

THE
LITTLE CORNARD
MAGAZINE



CHRISTMAS 2015



SERVICES at ALL SAINTS

Regular Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m.

Except 1st Sunday of the month

Benefice Communion

at St Mary's, Bures, at 10.30 a.m.

Morning Prayer each Friday at 9.00 a.m.

Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday, 20th December at 6.30 p.m.

Christmas Day at 10.30 a.m.

followed by a short service of Holy Communion

Friday, 25th December

Benefice Communion at Assington

Sunday, 27th December at 10.30 a.m.

From All Saints Registers

Burial of Ashes:

Paul Braybrooke

Memorial Services:

Geraldine Rich

The Vicarage, Bures

Dear Friends,

One of the most charming features of the Christmas season is the Nativity Play. The children vie for the different roles in the drama: who will be Joseph, or Mary? Who will play the shepherds or kings? Who will be the angels, or the animals? Sometimes it can be very competitive - if not for the children, then certainly among their parents.

So here's a question. Who would you want to be in the Nativity play this year?

Mary, perhaps? Well, of course, many of the girls want to be Mary: to put on the simple blue dress, to rock the baby in front of the crib, to be the ultimate centre of attention. It is, after all the leading role - to be the one who shows their love for the child Jesus, and so represents everyone there.

Or Joseph? Yes, the lads might want to be Joseph. The most important man in the scene, caring for his wife with tenderness. Looking on with wonder at the new born child.

What about a shepherd? Rough and ready, the shepherds: that suits most of the lads. The ordinary working folk who come to worship their maker.

If you see yourself as a bit posher and cleverer, you might fancy yourself as one of the kings or wise men. There's a bit more to that than just an old tea towel round the head. You have to carry important objects, and perhaps even speak, saying, "Where is the child?" and "Follow the star" and remember to say "frankincense" and not "Frankenstein". It's the kings who remind us this baby is the real Lord of heaven and earth.

And the rest of the girls get to dress up as angels. I know that in the Bible angels are always male, but in a nativity play the white frock, halo and wings don't have much attraction for the boys. Get me an old towel anyway! And so the girls serve as the angels, who bring the worship of all creation before its Lord.

And there are some other roles, especially for those who never seek, nor ever seem to get, the limelight; the ones who can't be trusted to keep still or who could never remember their lines. They get to be sheep and donkeys and - if they are really naughty - the back end of the camel. In their humility they remind us of the humility of God himself.

So who would you be? Which role would you like to take on?

There's one part I haven't mentioned yet: the innkeeper. I think I might like that... Not because he gets to look after the beer - though that has its attractions. Nor even because his inn is undoubtedly a local renowned for the excellence of its pub grub. No - I would want to be like the innkeeper because he is the one who gives the Son of God his first earthly home. Simple, basic and makeshift, but a roof over his head, a home nonetheless.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And the innkeeper did not turn him away. Or ignore him. Or leave him for others to deal with. He welcomed him. He made space for him.

Have a wonderful Christmas, *Steve*

Churchwarden's Ramblings

We have had a busy time over the last few months. Firstly we had our Harvest Festival and also the Harvest Fair. The Harvest Fair was a great success despite the weather and a big thank you to all who helped in any way especially those who decorated the church and manned the church for the cycle ride. Also the refreshment team who work hard and manage to serve tea and coffee as well as cakes etc swiftly and efficiently. Thank you to Jane, Hayley and Lyn Davies for organising and running the Dog Show and to Bill Adams for providing a delicious barbeque. We had a very enjoyable and meaningful service of evensong to complete the weekend.

In addition to our normal services we have had our Songs of Praise at the end of September when six of our congregation chose a hymn and gave their reason for choosing it. There were some old favourites as well as some not so well known but we all enjoyed the singing of them.

On the 1st November a small group of us came together on a dark and miserable evening to join in a service of evensong to celebrate our Patronal Festival of All Saints. It was a warm and uplifting service. Thank you Steve!

We have continued holding our Morning Prayer service at 9.00 a.m. on Friday mornings.

There have been several incidents over the last few months. The schoolroom was broken into twice at the end of September and a large whisky bottle which contained about £70 to £80 in pennies, a battery charger and 4 batteries first and secondly the safe containing all the church keys. There was damage to the schoolroom door as well as the cupboard the safe was in and several cups and saucers. The police came eventually and we discovered that the thieves had used our Marigold gloves to carry out the theft and so left no finger prints. A special thank you goes to Mick Judd who came up to the church to help clear the debris. Mick also fitted the replacement cupboard from where the safe was wrenched.

The schoolroom door has also been replaced and the cupboard as have the Marigold gloves! All this though, has been extremely time-consuming.

