involved such as Police, Havebury Housing and any other organisation, to try to resolve this issue.

Planning

DC/20/0600 – TPO – Fell 1no. Maple tree – 52 Street Farm Lane, Ixworth - No Objection

DC/20/0695 – Change of use from redundant agricultural barn to light industrial (ClassB1)/general industrial (Class B2)/storage and distribution (Class B8) – 1 Manor Farm Barns, Thetford Road, Ixworth Thorpe. No Objection.

DC/20/0441 – (i) change of use from car sales show room (sui generis) to a car body shop (B2) (ii) single storey glazed reception entrance extension (iii) vehicle spray booth to rear (iv) addition of roller shutter doors and additional windows to front elevation – Unit 1, High Street, Ixworth - No Objection

Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Anti-Social Behaviour – Various Emails | • Monthly Report – Steve Wilson |
| • Re-cycling Centres – C Cllr Spicer | • Hempyard Bridge – Various Emails |
| • Thetford Road – C Cllr Spicer | • S.C.C. - Hempyard Bridge Inspection (14.05.20) |
| • Letter to Parish/Town Councils – Rt Hon Robert Jenkins MP | • NPWG – Various email - resignations from group |
| • S.C.C. - Hempyard Bridge Inspection (28.04.20) | • NPWG – Emails re Education & Highways |

It was decided that no replies were required.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the Ixworth Community Resilience and Response Scheme had forty four volunteers come forward offering to help through this difficult time. Thirty three requests for help were dealt with. Many residents needing help became friends with the first volunteer assigned, who then carried on assisting without the need to come back to the scheme. Residents from outside the Parish had also been helped. The Chairman wished to say a huge thank you to anyone who volunteered their services and sorry that all were not needed. Thank you to the Ixworth Association for helping get the scheme off the ground and delivering the leaflets with the magazine. Thank you to anyone who volunteered and assisted.

The Chairman wishes to relook at the Emergency Plan for the Parish soon once things have settled with the Covid-19 crisis.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that as the Annual Parish Meeting was not being held in 2020 the Community Recognition Awards will be awarded later or postponed until 2021.

The Clerk requested that the working group on Standing Orders meet before the next Parish Council in June to finalise the amended Standing Orders ready for adoption at the Annual Parish Council meeting in June. It was agreed to meet in a virtual meeting on 3rd June at 2pm.

The Clerk reported that unfortunately the defibrillator on the outside wall of the village hall has been taken out of use at present. The Clerk reported the key code number had been compromised and an essential item of equipment had been removed. The Clerk requested if she could follow this up and report back to members at a future meeting. It was agreed by all present the Clerk investigate and get the defibrillator back in service as soon as possible.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr Laughton reported that the Slimming World advertisement sign was attached to the village sign. Cllr Lilley stated he had spoken with the Slimming World representative who agreed to remove the sign.

Cllr Wilson wished to highlight the tree near the village sign needed some suckers removed from the trunk of the tree. All agreed that Cllr Wilson could remove the suckers.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

IXWORTH VILLAGE HALL - FUNDRAISING

After weeks of not being able to meet up and plan any events due to lockdown, the village hall fundraising committee finally met up on the evening of Tuesday 9th June to discuss how we could go forward. It was slightly strange to meet up on the playing field at the back of the primary school, but it worked, and the weather was not too cold.

Even though there was not much to discuss, it was still good to meet up with everyone, and actually have human contact with people outside of the family home! The two items on the agenda was the possibility of the history walk and introducing Paypal as a virtual way of paying. It was agreed that the History walk would still go ahead, but without the cream tea that was provided last year, and obviously due to demand. Numbers will be reduced, as well as the price (£5 per head), with the possibility of a second walk if demand is high enough. Please see the advert for more details if you would like to attend the history walk.

Contactless payments are being encouraged where ever possible at the moment, so with this in mind the village hall fundraising committee will be introducing the option of paying via Paypal on the Village Hall website. The page will also have details of events that are happening in the future. Another idea that could be possible is to move some village hall events online, with the help of Zoom. We don't know how long social distancing is going to go on for, so it would be lovely if we could still continue to raise money for the village hall and still have events to look forward to. Watch this space!

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ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR VILLAGE?

During this period of lockdown I have spent more time than ever before walking around the village and throughout this time I have observed that the village is looking a little unkempt. There are several pavements/walkways adjacent to some properties that have foliage such as hedges, bushes and brambles that have grown out and encroached into the pavement/walkway area. Similarly, there were low branches from trees growing within some properties which were overhanging said pavements/walkways. Likewise, there was a proliferation of weeds and nettles along the edges of some property walls and boundaries.

The result of is that the width of some pavements/walkways has been reduced making it difficult and, in some places, impossible for two persons to walk side by side thus creating a hazard. This especially effects those persons who may have a disability or for navigating prams and pushchairs with little ones.

