



Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council

NEWS LETTER



SPRING 2016

'SEEK THE COMMON GOOD'

Royal celebrations Saturday 18 June

In honour of HM the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 the Parish Council established a way-marked circular walk around the Parish and produced a leaflet detailing the walk route and items of interest. This was the Jubilee Walk and took in parts of the Sandlings Public Open Space, Church Meadow and the Mill Stream Local Nature Reserve. Not surprisingly the way-markers have suffered somewhat over the years and all the leaflets have run out.

The Mill Stream Local Nature Reserve runs along the valley by Foxhall Stadium and forms, in part, the boundary with Kesgrave. The Sandlings Open Space is the recreation area adjacent to the Rushmere water tower.

The Parish Council decided that it would be a great idea to refurbish the route, replacing lost and damaged way markers, and to produce a new leaflet incorporating details of the Mill Stream and some never published information about the Sandlings Open Space.

However, it soon became apparent that money might be a problem. The Parish Council approached District Councillor Mark Newton with their idea to see if he would be willing to make a contribution from his Enabling Communities budget. Mark was more than happy to fund the project and suggested that the re-launch could be some form of community event.

The Parish Council established a working group who tied up the community event idea with the Queen's 90th birthday and the refurbished Jubilee Walk. They have now organised what will be a superb celebration of this special event.

By the time this newsletter is published, all the way-marker posts will have been renovated and new plates attached. Any missing posts will have been replaced and the new leaflet delivered with your copy of this Newsletter.

The celebrations will take place on the Sandlings Open Space starting at 11.00am on Saturday 18 June. There

will be representatives of various organisations including Greenways, the RSPCA, Neighbourhood Watch, the Butterfly Conservation Group, the Ramblers Association and many more.

The Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council will open the event and will be present throughout the day. There will be two guided tours of the Jubilee Walk and light refreshments will be available, but please feel free to bring a picnic lunch and/or walk the route at your own pace.

For those of you looking to join us, the Jubilee Walk commences on a track which leads to the Water Tower. The track begins on Bixley Drive just beside the junction with Sandling Crescent – look out for the Post Box and the Parish Notice Board. A short distance up that track you will find the event.

If you live locally please walk to the area. Restricted car parking available so if you must bring a car please park sensibly.

On page . . .

- 2 Community Speedwatch volunteers needed
- 4-5 Our District and Parish Councillors
- 6 Bus timetable changes to route 72
- 8-9 How the Policing review affects us
- 10 Nature notes and Sports Centre nature reserve
- 12 The importance of trees, and history notes
- 14 New Lawn Cemetery extension

The timetable for the days events

- 11.00 am Event opens to public with various stalls of information to visit throughout
- 11.20 am Short speech by the Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council
- 11.30 am First guided walk departs.
- 12.30 pm A good time to have your picnic lunch, bring your own chairs or rugs!
- 02.00 pm Second guided walk departs
- 03.30 pm Close of event

We hope to have other short walks across the Sandlings guided by the Butterfly Conservation Group. Hot and cold drinks will be available all day

Old boundary oak trees along the Jubilee Footpath by the Mill Stream

Watch your speed – Community Speedwatch could be watching you

Volunteers needed

We are now seeking volunteers who would be willing to join the local community speedwatch team. There is a simple Police vetting form to complete and, once registered, volunteers will receive training. The initial group will be trained by the Police whilst subsequent training may be carried out 'in-house'.

To be a volunteer you simply need to be fit enough to use a speed gun and note the registration mark and make of the vehicle to be recorded. You would normally work in a team of three and speed checks are usually carried out for just ONE HOUR at any particular location. All speed checks are carried out during daylight hours and volunteers will be supplied with Police regulation high visibility jackets.

If you would like to volunteer or for further information or to talk through any aspects of becoming a CSW Volunteer then please contact either James Wright on 07494 447391 or the Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council on 01473 723409.

Over the past year or so several parishioners have expressed concern regarding vehicles speeding along various roads in the parish. Indeed one resident has even offered to fund the equipment necessary to carry out speed checks!