New gates to both churchyard and the car park have been fitted and a chain and padlock fitted to secure the car park gate.

The Bell Restoration Project continues to move forward. There have been discussions with the Archdeacon about re-siting the font as part of the Bell

Restoration Project. He has indicated the place where it should go and we are now in the process of filling in all the paperwork necessary to apply for a Faculty etc.

A meeting was held at the Village Hall on Saturday 28th November to show how far we have progressed along the path of restoration. John Taylor, the Chairman, gave the talk and refreshments were provided to an interested group of villagers.

There is to be a fund raising event on Saturday 19th December when Colchester Arts Centre Director, Anthony Roberts, will recite Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starting at 7.30 p.m. with mulled wine and mince pies. There will be no charge but a request for donations. Hear this wonderful timeless tale in the beautiful surroundings of our church, with the only illumination provided by candlelight! Guaranteed to get you in the Christmas spirit.

Our Christmas Services start the following evening on 20th December at 6.30 p.m. with our traditional Carol Service, also in complete candlelight, creating an atmosphere of wonderment and anticipation of the joyous event to come.

This takes us to Christmas Day with a short family service followed by a very short Communion Service for those who would like to stay.

Brenda and Robert wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Quiet Lanes

The Parish Council has decided to further investigate the cost and process to introduce 'Quiet Lanes' to Kedington Hill, Chapel Lane, Wyatts Lane and Spout Lane. Residents I have spoken to seem in favour of the scheme which is designed to improve safety for all users of country lanes and to encourage drivers to respect more vulnerable road users.

In areas where they have been trialled residents have thought they make a positive contribution to safety although vehicle speeds are not significantly lowered. The Parish Council will investigate sources of funding and have already had positive feedback from local business.

In conclusion it would appear that 'Quiet Lanes' might improve the safety and enjoyment of our lanes and I would welcome any comments.

Nick Hammond

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Lee Parker - District Councillor Report

I can hardly believe that I am writing for the Christmas edition of the magazine already.



Six months have rushed by as I've been getting to grips with all things planning. However I can report that I can at least now find my way around the Babergh building in Hadleigh without getting lost. Even better; I now know most of the people I meet in the corridors and offices and what they do.

On a similar theme I thought it would be useful to get out and really see the ward close up, not just through a windscreen. So at the back end of the summer I decided to cycle around it. In the scheme of things it's not a huge distance. As a child my parents bought me a spanking new racing bike on the proviso that I joined Sudbury Cycle club. I didn't want to but the lure of a lightweight frame and Shimano gears persuaded me otherwise. I distinctly remember tackling Kedington Hill on many occasions in my youth as it was as good a hill climbing practice as can be found locally. At 15 years old and being whippet like in stature I barely broke sweat and in fairness enjoyed a little bit of success in competitions but I confess the constant pounding around hardly filled me with joy and I was very pleased to convert to four wheels as soon as I could at 17. The point is, I was confident that despite a long absence out of the saddle the technique would still be there. It may have been 30 years since I last climbed it on a bike but it held no fear for me on my ward tour. Head down, find the gear and then find the rhythm. Just like old times. What I wasn't prepared for was just how much the gradient had changed in that time. Kedington Hill is so much steeper these days. Having dismounted a third of the way up, I enjoyed the walk to the top and had time to take in the magnificent view!

On a serious note what I did observe on my travels along the B1508 was the significant increase in traffic. Bigger cars, lots more of them and seemingly travelling at warp speed. The Parish Council have this item at the top of their agenda. I know they are constantly pushing Councillor Finch at Suffolk County Council to recognise the issues caused by traffic in Little Cornard and I fully support their efforts.

As I mentioned in the Harvest edition in addition to the parish work undertaken I have been appointed to the Planning Committee at Babergh. The role entails meeting every other Wednesday to discuss and decide planning applications. There is a planning briefing held on the preceding Monday and in the intervening Wednesday I am usually required to attend site visits. The role has given me a

real insight and understanding of Babergh's Core Strategy as well as the National Policy Planning Framework. Both documents provide guidance on planning policy at local and national level. I have also been appointed to the Gypsy and Traveller liaison committee.

And so on to Christmas itself. This year we are hosting and the extended family is coming to us in Newton. The Saracens Head always provides a welcoming berth and particularly so on Christmas Eve when a good number of the locals pour in for carols and mince pies around the fire. Everyone is made to feel at home so if you do happen to be coming by it will be lovely to see you.

In the meantime, I am always happy to receive correspondence from constituents on any matters that concern Babergh so please feel free to write, e-mail or call and I will endeavour to deal with your queries as they arise. To all residents of Little Cornard I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who decorated the Church for harvest; as usual it looked beautiful and was much appreciated.

