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April/May
NewsLETTER
2024

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Contact List of Organizations for Stoke Ash & Thwaite

Editor	Gordon Leggett	01379 678450
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Garden Club Thwaite	George Parnell	07983 691748
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Revd Susan Loxton	Email: revloxtongmail.com	
S/Ash Social Club	Ellen Stannard	01379 678646
	& Lionel Coe	01379 678463
Women's Institute (Secretary)	Pam Cooke	01379 678100
S/Ash Village Hall (bookings)	Brenda Lock	01379 678383
Management Committee	Geoff Tancred	01379 678568
Thwaite 50 Lottery Club	Christine Maisey	01379 730072
	Email: maisey686@gmail.com	

Stoke Ash & Thwaite has 7 Parish Councillors.

If you wish to raise any matters concerning the villages you can do so by attending Parish Council meetings posted on the Parish Council notice board and website or by directly contacting one of the councillors or the Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish clerk Lynne Cockerton on 01728 862001 lynne.cockerton@btopenworld.com

Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Councillors

Cllr Tony Pulham (chair)	07850 385914	tony@hpfltd.co.uk
Cllr Val Lane	01379 678568	vallane2002@yahoo.com
Cllr Gordon Leggett (vice chair)	01379678450	gel-print@outlook.com
Cllr Geoff Tancred	01379 678568	geoffreytancred@gmail.com
Cllr Roger Kember	01449 768142	rogerkember@gmail.com
Cllr Dick Maisey	01379 730072	maisey686@gmail.com
Cllr Christine Maisey	01379 730072	maisey686@gmail.com

Please note anticipated Parish Council meeting dates at Stoke Ash Village Hall for 2024. These are on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, 16th May, 18th July, 19th September and the 21st November.

The copy deadline for ALL issues this year will be the 10th of alternate months and for advertisers the 12th

This edition of the newsletter has been produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that they may be corrected.

Please note that the views expressed in readers letters are not necessarily those of the editors. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication; however we reserve the right to include, edit or omit letters as we think appropriate.

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Well it's now Spring, does it feel like it? Hopefully in a few days we will see more sunshine and then the buds on the trees and bushes start to show some colour to the browns and greys of the winter months. I hope we can get this edition out before Easter and half term week and that with a little less rain and some sunshine and breeze that the land will start to try out a little so that we can get into our gardens and the farmers can sort out their next move on the crops.

A big thanks to all those who have been busy in getting the excess water away from the roads and the ditches and pipes cleared. To be honest, there has been a lot worse situations than our own in this area where peoples homes have been flooded out and personal possessions have been lost and it will be some months before they can even get into their homes to do repairs and continue the drying our processes. Its easy for us all to point the finger of blame but lets hope and pray that those who hold the purse strings of repairing roads, rivers and land will get to it and do the sensible thing and not waste our hard earned taxes.

It reminds me again that with all the goings on in the world with unsettled governments and the many wars that are going on that we still live in a country where we have our freedom and we must never take this for granted. We all know that deep down in our hearts we have to work at providing for our homes and families and that there is nothing like a 'free meal' as somebody has to earn to provide and that is why we have to pay our taxes or else, where would the money come from? With that in mind we also have a duty to be charitable to those who have not had the blessings that we have had with good health and employment and that's where our personal responsibility should come into play.

As we come up to this Easter time I hope that you will check out why we have this time of year and be able to look over the secular things and understand the message goes back over 2000 years when somebody was willing to stand in our place that we might be free from the wrong things that we all have done.

Please read Tim Rowe's piece from the South Hartismere Benefice.

Cllr Leggett

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Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council – report on meeting held 18 January 2024

Parish Precept – the precept request to MSDC to fund the running of the parish council over the next year 2024-25 was agreed at £12,036. This sum included allowances for parish council contributions to community events particularly a summer event for both villages which council members believed was important to support the wellbeing of both communities.