Having recently discussed this at our Annual Parish Council meeting, we would very much appreciate it if all householders and residents of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe would take a little time to look around their respective properties and ascertain whether they could devote some time and endeavour to put in order any of the items mentioned that may be attributed to their property. You can do this by:

- Checking any hedges or bushes surrounding their property and removing any foliage which is encroaching onto the pavement or walkway.
- Checking any trees growing within their property which have low overhanging branches above the pavement or walkway and removing them.
- Checking whether any small open spaces adjacent or adjoining their property are overgrown with weeds/nettles and if so remove them.

These works are on a purely voluntary basis, but we ask “are you have proud of your village?”. If so, any works carried out will not only improve the look of the village but also our environment and would be greatly welcomed not only by the parish council but by our fellow residents.

Beyond this, the Parish Council have mandated to commission a “Community Self Help Scheme” where a working group has been convened to survey issues where we have previously lobbied the respective statutory authorities for their intervention but now realise the time has come to help ourselves to tidy the village up and make it look even better than it already does.

On a cautionary note, I must remind people to be acutely aware of the fact that there may possibly be a rare species of plant growing or nesting birds present in the aforementioned areas. If so, respect the environment and ‘DO NOT DISTURB’.

Should you wish to contact me to discuss any of the above please do so.

Terry Lilley, Parish Councillor
email terry.ann@hotmail.co.uk
phone number 07964 180107

A poster for the Ixworth History Walk. The background is light blue with white and pink flowers. The text is in a mix of black and pink fonts. The title 'IXWORTH' is in a large, black, stylized font at the top. Below it, 'History Walk' is in a black serif font, followed by 'with Mike Dean' in a smaller black serif font. The date 'Sunday 16th August' is in a black serif font. The start time '3 pm start at the Village Hall' is in a black serif font. The cost '£5 per person' is in a black serif font. A note 'Please note due to Covid-19 social distancing rules will apply' is in a black serif font. Contact information 'Please contact Liz on 07887 880222 or visit www.ixworthvillagehall.co.uk' is in a black serif font.

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LETTER FROM REV KAREN BURTON

Dear Friends,

St Mary's church has been a place of prayer and praise since the Middle Ages and an untold number of village people have come into the church in the centuries since to sit with God and leave with peace in their hearts. While I understood the Government's decision to close places of worship back in March, it broke my heart to lock the church. Like many others, I felt bereft of that chance to just pop into church and be comforted. Even though our services carried on online, it has been deeply hurtful that this place which has always offered solace to those who live and work here was denied to us. And painful that I was the one who had to deny it. So I'm not ashamed to say that I cried as I opened the door this week.

I had so looked forward to reopening the church. I had imagined how happy I would feel to take down that 'CLOSED' sign and fling wide the doors. But my tears were not joyful: they were of relief but mostly of sorrow. All those times when people had needed to come into church. All those times when people had been unable to celebrate the birth of a child, to exchange their wedding vows, to say goodbye to friends and family as they had needed to. I thought of all the people I knew who had been unable to attend the funerals of the people they loved: a daughter who couldn't cross the country to attend her mother's funeral, a big family who had to decide which of them would be allowed to attend their grandad's funeral, a burial without anyone to attend but myself and the Funeral Director.

We have come through lockdown in so many positive ways – helping our neighbours, tea parties in the front garden on VE day, exploring the zoo or travelling around the world with the school, singing Easter hymns in the High Street, clapping the NHS on Thursday nights. But we've missed a lot too and many carry a grief for times lost. If that's you, please don't be afraid to come into church. I am always willing to come and light a candle and say some prayers with you for your loved ones and your losses.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;

The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;

The Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

God bless you all,

Rev Karen

PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE

As History Recorder for the parishes of Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe, my role is to ensure the survival of material about our villages which could be useful for future local historians.

We have so many beautiful old buildings in our village, all of which have an interesting history. It breaks my heart when I hear that documentation about any of these buildings has been thrown away and lost forever. If you come across any paperwork relating to the history of any of these historic buildings or the people who lived in them in former times, please would you consider showing them to Steve Wilson (unofficial Village Archivist) (01359 231460) or myself before you confine them to the dustbin.

We are interested in anything which might throw light on any past events in the village – artefacts, photos, postcards, paperwork, memories of anyone who has lived in the village for a long time.

If you are clearing out the house after the death of a family member and uncover anything which could contribute to the knowledge of the history of our villages, we would love to hear from you.

We would also love to hear from the person who has won a number of recent eBay auctions for Ixworth-related material in the hope that we can scan them for the archive please.

Sue Spiller (01359 231229 ixworthrecorder@hotmail.com)

'HEY GUIDE!' 'YES TOURIST!'