We are delighted to report that Cllr Robert Whiting has been able to secure funding from the County Council Locality Budget to cover the full cost of the equipment and a small budget has been set aside for the annual checks and calibration of the 'speed gun'.

In order to secure the funding we have decided to join with the parish of Playford thus our scheme will be identified as RUSHMERE ST ANDREW WITH PLAYFORD COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME.

The Parish Amenities and Services

Committee (PA&S) have spent a good deal of time on this topic over the past few months and the whole scheme is about to be officially launched.

James Wright (Chairman of the PA&S Committee) has volunteered to be the Coordinator of the scheme to promote the start-up, although the hope is that other members of the parish rather than parish councillors will eventually take over the scheme.

Naturally there will be people reading this who feel that 'speeding' should be a matter for the Police and that Community Speed Watch volunteers are a kind of local 'spy'.

Analysis of fatal road accident scenes identify speed as a significant contributory factor alongside use of mobile phones, not wearing seatbelts and drink or drug driving. We simply

want all motorists who drive through our parish to drive within the legal limit which is 30mph for the whole parish!

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is all about EDUCATION. Yes, if your speed is excessive during the road checks then your vehicle details will be recorded. Letters of advice are issued for speeds recorded as being in excess of 35 mph. This, in itself seems excessive but we are bound by regulation to follow national guidelines. Incidentally during covert speed checks conducted in the parish many vehicles were noted as travelling at speeds well in excess of 35mph.

Once the scheme is underway you may expect speed checks at any time on the roads specified below. Indeed we have already identified 'hotspots' especially during school run times.

A recent survey of local roads has enabled us to identify 13 sites in Rushmere St Andrew and 3 sites in Playford – full details of which will be published on the parish web site.

Briefly the roads covered by CSW volunteers will be Arundel Way, Foxhall Road, Bixley Drive, Broadlands Way, Playford Road, Beech Road, Woodbridge Road (A1214) past Rushmere Heath, The Street (Rushmere Village) and Bent Lane. In Playford the sites are on and around Butts Road. So in Rushmere St Andrew there will be an extensive cover across the parish. All the locations, both in Rushmere St Andrew and Playford have been approved by the Police Road Team.

Welcome to
**RUSHMERE
ST ANDREW**
Drive with care

30

Neighbourhood Plan – can you help with this document

Would you like to ensure that Rushmere St Andrew is protected from future over-development and that infrastructure requirements are fit for purpose?

So does the Parish Council, but we need some help from a small number of parishioners. Communities now have a right to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan following the passing of legislation known as the *Localism Act 2011*.

Working in partnership with Kesgrave Town Council we aim to have a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the 'Ipswich Fringe' registered and accepted by the Local Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal DC).

It is anticipated the Plan will probably take about two-three years to go through the necessary consultations, but once accepted it will be integrated into the Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan. However, the joint Working Party must have membership from some local residents in order to proceed.

If you are interested in planning matters and wish to be part of this important process then please contact

the Clerk on 01473 711509 or email mel.bentley@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

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Teodora Aysakova 07748 637331



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Tel: Wendy on 07718304692

TUESDAY Ipswich

St John's School,
Victory Road
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Wendy on 07718304692

THURSDAY Ipswich

Tower hall, Broadlands Way
10.00am
Tel: Wendy on 07718304692

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District and Parish Councillors – people elected to represent us

A guide to a few of the people charged with helping us

Hello, my name is Deborah Dean, I am one of the two District Councillors elected in May 2015 to represent Rushmere St Andrew Tower Ward.

I am 56 years old and have been married to my husband Martin for 25 years, I was born in Ipswich Suffolk and lived there until 2004 when we moved to Kesgrave.

After leaving school I did a pre nursing course at Suffolk College, I changed direction 1978 and went to work for Tolly Cobbold in their IT department.

I worked for Tollys until 1989 becoming Computer Operations Manager when the Brewery was taken over by Brent Walker and I went to work for London Underground. Since then I have worked for ICL, Fujitsu Services and since 2009 for BT looking after teams responsible for delivering services to a large number of NHS Trusts in London and the Southern Counties.