Decorating for Christmas will take place on Friday 18th December - Marian and I will be in touch with everyone concerned nearer the time for access to the Church.

Marian and I will be planning the rota for flowers and cleaning in the New Year. If anyone has any changes please let us know and if anyone would like to join the rota they will be very welcome.

A big Thankyou to everyone who has helped throughout 2015.

Marian Turner 01787 377889 and Sue Macdiarmid 01787 375858

Mowing

We are a friendly bunch of guys (and one lady) who mow the grass at the church about four times a year.

It's not arduous, in fact it's enjoyable to help maintain the beautiful surroundings of All Saints Church. If you feel that you could spare a couple of hours every two months through the growing season to help keep everything trim, then please do contact one of the Churchwardens.

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www.littlecornard.onesuffolk.net

Little Cornard Village Hall -

Noel King

Ruth Adams

01787 227447

01787 227467

All Saints Church Wardens -

Robert Mackman

Brenda Pentney

01787 228077

01787 227615

By Sarah Griffin

The best Christmas present I ever got was a watch, my first digital watch, a Timex with a face divided into gold and dark bronze quarters, a deep red display and a chunky golden band. It was grown up, it was cool and it was a whole different thing to the starter watches - remember them? - with the little hands and slim leather strap I'd been allowed before. What's more it was a surprise because I'd left my starter watch on a sink at school from where it had been stolen. I'd been told not to expect another, my punishment for being careless.

But what I remember most about that watch was the surprise. My parents had taken it out of its box and left it unwrapped in the toe of my Christmas Stocking along with some shiny coppers, a Satsuma, a handful of nuts, a lump of coal (we're Northern) and a couple of silly Stocking presents. I'd opened them when they told me to check again for there was a lump in the toe. I can still remember, almost 40 years later, the cool slide of that watch into my palm, the throat catching beauty of it, the love on their faces and the joy of the unexpectedness.

The other thing I remember about Christmas back then - in the late Seventies, early Eighties - was the silence. Few people worked, the shops were shut, and you went for walks, to Church, visiting, to the pantomime or to the local two-screen cinema as a treat. You were, in effect, sequestered. And wasn't it lovely?

Today, goodness, it's a headlong rush from early November, relentless parties and events and shopping opportunities. Recent years have seen the privatisation of a public holiday, the hi-jacking of family time, the gift-wrapped drift away from the Christian meaning of Christmas.

Many of us now work until Christmas Eve and in the days between December 25th and December 31st. Shops and shows beckon, what was a dead stop in the calendar of the year has become an exercise in one up-manship: who travelled furthest, spent most, suffered the worst hangover, cooked the biggest turkey. Online shopping to get ahead of the January sales is a big thing even on December 25th.

I think the moment this change became properly clear to me was the Christmas before Ciaran and I got married. We had spent Christmas Eve together but had decided we'd go our separate ways to our respective parents' homes for our final Christmas Dinner as single children. As I drove through North London that morning in 2004, one of the few other drivers on the road was an Asian driving instructor giving a nervous teen a driving lesson.

A perfect day for it, I suppose, if you aren't Christian and don't view Christmas Day as a holy day, since the roads are empty and you can make your mistakes in peace. I was shocked not by that different religious perspective but by the mindset which ignored any sense of it being a day set aside for home and family in a way that no other can be.

But who am I to criticise for I am guilty as charged, just to a lesser degree. Like harried Mums everywhere I mistake what can be achieved with rush and money for a Christmas which is authentically and unashamedly old fashioned.

Yet the one thing I do to preserve a sense of otherness about the day itself usually meets with disapproval. For when people ask 'House full this Christmas then?' looking to share an anecdote about sofa surfing guests, queues for the bathroom and two sittings for meals, I say 'No, just us four' and am promptly regarded as if I were a Scrooge-ey Dickens' villainess.

I am not hostile to family and friends and the warmth of a shared hearth, it's just that I enjoy spending one day a year, a special day, with my own husband and my own children, I like that the peace and privacy of Burnt House after our return from Morning Service (via my parents' home for a quick snort of sherry) recreates those wintery hours when the world stopped for a while.

Parents and siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins and Godchildren, plus all our tribes of friends; that's what Christmas Eve and Boxing Day and New Year are for, thank you. But such is this pressure to conform, to make Christmas bigger, better, the year's smartest party, that my stance is considered ever more churlish.

In 2015 the world doesn't stop, ever. We don't let it. But we are increasingly losing the specialness of Christmas. What stand out memory will my sons have in 40 years time? I don't know but I doubt it will be of a single watch nestling in the toe of a Stocking.