Christmas Tree Wish List –

The following requests had been made via Christmas Tree Wish List and dealt with as follows in italics:

1. Dig out the channels into ditches, put dyke weirs in sloped areas, which slows water to lower areas, at least every 2 years. Ditches are like mini rivers or streams. *Reported via the Suffolk CC reporting tool.*
2. Village Hall car park needed to accommodate approx. 20 cars during events, not parked around the village. *The only available land would involve taking up some of the village green area. It was suggested the Church car park was used for overflow parking during an event at the Village Hall. With the permission of the Church, Cllr Tancred would look into providing signs indicating whereabouts of additional parking.*
3. Better signage at the top of Deadmans Lane, regarding ford/flooding, and unsuitable for diversions. *A request for a sign at Deadman's Lane/ The Street junction had been made to Suffolk Highways with response this could not be provided at the present time.*
4. 30 MPH flash sign on Roman Way – *would be referred to Cllr Stringer for comment or a reduction in the 30mph speed limit.*
5. New 30mph signs along Church Lane close to A140 and along Roman Way – *request made to Suffolk CC High ways.*
6. Cut gullies to lead water from the road into ditches in both villages, to enable water into ditches and dig out ditches – *cleaning and digging out existing gullies would be carried out during Spring Litter Pick.*
7. Clear culvert at the end of Wickham Rd/A140 junction. *Referred to Suffolk Cc Highways. Confirmation received work would take place.*
8. Roman Way roadsign missing – *District Cllr Weller arranging replacement.*

Date of next meetings: Thursday 21 March 2024, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall.

Stoke Ash & Thwaite Annual Parish Meetings – Thursday 25 April 2024, 7pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall. ALL WELCOME

Village Hall Committee Chair Report

- April 2023 to May 2024

Notwithstanding major expenditures during the last year for the children's play equipment and for replacing the leaking water heater in the kitchen, the financial situation of Stoke Ash Village Hall charity continues to be stable. With a change to on-line banking and the option to make a standing order for the Village Hall lottery, the Treasurer's workload, and the gradual decline of numbers of lottery participants have both been reduced.

Sarah Weston & June Scott have planned events over the year, to include a car boot sale, a village fete, craft fairs, as well as being much involved in the Village Coronation Street Party, with over 100 participants being seated for the celebrations. June is leaving the village in the near future, and our best wishes go with her for the years of hard work in so many aspects of our village life. A car boot sale, and village fete as well as craft fairs are already planned for this year, and several other special events are being considered.

Paul Morris has throughout the year kept our Village Green neat and tidy, mowing the grass at regular intervals, strimming edges & trimming back hedges and trees. Many thanks are due!

The primary task of the village hall committee is the upkeep of the hall itself. Plans are afoot to carry out a painting and refurbishment programme, which hopefully will include rectification of the long term damp concern on the kitchen wall.

Policies and procedures have been drawn up and agreed by the committee to comply with Charity Commission requirements recently published for Village Halls. Each Trustee of our charity has been given a copy of the documents , including a copy of our charity's Governing Document. The latter dates from 1976, and whilst most of it remains pertinent, there are a number of anomalies which need to be corrected , and which will be addressed with the Charity Commission during this year.

Our committee meetings are generally good humoured and fun, with all Trustees being involved in the decision making and planning of events. Interested observers will generally be welcomed.

Geoffrey Tancred, Chair Stoke Ash Village Hall Committee

Stoke Ash Village Hall Committee

Would you like to have the opportunity to be involved and benefit the community of Stoke Ash? We are looking for new committee members to join us in organising the running of the village hall.

Meetings are held

bi-monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm and are fun, interesting and a great way to support our community.

If you are interested, please contact:

Geoff Tancred or Val Lane on 01379 678568

Stoke Ash Village Hall Lottery

The weekly lottery winning number with a prize of £25 is based on the Bonus Ball drawn in the National Lottery draw every Saturday. The cost is £1 per Week (or £4 per month with a Standing Order) and money raised goes towards the upkeep of the village hall.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Sheila Coe for organising and running the lottery and also to Ellen Stannard for reliably collecting money from neighbours for many years.

Winning numbers:

06/01/24	41	L Coe
13/01/24	7	T Wilding
20/01/24	42	M Humphrey
27/01/24	16	T Bryant
03/02/24	46	Rollover
10/02/24	34	Rollover
17/02/24	43	E Barker
24/02/24	28	J Wright





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The Mysterious case of the missing house in Stoke Ash - part two

“When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth”



Holmes, Holmes, I have news!