I can honestly say that after fifty years as a London Blue Badge guide, I have always resisted the temptation, bitten my tongue and replied politely.

As with the contributor in the June magazine, I don't miss 'it'. The time has come to hang up the badge and read novels. However, it was definitely the best job in the world. From trying to get large Russian Vodka sales ladies on and off the tube (they didn't understand 'let the passengers off first please') to escorting Alan Bean, the astronaut, a true privilege, every day was different.

To become an official guide I took a course and then every weekend we had to practice on a coach, without a microphone and facing our fellow students, so had to know exactly where we were going. Sometimes, after the course and a few drinks in the pub, we would go on to the top of a double decker bus and give tours to fellow passengers, usually well received.

I speak French and Spanish which offers greater possibilities of finding work. My first job was with a London tour company and I had to give tours in three languages. It took a while to manage to describe the next point of interest before we had passed it.

One is usually given few details of the nature of the group or individuals one is escorting, so always essential to glean some clues before setting off. My other passion being dogs, I was delighted to be assigned a group of Americans over for Crufts. The face of the coach driver on departure day was a picture, when he realised he was going to have several dogs, purchased in the U.K., on board. I had one couple staying at the Savoy with their son and I mentioned my little Cairn terrier. At the end of our London sightseeing, the father asked me if I would bring Lupi with me the next day. Fortunately the limo driver was an old pal, and didn't mind at all. The gentleman explained that his son had been hankering after a dog for ages and he wanted to see how he would react. It had to be one of my best days of 'work', playing with the dog and little lad in Greenwich Park. I later received a letter with a photo of the new dog and the gentleman's son, all very happy.

Once I was sent to Luton to meet a private 'plane carrying a millionaire and his family. It seemed straightforward until I was told there were two bodyguards who would shadow our every move. It was very strange especially with them following us round Harrods! Another wealthy group was students from Le Rosey School in Switzerland, fees £104,000 per annum. While they were in Harrods, their escort filled me in on their backgrounds, sorry I can't tell! They came back having bought the most expensive fragrances in the store. Another delightful family decided to take their tour in a horse drawn carriage, so of course I waved like a Royal.

I spent eighteen years looking after guests for a whisky company, thereby hang many tales. Suffice to say that one of their groups Brazilian, drove me grey, as were always late and losing something, but huge fun. Before they left they gave me a ticket to Brazil and another one with seven stop-overs. They looked after me at each place, just amazing and not even the lottery would achieve that.

I don't tour anymore but give talks now and then to keep my brain active. I certainly don't miss having to dash around looking for that one person who is keeping the whole coach waiting.

Everything is different now so I consider myself very lucky to have had all those extraordinary years.

Suze Bower

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Dear Ixworth village,

I would like to say a big thank you to so many of you for your kind words and encouragement in the last few weeks. I have met lots of you on the meadow and it has been lovely to chat at a distance.

Thank you for your generosity and understanding in sharing the meadow with us at this time, it has been a God send as it has helped our children to have the space and fresh air to move about freely and safely. Thank you for popping your dogs on their leads and jogging around our coned area!

We have now reopened school to more children and currently have just over 40 able to enjoy being back at school. These are mostly children of key workers and they learn in small bubble groups that remain very separate throughout the school day to keep them and staff as safe as possible.

However, there are many children who are not able to be back. We miss them and want to be able to welcome them back too but currently are unable to do this safely. To try to reconnect we are holding one off sessions over the next few Fridays. Children not currently in school can come in to see their teachers and friends again in small bubble groups. We are really looking forward to these Fantastic Friday sessions!

Meanwhile we have found other ways to try to keep connected with our families. We have a weekly virtual assembly with an activity. Last week I challenged children to draw a tortoise to drop into school and add to our whole school display. We are taking pictures of the display as it grows so that children can spot their work. The tortoise (from The Tortoise and the Hare story) is a reminder for us all to believe in ourselves and in each other, and not to give up even when times are tough.

Those of you who took part in the children's World Tour project last week really helped to bring a smile to our children's faces and a purpose to their walks outside. I want to thank you for the time and effort you put into this. It is amazing what we can achieve when we all work together.



I hope you all remain well and hopeful and I look forward to speaking with more of you on the meadow of the next weeks.

Warmest regards

Lyndsey Allsopp, Head teacher

IXWORTH AND BARDWELL OVER 60s

The Ixworth and Bardwell Over 60s members would like to thank the family of Peggy Froud for the donation so kindly sent to them following her funeral service. It was most interesting to hear of Peggy's life on this occasion as related by her children. We will miss her as she attended meetings very regularly despite health problems.

One can only say that she was a very stalwart lady.