Hallowe'en is now the UK's most lucrative retail event behind Christmas and Easter. We spent between £300 and £400m on costumes and pumpkins and face paint and fake teeth and weapons and spiders and cobwebs and whatnot this year. That's a jaw dropping rise from the £12m it was worth 15 years ago and makes it the second biggest night of the year after December 31st. Brace yourselves because it's about to increase exponentially as we head for an all-out American-style Shock-tober gore fest of pumpkin patches and trick or treating.

Bizarre isn't it, that we as a society can't get enough of a night which is about raising armies of the dead just as we're losing sight of a day which is about the birth of a baby.

Harvest Supper – Saturday 3rd October 2015-11-14

I well remember the date as my Great Grandson, Hamish, was born at 4.05 that morning. His parents, Aaron and Freya were married in All Saints.

Enough of the waffle! The Schoolroom was beautifully decorated, the oil lamps being very nostalgic. The supper was exceptionally good with a choice of venison or vegetable casserole followed by apple pie or crumble plus cheese and biscuits, all washed down with plenty of drink. The entertainment we did ourselves with readings and poems. I must also thank the ladies who all put a lot of work into the event and made the evening so enjoyable.

Alan Barrett – *Sally would have been very impressed.*

Suffolk Historic Churches Annual Bicycle Ride

This year we had a breezy fine day and most of the 15 cyclists were local. At the moment I do not have a total but will include one in the Easter edition of the magazine.

Thank you so much to everyone who kindly manned the Church.

Sue Macdiarmid

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CORNARD MERE - WINTER 2015

By Robin Ford - Voluntary warden, Cornard Mere

During the Summer of 1996, members of the Sudbury Group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust paid three visits to Little Cornard Churchyard in order to make a record of the plants to be found there. This was part of an initiative, undertaken by the Trust, to survey every churchyard in Suffolk.



Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, the majority of churchyards would have been managed as hay meadows which brought in extra income. With less demand for hay after the second world war, many churchyards had become either nettle beds or resembled bowling greens. The Trust, therefore, hoped to be able to reinstate "God's Acre" to its former glory, rich in wild flowers.

The surveys of 1996 revealed a churchyard containing a good mix of commoner plants without any of the rare species much sought after by botanists. Since then, the Group (now renamed The Lavenham Natural History Group) has undertaken further surveys of the churchyard, including a visit on January 1st 2012. In 2014, members arrived the day after the churchyard had been mown. Plant identification proved difficult and this resulted in a reduced total. The Group returned on the 24th of June, 2015 and added a number of species to the overall list. All the records are now in the possession of the churchwardens.

My knowledge of the churchyard and its management is limited. However, I am sure there are plenty of plants and other wildlife waiting to be discovered and I shall be happy to assist anyone who is inspired to continue with this project.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning



It was a sunny September morning. The schoolroom corner of the churchyard was decorated with the green and white balloons and bunting; inside there was a table laden with delicious cakes. This was all prepared for the annual Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Many friends and supporters came to enjoy the coffee and cakes, donating their money at the raffle table, the cake and gift stall, and to guess the weight of the giant pumpkin (62 lbs).

A grand total of £500 was raised and sent to the Coffee Morning team at Macmillan, who have sent a message of thanks quoting this year's event as the 'scrummiest' yet. The national total so far is £21 million. This will make a real difference to the lives of people facing cancer, offering them support, at one of the toughest times in their lives.

Thank you to everyone who helped and those who gave so generously.

Brenda Pentney

Harvest Fair

As nature's growing season comes to a halt, taking stock of flowers, fruit and vegetables is always satisfying. This often culminates in a Harvest Festival or Fair, when displays of corn, apples, onions, etc. to name but a few, bring gasps of admiration.

This year's show at Little Cornard Church was no exception. Flower arrangements vied with fruit and vegetables for attention and praise.

The usual stalls saw brisk business and the barbeque was not to be missed. Coffers were swelled with the sale of delicious home-made cakes and jams in addition to a well supported raffle. Beautiful turned wood items were again for sale as well as books, bric-a-brac and crisply laundered linen.

As always, a very big thank you is extended to the ladies serving refreshments and indeed to all who contributed to the final fabulous sum of £1226.00.

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Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And mild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had roll' along th' unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bow 'do my head:
'There is no peace on earth', I said,
'For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep:
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men'.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only
light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate:
only love can do that.”**

*Martin Luther King Jr - A Testament of Hope:
The Essential Writings and Speeches*

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We continue to support the above for which our contributions are very gratefully received. Thank you to everyone.

A leaflet is produced each month informing us what they are short of.