Watson let me guess, I see by the water spots on the back of your trousers that you have been walking on a road running with water which has splashed on to you. This puts you in the location of The Street. Also, from the colour of the clay spots on your shoes, you have been on a building site, and you have small pieces of flint on the soles of your shoes, which is making a terrible noise, plus damaging Mrs Hudsons floor.

You're amazing Holmes.



I have also observed many cart loads of clay and soil being carried away, leaving deep holes filling with water. There has been a visitor to the plot who is obviously an official due to carrying many reams of paper. Then there have been a lot of carts with concrete. Therefore, I conclude that foundations for a building have been laid.



Do you think the people doing this are up to nefarious deeds Holmes?

No Watson, just guilty of being one stick short of a bundle.

Ah, you mean mad.

Totally Watson.

KH

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You are invited to come for a lunch and chat

'We'll meet again' monthly lunch club

The New Youth Hall Chapel Lane, Stoke Ash IP23 7EU

Time 12.30 for 1pm

We trust that you are keeping well. For your own wellbeing it would be good if you could organise for yourself a Lateral Flow Test before the event if you can. Masks and hand sanitiser are always available at the Hall.

March 27th, April 24th and May 22nd 2024

The meal is primarily for those over 65 in the Stoke Ash & Thwaite area who would like to meet up with others who may be living alone and would like to have a meal and chat
RSVP to Gordon or Janis on 01379 678450 Mobile 07745 365583

If you require transport please ask.

We meet the 4th Wednesday in the month

Supported by Stoke Ash & Thwaite PC and Stoke Ash Baptist Church

**All are welcome at our
regular activities***


**Stoke Ash
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CIO

Sunday 10.30am

Morning Service

Tuesday 7.30pm

Prayer, Share & Bible Focus

Regular activities in normal times: Friends & Neighbours, Community Breakfasts & Lunches, Home Groups, Christianity/Discipleship Explored Courses & Holiday Club.

Please join us - you will receive a warm welcome.

**More details on our website at www.stokeashbaptist.co.uk
Stoke Ash Baptist Church (SABC), Chapel Lane, Stoke Ash, Suffolk IP23
7EU Tel: 01379 678450 • Email: gel-print@outlook.com**

Stoke Ash Gardening Club

Our club is progressing well, with membership increasing, often from some of the nearby villages. Meetings this year have included a fascinating talk about creating a Japanese garden, and a speaker from Diss Garden Centre. For our next meetings **Monday 25 March at 7.30 pm**, the speaker will be from the gardening department Suffolk County Council. **April's meeting is the 22nd**

At our last meeting, seeds for vegetables and flowers were handed out – we plan to grow plants for sale on a plant stall (at the village fete). Progress or otherwise with the plants can be discussed as time goes by, and any money earned put into club funds.

A complete programme of meetings and visits is in hand. Why not come & join us in our relatively informal enjoyment of garden related activities? **You will be welcome.**



Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Stoke Ash Village Hall; Members pay an annual subscription of £15 and £2 per meeting (First visit free). Refreshments are provided.

Please see below some pictures of notices that Geoff & Val could not resist in taking pictures of during their trip to New Zealand last month



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South Hartismere Benefice

When I filled up with petrol recently I purchased a new UK road atlas – after all why would I turn down the chance to buy something that “no serious driver can do without”? Pleased with my new purchase I showed Mrs Rowe who asked whether I was planning a road trip that I hadn’t told her about. I wasn’t. She asked why I therefore needed a new road atlas as we knew all the main motor way routes to all our favourite places, towns and cities. Where we do not know the way, we put blind faith in one of the many map navigation systems, almost as if we are on auto-pilot.

Whilst it was a comfort to know that I had the most up to date road atlas, I suspect Mrs Rowe was right – maybe we will never need use of it.

I admit to having a character trait where I need to be in control and it should therefore come as no surprise that I have always had a life plan, a road map for my life to control what I can, and accept the things that I can’t. Perhaps it is only when we look back on our lives that we can see the paths that we have taken. We of course have to decide for ourselves whether we took those paths out of choice; whether our lives are on autopilot; whether things, especially life changing events, happened over which we had no control or whether there were times when our destiny was perhaps decided for us. In Psalm 139 it says *“My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.”* I often think on this when I consider the 2 road traffic accidents I have endured, the first when I was 10 (As you may have read before) and the 2nd in 2002 when I was hit head-on by an overtaking car whilst riding my bicycle. Those on the scene, and who picked me off the road for the 2nd time in my life, said it was only my cycle helmet that saved me.