Pat Ebborn

MR ANGRY

I used to possess a complete set of Mr Men books. We read them to our daughter when she was little. Just writing that makes me laugh. Why would I read Mr Men books to my daughter? There were Little Miss books as well, but it was Mr Men that really appealed to me most, I think they just made us both laugh. Roger Hargreaves and, after his death, his son Adam produced almost 100 titles in the Mr Men and Little Miss ranges. Each book had a maximum of 18 pages and a simple story. Reprinted into umpteen languages they have sold over 100 million copies worldwide. Apparently, they came into being when Roger Hargreaves' son asked him what a tickle looked like. His widow sold the rights for millions a few years ago. But that is all history. One day this terrible virus will be history too. God willing. The fear of knowing that seemingly straightforward things like shaking hands or a simple hug or a trip to the supermarket could be life threatening especially for the elderly and those with underlying health conditions has been pretty frightening. Now we are all learning to cope with a new normal which seems to involve relentless hand washing.

The trouble with dealing with these things, I observe, is that we go through various stages of engagement. First there was denial that there was a real epidemic, then lockdown came and we started to be told what we could and could not do. It felt good for a time. Then rumours started to circulate about how it has happened and this just bred more fear. Some people learnt how to cope and settled in for a spell as social anchorites. Others like Dominic Cummings did what they could to get round the rules and regulations. Others got really anxious to the point of paranoia. Then there was a calmer time while some became acclimatised to their own company, others became more frightened. Rather than educating us, the internet and the rest of the media only seemed to feed our fears and drive some of us further into despair and general mistrust of everything.

Then just as we started to accept a new normal, something tragic happened. The murder of George Floyd sparked a whole movement to rise up. Over sixty countries have staged "Black Lives Matter" rallies and marches, defying lockdowns and social distancing regulations. In towns up and down the country, BLM events have allowed people to express their anger at the incident and the reaction of the authorities to it. Forget corona virus, forget economics, forget the planet and climate crisis, personal safety and everything else. News broadcasts overnight went from 90% corona virus stories to 70% racial protest stories. And does anybody remember Brexit?.... Now the only thing that matters for the moment is racial injustice. Now of course every life matters, and it is vitally important that we have the freedom to protest peacefully especially to draw attention to the injustice which exists in society. What worries me more is that the tenor of the protest, especially in this country, has been to try and eradicate the history of the slave trade. Yes, it was a particularly bad time, but we cannot change history. It happened. We might not like it and the best way to remediate it is to make sure it doesn't happen again. But toppling statues and defacing monuments to me is saying something else. It is to do with getting angry about something we can, because we can do nothing about the other elephants in the room we cannot touch. I cannot express how I feel about a dreadful virus I cannot see, so I will get angry about social injustice instead. And in getting angry about that, what I am really saying is that I want everything to be perfect. Because it isn't. No way.

Personally, right now, I too am angry about the way we exclude people, but I am also angry about my daughter not being able to have her dream wedding this month due to the virus and the rules governing lockdown not being lifted in time, about friends suffering health setbacks, about the pigeons and partridges in my garden devastating my salad crops, about small things. I get annoyed when the sun shines too brightly and annoyed when it rains too much. I am Angry with God. My personal prayers are full of ranting, rather than thanksgiving. I get emotional over trivia. But I do recognise the symptoms, and I hope soon to be able to thank God again for his love for all of us. But sometimes, it just feels as though life just blots out any discernible reference to Gods love. In dark times maintaining a faith in a loving God is tough, really tough, but I know it is worth it in the long run.

Oh, and by the way: Hargreaves never wrote a Mr Angry, as far as I can establish.

Tony Redman, Associate Priest, Blackbourne Team Ministry

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IXWORTH DAY BY DAY– JULY 2020

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES WERE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING

St Mary's:

Online services (via the Blackbourne Team Ministry Facebook page) are held as follows:

Morning Prayer Monday to Saturday at 9.00am Evening Prayer Monday to Friday at 8.00pm

Sundays Holy Communion at 8.00am and Communion Service at 10.00am

Ixworth Library:

Re-opening Monday 6th July at 9.30am

Opening times have also changed and will be from **9.30 to 12.00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**. The Library will remain closed on Wednesday and at weekends.

Thu 2nd Post Office in Ixworth Village Hall car park from 8.45 to 10.45am

Mon 6th **Brown Bin Collection**

Tue 7th **Blue Bin Collection**

Wed 8th Virtual Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm (email pc@ixworth.net for joining details)

Thu 9th Post Office in Ixworth Village Hall car park from 8.45 to 10.45am

Tue 14th **Black Bin Collection**

Thu 16th Post Office in Ixworth Village Hall car park from 8.45 to 10.45am

Mon 20th **Brown Bin Collection**

Tue 21st **Blue Bin Collection**