Thankyou to everyone - Sue Macdiarmid - 01787 375858

Little Cornard Neighbourhood Watch



POLICE CONCERNS & WARNINGS

The Police advise that should you leave your house when its dark, leave a light on, and

possibly a radio, also make sure you close all windows. A house was broken into a couple of days ago in Bures, which proves these people are about.

**Phil Gooch
NHW Co-ordinator
01787 372013**

True Epitaphs

Travellers I will relate a prodigy
On the day where on the
Aforesaid THOMAS CARTER
Breathed out his soul
A Sudbury camel passed
Through the eye of a needle
GO - and if you art wealthy
Do likewise
Farewell
(Sudbury)

In memory of
Mrs Phoebe Crewe
who died May 28 1817 aged 77 yrs
who, during 40 years
as a midwife in this City
brought into the world
9730 children
(Norwich)

Here lies my poor wife, much lamented,
She is happy and I am contented.
(18th century)

Here lies
John Higley
whose
FATHER & MOTHER
we're drowned
in the passage from America
Had they both lived
they would have been
buried here
(Ireland)

So What Does A Churchwarden Do?

Duties as Officers of the Bishop

You are first and foremost officers of the Bishop.

Churchwardens have been called 'the eyes of the Bishop'. In that capacity each year you present the answers to such questions as have been put to you in the Archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry.

You may include in your response any further matters affecting the parish which may be relevant, always remembering that the aim is to inform the Archdeacon and the Bishop whether all is well with the parish or, if not, what is wrong.

The formal occasion of the annual visitation and completion of the Articles of Enquiry do not mark the limit of the churchwarden's responsibilities in this respect. At any time the Bishop or Archdeacon may make enquiry of them as to parochial matters, and at any time they can inform the Bishop or Archdeacon of any concerns or irregularities in the life of the parish, they are also only too glad to hear good news! Let them know when it is going well.

Duties relating to the parish

You are to act as guardians of the parish church and its services in cooperation with the parish priest.

The plate, ornaments and other movable goods of the church are in your legal ownership. You are under a duty to compile and maintain an inventory of church goods and a terrier of church lands, and to make an annual fabric report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. You are also responsible for keeping a logbook of all work done to the church.

Churchwardens are also charged with the maintenance of order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service.

You have a legal responsibility for allocation of seats to the congregation and the collection of alms, although in practice they will be assisted by others in these tasks.

During a vacancy in the benefice the churchwardens, together with the Rural Dean, will automatically become sequestrators and as such have responsibility for provision of services and care of the parsonage house, although much of this will be undertaken by Diocesan Office staff.

So what does this all mean in practice?

Ensure good order

Faith flourishes where there is good order

when people are served well they feel valued

Have confidence in our Church of England

Let the Diocese work with you – don't despise faculties

Inventory, terrier, log book and register – keep up to date and signed regularly

It is in your interest to have finance in good capable hands or it falls to you!

Care for your churchyard, plate, ornaments and movable goods

Promote the faith

Our faith gains energy as we obey the Great Commission "*to make disciples*"

Our calling is to share in the mission of love which God has for all the world

Make room for all – all have a right to have a seat – but not necessarily one of their choice!

Remember the importance of Parish Profile – it is not just for when there is a vacancy

Support your parish priest

Work with your priest to create a sustainable community of worship and witness

Be concerned for clergy welfare, including housing

Let the priest trust you and you him or her

Do not be afraid to be a critical friend...but do it with grace!

And finally...

Enjoy!

Be assured of the prayers and best wishes of the wider church family

Remember always that what you are doing is vital to the well-being of your parish, your deanery, your diocese, and the kingdom of God.

Johnson's Poultry - End Of An Era!

The Johnson family started rearing Christmas poultry in the late forties, when Eddie and Barbara moved to Yorley Farm in Little Cornard.

Initially they had chickens producing up to forty cases of eggs a week (about 30 dozen eggs per case) which went to Buttons egg packing station in Sudbury.

Then in the early fifties Dad (Eddie) branched into Christmas poultry, buying day old Norfolk Black Turkey chicks, rearing at that time approximately 2,000 birds.

Traditional White Turkeys, originally from America, became popular here in the sixties and we reared them as an alternative to the Blacks.

In the late seventies Martin and I took over the daily running of the farm and increased our poultry flock to over 9,000 birds. We extended the selection of poultry to include 1000 Capons (large Chickens up to 18lb), 1000 Geese and 500 second feather Ducks (up to 4.5kg).

During the last fifteen years we've been making our own sausages, chipolatas and curing our own bacon, proving to be popular for the Christmas trade.

We supplied over 50 butchers and in excess of 500 retail customers.