In the Easter story we hear that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, he knew the path that he was to follow (and which would eventually lead him to the cross), but he was led into the city to be greeted as a King with cheering and celebration and with palm branches laid before him – but he wore no crown. He had previously spoken with his disciples when he said *“And you know the way to the place where I am going.”* Thomas said to him, *“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* Jesus said to him, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* Jesus knew, and no matter how painful he knew it was to be, that this was to be his destiny through his crucifixion and resurrection on the 3rd day.

Coming back to my own life and the future, of course I can stick to my life plan, I can blindly follow a sat nav and know that I have my new road atlas as back up and, of course, I can always put trust in my cycle helmet, but where then do I put my real faith? - in the man that wore the crown of thorns.

Tim Rowe, Church Warden

All Saint’s Church, Thorndon and All Saint’s Church, Wetheringsett

From the Parishes:

In Loving Memory:

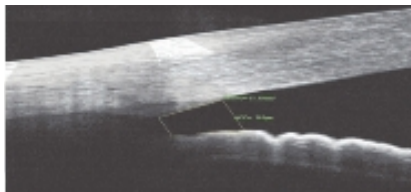
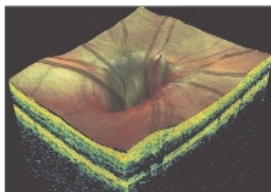
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH STOKE ASH WITH THWAITE

WORSHIP

- Good Friday 29th March at 2pm Stations of the Cross, 3pm Good Friday Liturgy
- April - Sunday 14 April at 10.30am – Worship for All
- May - Sunday 12 May at 10.30am – Benefice Holy Communion

For all other services around the Benefice, please refer to the village and church notice- boards. All details are also on-line and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southhartismerechurches>

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 6 April from 11am to 2pm, being held in All Saints Church, Stoke Ash. Refreshments available. **All in aid of church funds.**

BOOKS AND JIGSAWS

Books and jigsaws are always on sale in the church porch.
(The outer door is always unlocked, but is stiff to open)

FUNERALS, BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS

For all enquiries, please phone or email -
Reverend Canon Susan Loxton, Rural Dean of Hartismere & Hoxne Deanery on:
Telephone: 01379 388493; email: revloxton@gmail.com

Thwaite 50 Lottery

We currently have 34 members & always looking for more.

The cost is £5.00 per month £60 per year. Prizes are £25, £20 & £15. per month with a grand Christmas draw of £100 and a small complementary prize for non winners.

All proceeds go to help the village of Thwaite.

Thank you to all who enter into the fun of the lottery.

Please contact **Chris & Dick Maisey** to join. **01379730072 or 07748844019**



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Spring Litter Pick, Stoke Ash & Thwaite March 9th & 10th 2024

Post litter pick banquet - bacon butties and sausage rolls, tea & coffee at Stoke Ash courtesy of 'the Maisey's and Tony Pulham



Stokites gathering for bacon butties



Edge of A140



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So what has the Colonel found, is it a bomb?

Thwaite team, Roger making a point known and then bacon butties etc



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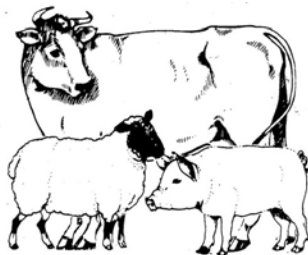


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On Wed 17 Apr we welcome back Joy Hawkins who will talk on “**Call the Midwife? Conception & Childbirth in the Middle Ages**”.

In the Middle Ages pregnancy and childbirth governed the central part of most women’s adult lives. This talk will explore the lengths women went to in order to conceive, and how they protected themselves during the trials of pregnancy and childbirth.

On Wed 22 May Geoffrey Kay will give his talk “**A Tonic to the Nation - The Festival of Britain 1951**” which had to be postponed from last Oct.

By 1950 the War was won, but for many it didn’t feel like it. Rationing was still in place for all sorts of commodities, building materials were in short supply, Britain was a bleak and sometimes miserable place. The Festival of Britain opened, against all the odds, in 1951; exactly one hundred years after the first International Exhibition of all Nations in the Crystal Palace. This talk helps to decide if it was a success or not.