My love for the Suffolk countryside enables me to indulge my other passion for my dog Logan who is a Hungarian Vizsla. Evenings and weekends are spent on lovely long walks in places like Nacton Shores, Rendlesham, Sutton Heath, Sizewell Beach, Minsmere, Dunwich and Southwold, sometimes straying up to Hunstanton, Holkham and West Runton on the North Norfolk Coast.

I also have a big interest in and read a great deal of early English (Medieval and Tudor) history having quite a library on the subject, this does sit quite nicely with Suffolk which has such wonderful towns and villages which are beautifully preserved. My other main pastime and interest is football, Ipswich Town of course, unfortunately I don't get to see them too often now.

I am passionate about Suffolk and my community and will do all I can to help the people that I live and work with in respect of their issues but particularly

to ensure that our environment and consequentially our way of life is not adversely affected by some of the inevitable decisions that have to be made.

Changes that have to be made in respect of land development and use must ensure that we get the balance right between giving people what they need and want but preserving the beauty of the area and that we are lucky enough to live in.

I am also very focussed on the NHS, they do a great job under difficult circumstances, hard decisions have to be made but I am very confident that the Conservative Government are making changes which will eventually result in real improvements. In our constituency we are lucky enough to have Dr Dan Poulter who as a doctor himself ensures that this great institution is at the forefront of his efforts.



New girl on the Parish Council

Carole Evans

Since I have retired from nursing at Ipswich hospital where I was a ward sister, I have done various volunteer roles – I was a Samaritan for eight years, and I have worked as a volunteer with the Youth Offending team conducting Panels for young offenders.

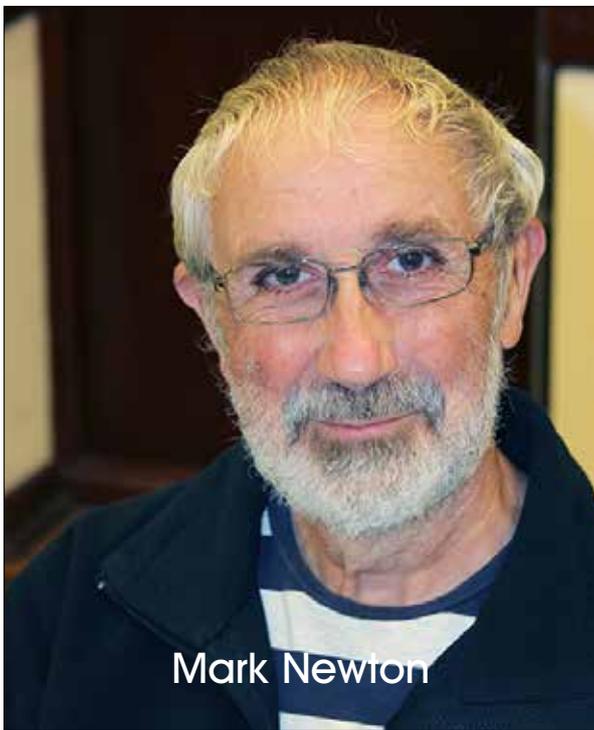
I also did gardening work at Christchurch park, and did History walks around the park.

I have a strong commitment toward community, and feel that it's important to be part of decision making.

I am a trustee for Rushmere Common, one of nine other trustees and am concerned for environmental issues.

I have lived in Ipswich for the last 35 years, the last nine years in Rushmere St Andrew.





Mark Newton

After a largely unsuccessful education I started in 1967 to work for the GPO in Leeds. By 1969 I was married to Lesley and two years later we had our first child. We now have two grown-up children and four grandchildren.

In 1980, after a surprisingly successful initial career with the GPO/Post Office/BT, I was promoted and moved my family to Suffolk where I worked at the then new BT Laboratories, now called Adastral Park. This was a wise move! We discovered that Suffolk was full of opportunity and also a great place to live, work, play and raise a family.

We made the best of what we found and discovered every village, nook and cranny that Suffolk had to offer and we walked our beautiful Suffolk countryside for miles and miles.