The years march on and with advancing age, the work seems more arduous and the recovery period seems to take longer, so we made the decision to retire after Christmas 2014. Without successors to take over the business, having won the Kelly Cup for best hen turkey at the Anglian Turkey Show, completely selling out of "birds" (first time for many years), we decided the time was right to turn off the plucking machines!!

Paul Kelly from Farm Gate Hatcheries, Danbury, has taken over our butcher trade and local farm shops our retail.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers old and new for their support and extend our very best wishes for a very merry Christmas to you all.

Clive and Martin Johnson

Broadband Update

Further to the last magazine update we held a public meeting at the village hall where Peter Ingram from Better Broadband Suffolk gave a talk about the plans to improve Broadband speeds in the Suffolk countryside.

The map tool on the Better Broadband Suffolk website (betterbroadbandsuffolk.com) has most of Little Cornard detailed under:

"Partial Fibre Coverage - Some premises in your postcode can already get fibre - use the Openreach line checker below to check. If you are not yet served, we are committed to getting to you as soon as possible and have a contract in place to extend coverage to over 95% in Suffolk – the next rollout announcement is due by October 2014, with upgrades being delivered between late 2015 and early 2018. More detail for your area will be made available in October 2015."

The plans will be made public through the Better Broadband Suffolk website as they are announced, and also reported in the press. The date that more information is expected is November of this year (at time of press) with information of roadshow dates for early 2016 where the plans will be further detailed. The Parish Council will hopefully be able to host a roadshow at the village hall and publicise this closer to the date. Keep your eyes peeled on the village notice boards!!!

Footpaths

The parish council has chosen to bring footpath maintenance in-house for 2016, to bring a better service for the cost to our village. A list of footpaths is being considered to include all that the Suffolk CC service maintain at present aiming to bring a better service to the village and hopefully to extend that service to other footpaths where economies allow.

It is very important that feedback on footpath issues is fed back either to the councillors that you know, or direct to our Clerk at yourclerk@btinternet.com

Little Cornard Parish Council News

The following draft minutes from the meeting on the 3rd November 2015 are extracted for your information. For a full set of minutes please look at www.littlecornard.onesuffolk.net or contact the Clerk.

15/078 Clerks Report

After reviewing the Clerk's report, the councillors requested the Clerk to investigate who at SCC gave authority to the bus companies to use Little Cornard's lanes during the August roadworks.

15/079 Finance

- a. The councillors reviewed the External Audit report produced by BDO and resolved that in relation to the minor issue raised by the auditor on the "restatement" of the 2013 / 2014 comparative figures, this would not be repeated. The councillors resolved to accept and approve the External Audit report for 2014 / 2015.
- b. The councillors resolved to appoint Victoria Sheehan as LCPC's Internal Auditor for 2015 / 2016.
- c. All cheques signed and due for signing were authorised by the councillors. The councillors also noted the income received since the last meeting, the reconciliation of bank accounts against the bank statements, and the Statement of Accounts against the Budget.
- d. After reviewing the Budget Proposal for 2016 / 2017 the councillors agreed to increase the Donations budget to £370 and the Maintenance budget to £500 which set the provisional Expenditure budget at £4,110. Further provisions may be required for dog bins, road signage, hedgerow cutting and footpath cutting when the budget is finalised in January.
- e. The councillors reviewed the application for a grant towards LCPC's costs in complying with the Transparency Code and resolved that the Clerk submit the application to SALC for consideration.

15/080 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed the amendments to Planning Application B/15/00813 Land north of The Bungalow, Bures Road - Erection of 3 no. detached bungalows with associated garages and construction of new vehicular access and resolved by majority to support the application.
- b. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/15/01379 Kedington

Gate, Bures Road - Erection of replacement dwelling & associated works, including improvements to existing vehicular accesses and resolved to support the application. The councillors were concerned that a Babergh District Councillor, not representing Little Cornard, had called this application to be determined by the Planning Committee without letting LCPC know the reasons for doing so. Lee Parker was asked to bring this issue up on behalf of LCPC at the Planning Committee meeting when the application is discussed.

c. Two further planning applications had been received since the agenda was posted. The councillors noted Planning Application B/15/01485 Burnthouse Farm, Bures Road - Crown reduction of 2 No. Chestnut trees by one third and raise lower canopies to a height of 5 metres. Reduction in height of 1 No. Lime tree by one third protected by Tree Preservation Order WS15/G5. The councillors reviewed Planning Application B/15/01443 Oaklands, Blackhouse Lane - Remodelling of existing single-storey dwelling comprising of ground floor side, first-floor side and rear extensions, alterations to facade and roof materials, internal alterations and addition of 3 no. bedrooms and resolved to support the application.