All are welcome so do join us in Wickham Skeith Village Hall at **7.45pm on Wed 17 Apr & Wed 22 May.**

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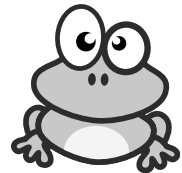


A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and can not comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, everyday I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I did the night before and what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the plants, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them 'thumbs up' and tell them I 'like' them. And it works just like Facebook, I already have 4 people following me: 2 Police Officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.



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STOKE ASH WI

Our January speaker was Mary Newton, a forensic biologist, who had worked for many years for the Metropolitan Police and then, when it merged, for the forensic science service, until her retirement in 2019.

She worked on many cases involving murder and rape and gave us many insights into the ways that evidence is gathered on scene and in the lab, once elements from the scene had been removed for further testing. We were told, in no uncertain terms, that 'CSI' and 'Silent Witness' were not necessarily a good representation of how she and her colleagues would spend their days. There was somewhat less day-to-day interaction with the police on scene, and definitely not the running around and solving the cases for them. They had to find the hard evidence and present it for the police to do the deductions and decide if they could put forward a case that had a reasonable chance of being successful in court.

Mary's team had to find samples of bodily fluids, such as blood or saliva, skin cells or fingerprints to carry out DNA testing or fingerprint matching. They worked to Locard's Exchange Principle, which is summed up by saying 'every contact leaves a trace'. This means that when a perpetrator is in a space, they leave something there and they take something away. That is how murderers and rapists have often been caught and identified, because something from their person has been found at the scene, or something from the scene has been found on them.

Mary was involved in some high-profile cases, such as the Stephen Lawrence case in 1993, which was reopened as a cold case around 10 years later, and took some 4 years to conclude. There were 500 tubes of DNA tested and 4,500 fibres checked before a retrial took place and 2 men were eventually found guilty of Stephen's murder. This case was helped because trace amounts of Stephen's blood were found on his attacker's clothing.

This was a fascinating insight into what forensic science is able to tell us, and how much information can be gleaned from what is sometimes a minute speck of evidence.

In February we had 'An Entertainment in Verse' by Robin and Sue Franklin.

This superb husband and wife team came to see us and, after introductions and a brief history of how they met and came to be living in Suffolk, they gave us plenty of giggles and even some chances to join in with their verses. Some were worded in such a way that we could easily pick up on the rhythm and we were positively encouraged to be a part of their show.

Just a few of the diverse subjects they incorporated into their humorous poems were a tale of 2 cats, a swimming race from Dover to Calais and a fading actress.

A poem about a chocolate junkie was very cleverly put together, as they managed to incorporate the names of pretty well every chocolate bar there has been since the 1970's. The pictures of the chocs accompanying the narrative popped up at the appropriate moment, allowing the audience to join in.

The funniest tale was about an elderly lady who bought herself a pack of 5 custard creams as she was waiting for her train. She got on the train and decided to eat them while she drank her cup of tea, but the man sitting opposite also dipped into the pack and took a biscuit after she opened the packet. She then took a second biscuit and, the audacious biscuit thief opposite did the same! Finally, with one biscuit left in the packet, he reached across the table and picked it up, broke it in half and gave her one half and ate the other! She was almost bursting with indignation. She reached into her handbag to find a tissue..... and there was her packet of custard creams!

A thoroughly good laugh was had by everyone and, for a lighthearted and entertaining evening, they're going to be hard to beat.

Our programme for meetings is published on the village website and on our dedicated WI page (<http://sefwi.org.uk/institutes/stoke-ash>). Please check it out and do get in touch, or just come along on the night. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the village hall, starting at 7.30pm. You'll get a warm welcome.

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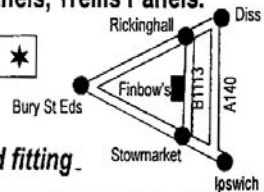
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Suffolk County Council – switchboard			01473 583000
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Trading Standards			0845 6032814
County Councillor Andrew Stringer	07774 199061 & 01449 780339		
	Email	andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk	

Mid Suffolk District Council

District Councillor - Cllr Tim Weller			07928 512586
Palgrave Ward	Email	tim.weller@midsuffolk.gov.uk	

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