We reckon there's hardly a footpath anywhere in Suffolk that we haven't used on some walk or other.

Not satisfied with viewing everything from the ground I gained my Private Pilot's Licence at Ipswich Airport around 1994. I still go to Ipswich Airport reunions but my licence has long since lapsed – and sadly so has the Airport.

Eventually, in 2006, I retired from BT to take up a life of leisure – or so I thought. After a few years of changing all the plumbing, refitting the kitchen and general home improvements I'd started to become bored and started to look for another opportunity.

In 2011 I decided to stand for the Parish Council and as luck would have it I was also offered a nomination to stand for the District Council. I'd spoken at several Planning Meetings objecting to the development which is now called Eaton Place and this introduced me to the deep end of the planning process – and I became quite taken with the whole thing.

The elections went well, so many thanks to all those who voted for me, and I was elected to both the Parish Council and District Council.

During my first term (2011-2015) I sat on SCDC's Development Control Committee and on the Licensing and Health Committee. At the same time there were meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees to attend. I was no longer bored!

I was re-elected in 2015 to both Parish (uncontested) and District where again I became a member of Development Control now called the Planning Committee. I also became SCDC's Chairman of the Licensing and Health committee and Vice Chairman of the Council. And the work for the Parish Council continued at a pace.

The Parish Council work has provided me with an excellent insight into the problems our residents face. I can take some of these problems back to the District Council and occasionally find solutions.

What about the future? I've no thought of giving any of this up unless I'm not selected or not elected. My future is in your hands – thanks everyone.

Phil Richings – Parish Council Chairman

Moving into Rushmere St Andrew in 1986 as one of the first residents of Bixley Farm, I've watched this '10 year' residential project evolve from virtually the start! Over 30 years on and building continues – will it reach 40?

I'm married with two children, our son lives in Bournville, Birmingham (where glorious chocolatey wafts emanate from the nearby factory) and our daughter is closer to home in Kirton. A nine month old granddaughter takes pride of place – as grandparents, we can dote without having parental responsibility!

Born in Coventry, I moved to the Ipswich area in 1971 to start my working life as a Computer Programmer with Eastern Electricity Board, and continued in this field through various company name changes, until the job came to a natural end in 2004 and early retirement beckoned. As such I've had a tentative link with many of you – if only development of the computer code behind the dreaded electricity bill.

Having been interested in railways, as were virtually all schoolboys in the age of steam, I saw an opportunity to become a railway guard and today, nearly 12 years on, I'm still there albeit part-time nowadays working about 9 or 10 days in 14, then 14 days off! As such, I see the varied sights of East Anglia travelling to far-flung posts such as London, Norwich, Harwich, Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Cambridge and Peterborough working on the biggest right down to the littlest of trains. I also see many people in my working day and it's been rather an



eye-opener to observe human nature! As such, I've gained a very wide perspective of people's very differing needs and this has proved invaluable when considering the challenges faced by Council.

Co-opted as a Councillor during the mid-1990's, I've served you as Chairman of the Parish Council since 2006, the year Tower Hall on Bixley Farm opened. Over the years, the challenges have been varied and sometimes demanding! I trust they've broadly been dealt with as one could hope for – I've certainly tried to serve the community to the best of my ability.

Bus timetable changes to route 72 and a new bus!

Those of you in the Village area in the north of the Parish are provided with a very limited bus service. The area to the north of the A1214 Woodbridge Road tends to be rather rural in nature and bus operators are unable to 'make ends meet' by the provision of a commercial service. No operator is willing to provide a service which runs at a loss – support is needed.

Suffolk County Council recognises this problem and has a limited budget to provide financial incentive to bus operators to run a sponsored service where they see an area of need. Based on a competitive basis, bus operators are able to tender for these contracts.

For many years, route 72 running from Woodbridge to Ipswich through the rural village areas has been provided to cater for passengers in need of a bus service. This has provided an 'out and back' link to Ipswich on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

To make things viable, this provision was linked with another rural service running on these days and another two running on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, together with morning and afternoon schoolchildren transportation. The existing contract with Suffolk Norse was due to come to an end towards the end of March and tenders were invited for continuation of this rather complex service provision.