15/082 Land abutting the Village Hall

The Clerk is seeking advice from Community Action Suffolk on the ownership of the current village hall land in order that any future addition is conveyed by that entity. Costs for the conveyance of the land abutting the hall have now been obtained.

15/083 Short Stay Stopping Sites for Gypsy & Traveller community

After reviewing the criteria for the Short Stay stopping sites the councillors could not identify any location in the parish that met the specification.

Councillors' Contact Details

Clive Johnson (Chairman)	01787 228103	clive.johnson7@btinternet.com
Nick Hammond (Vice Chair)	01787 227797	
Ruth Adams	01787 227467	
Cheryl Crane	01787 227273	
Karen Gilbert	01787 881363	kGilbert@anglianwater.co.uk
Phil Gooch	01787 372013	pldg@samba.plus.com
Nigel Monk	01787 227614	

Clerk Dave Crimmin, Cragston, Sudbury Road, Newton, Sudbury CO10 0QH
01787 375085, yourclerk@btinternet.com



The Milkmaid Folk Arts Centre CIC

Railway Station Refurbishment Project

Patrons: Dave Pegg, Anthony John Clarke, Damian Barber



Please **help** us raise money to refurbish part of Bury St Edmunds railway station. We are turning it into a Folk based arts centre which will accommodate people with disabilities and mental health issues access the folk arts during the day. The evenings and weekends will be for the whole community to enjoy, participate and create folk music, song and dance, making this an important new venue on the folk circuit!

The Milkmaid helping Disadvantaged and Vulnerable people access the Folk Arts!

The whole cost of the refurbishment is £540,000 of which we have raised £179,000.

Donations can be made through our donations page on our website
www.milkmaidcentre.com or go straight to **www.milkmaid.charitycheckout.co.uk**

You can donate a 'one-off amount' or sign up to a monthly standing order which will give us a regular amount coming in through the year.

Anything you can afford from £1 to a million pounds will be gratefully received!

If cash is a problem would you mind donating CD's, T-Shirts and other merchandise to place in our Fundraising Tombola! EVERY LITTLE HELPS!

Information:

4 Baxter Court Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1ES Tel: 01284 488279 or 07749 299377

Email: milkmaidterry@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.milkmaidcentre.com

Feedback from James Finch

Your Suffolk County Councillor for the Stour Valley

- **Thousands attend Suffolk Skills Show**

Suffolk businesses turned out in their hundreds to support the second annual Suffolk Skills Show; a skills and careers event reaching over 4,500 young people. The event set out to engage with Suffolk's young people and provide an insight into the career opportunities available to them locally. The show, which took place at Trinity Park in Ipswich, targeted those aged between 11 and 24. The diverse range of businesses exhibiting at the event worked hard to ensure those attending left with their eyes opened to the many career streams across Suffolk. There were many interactive indoor and outdoor stands; showcasing opportunities in energy, IT & technology, finance and business services, creative digital, agriculture, construction, motor

vehicle, advanced manufacturing, ports and logistics as well as HM Forces and a 'have a go' area where attendees were able to try their hand at new skills.

Those unable to make the event during the day were encouraged to come along for a drop in session in the evening to explore options available to them locally; giving them an opportunity to talk to employers, colleges, training providers and advisers about their future careers. In all, around 4,500 young people have had the chance to see the amazing opportunities for themselves in the county across a wide range of sectors and companies.

- **Suffolk's five-year-olds overtake national average**

More five-year-olds in Suffolk are 'school ready' according to new figures just published by the Department for Education. With an 8% increase in the proportion of Suffolk children achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of reception, this puts the county above the national average at age five. Nationally 66.3% of pupils achieved this level, with Suffolk pupils 1.3% above this at 67.6%. The 'good level of development' measure is the assessment of children at the end of reception class, or Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Teachers assess whether children are achieving the expected levels in literacy and maths, as well as in physical development, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development.

- **Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation**

SCC is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2017/18 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way.

The consultation runs until Monday 14 December 2015. As part of this, the council is considering whether or not to include the children of staff employed by a school within

the oversubscription criteria to give them some priority for school places. These criteria are used to rank applications when a school receives more applications than it has places available. There are different ways we could introduce this and your views are important to us.

Other proposals include: minor changes to the Suffolk Co-ordinated Admission Scheme, which sets out the details of our arrangements for the 2017/2018 school year; and some amendments to the Fair Access Protocol which supports the admission of unplaced young people who live in Suffolk, especially the most vulnerable, so that they are offered a suitable place as quickly as possible. The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation, academies and free schools are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for these schools you should contact the school directly. To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations, alternatively you can write to Georgina Beard, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX or email: admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk

- **£250,000 fund announced for school projects to boost disadvantaged Suffolk students' attainment and achievement**

SCC is inviting bids from the county's publicly-funded schools for money to enable projects that will boost the attainment of disadvantaged students.

In the latest round of the 'Raising the Bar Challenge Fund' a maximum of £250,000 has been allocated for innovative that will help reduce the gap between the examination success of students who are disadvantaged, and so help improve social mobility. Successful bidders will receive up to half the cost of projects and the remainder of the costs must be covered by the schools. Up to 80% of each grant will be funded up front, with the final 20% paid if the project achieves its targets, with extra money available if targets are exceeded. Bids for funding need to have ambitious and measureable targets, involve more than one school, and feature innovative or best practice approaches to help boost student success. Projects need to enable parents to be involved, and to be able to continue once Challenge Funding ends. Each school involved in a successful bid can receive up to £5,000 from the County Council. For more information and an application form visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund. The deadline for schools to make applications is 5pm on Wednesday 25 November.

We are passionate about increasing the social mobility of the most disadvantaged children in the county. As a result, our Raising the Bar programme includes the aim of ensuring that every child in Suffolk can reach their full potential. This Challenge Fund is one way we can help schools achieve this ambition.

- **Suffolk's leaders launch bid to find locations for Short Stay Stopping Sites**

Leaders across Suffolk's public sector are calling for landowners and other interested parties to suggest sites that could be used for Short-Stay Stopping Sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community.

Launched this month, the call for sites aims to identify land on which to locate three short-stay stopping sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community. Suffolk currently does not have any sites of this type. Between 2009 and July 2015, the county has seen 280 unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments. The Call for Sites closes on 15 November. All sites submitted will be carefully assessed against the criteria so the Public Sector Leaders Group can decide which sites to put out for consultation in December 2015. Views received as part of the December consultation will be analysed to help inform the decisions the Public Sector Leaders Group take in February 2016 about which sites to put forward to the planning process. As part of the planning process there would be further periods of public consultation. The aim is to have the sites up and running by the end of 2016. The Call for Sites booklet, a series of FAQs and details of how to respond are all available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/shortstay

All public sector leaders are committed to delivering these sites as part of our responsibility to ensure the needs of all the people who live in our community are met. Our commitment is to provide the right sites, in the right locations. Any potential site will have to meet strict suitability criteria.

My priorities for Suffolk

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley Building on Suffolk's Strength – all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax

James Finch 9th November 2015 - County Councillor Stour Valley Division

Recipe - Christmas Winter Berries Dessert

Whip 1 pint of double cream to a soft consistency.

Add two packets of meringue nest broken into largish pieces.

Stir in a large glug of brandy!

Put into a lightly oiled ring mould and freeze overnight.

When required dip mould into hot water for a few seconds until when turned upside down will slip out onto plate.

Into the middle put winter berries with fruit compote lightly stirred in and allowed to dribble down the outside.

Serve and enjoy the compliments!

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any matter of interest or news item you would like included in the next issue of the Little Cornard Magazine, please contact:-

Patricia Monk

patricia.monk@svw.org.uk

Tel: 01787 227614

**All material for the 2016 Easter magazine
to be received by Friday, 12th February**

This is the Little Cornard Magazine which reports on all areas of interest in the parish. The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee assist the Church with the finance of this magazine.

INFORMATION - INFORMATION - INFORMATION - INFORMATION

Church:

Vicar - The Rev Stephen Morley, The Vicarage, Bures, Suffolk - 01787 227407.

Treasurer - Patricia Monk - 01787 227614 - patricia.monk@svw.org.uk

Secretary - Clare Lodge, 10 St. Peters Court, Sudbury - 01787 312494.

Churchwardens - Robert Mackman, Cobnut Cot. , Upper Road, Lt. Cornard - 01787 228077

Brenda Pentney, 52 Colchester Road, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5AE - 01787 227615.

Members of the Parish Council:

Chairman: Clive Johnson, 'Oak Lodge', Upper Road, Little Cornard.

Vice Chairman: Nick Hammond, River View, Spout Lane, Little Cornard

Members: Ruth Adams, Cheryl Crane, Phil Gooch, Karen Gilbert and Nigel Monk

Parish Council Information Web Posting www.littlecornard.onesuffolk.net

Clerk to the Parish Council: Dave Crimmin- Email: yourclerk@btinternet.com

Village Hall:

The cost of hiring the Village Hall for a morning, afternoon or evening session is: £12 for villagers and £15 for all others.

Tables, chairs, cutlery etc are available for rent. For information please contact: Noel King, Booking Secretary on 01787 227447.

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