In the last year of the old contract, surveys had been carried out to gauge passenger needs and three specific areas were identified – ease of access onto the vehicle, a more spacious bus and a shorter time to be provided in Ipswich between arrival and departure. Conveniently users of the other half of the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday service wanted longer in Ipswich so it was reasonably straight forward to rejig the timetable to cater for this.

A fairly low level of interest from bus operators was shown during the tendering period and, when reviewed, the costs were simply unaffordable when weighed against a heavily under pressure County Council budget. As a result, interested parties were

invited to re-tender, but based on service provision from Monday to Friday only – Saturday patronage had already been identified as low and on that day there is no school usage.

Based on this revision, Suffolk County Council was able to award a new contract to enable Suffolk Norse to continue as the service provider. A suitable bus was acquired by them which has additional seating capacity, is seat belt fitted and provides ease of access for passengers. As far as Rushmere St Andrew is concerned, service is still provided three days a week, but with days changed to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The daily costs paid by Suffolk County Council (whence taxpayer) are very significant being split with about one third coming from the education budget and two thirds from the sponsored public transport budget. Added to that the Council has to provide additional funds to the bus operator for each passenger presenting a Concessionary 'Free' Bus Pass – a bit of an unknown but probably in the majority – and one can see the total costs to the Council can quickly escalate.

It's a very difficult balancing act to weigh up the needs of a limited subset of the population versus the costs involved. For the time being the service is safe,

Is your charity in need of funds

Each year the Parish Council sets aside a sum of money from the precept for a small number of charitable grants of up to £250 each.

If you are a charity based in or operating in the parish of Rushmere St Andrew we would welcome an application by letter or email to the Clerk setting out the aims of your charity or project plus a brief description of what a grant allocation would be used for if your application should be successful.

Previous grant recipients have included Kesgrave Community Library, Neighbourhood Watch, St Elizabeth Hospice, Age UK Suffolk, St Andrews Church, Headway Suffolk and Disability Advice Service all of whom have demonstrated benefits to or within the local community.

but the contract will eventually come to an end and then a certain consideration within the review process may well be 'did you use it sufficiently to ensure you don't want to lose it' – over to you – it's in your hands!





The Mill Stream near the old rifle range butts

Watch for signs of Pollution

Anglian Water are launching a new campaign called 'Pollution Watch'. It is all about ensuring we Spot, Report and Stop sewage pollution incidents as quickly as possible and minimise the impact to the environment.

A key part of their business is to return used water from homes and businesses safely back into the environment. This is no small operation and requires a huge number of assets, including over 76,000km of sewer pipes – that's enough to go around the world twice! They work hard to ensure that these operate effectively at all times.

However, very occasionally sewage escapes from the system causing a pollution incident. Pollution can kill fish and other aquatic life and also affect the use of water and land for agricultural, business, and community purposes.

Escapes from the sewage system are commonly caused by the build-up of fats, oils and greases, sanitary waste and wipes; all of which cause blockages and reduce the flow of sewage through the network.

There are many tell-tale signs that pollution has entered a river or a stream.

These include:

- sewage solids
- toilet debris such as toilet paper, condoms and sanitary products
- soap suds or a milky-looking discharge in the water
- grey coloured water
- a noticeable sewage smell

Anglian Water Love Every Drop strategy, which puts water at the heart of a whole new way of living, includes a business goal of No Pollutions. They are investing millions in pollution prevention which includes £5.5 million of network maintenance; analysis to predict potential sewer blockages; enhanced maintenance at pumping stations; increasing the number of staff on pollution control and working with river-users to help us identify and report problems quickly.

We are working hard to minimise pollution incidents from our assets, and we'd really like your help to look after rivers and waterways too. By calling our Pollution Hotline on 03457 145145 and informing us about potential sewage pollution issues, we can respond sooner meaning we have the best opportunity to minimise any environmental impact.

For further information on Pollution Watch, please do not hesitate to get in touch or <http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/how-you-can-help/pollution-watch.aspx>

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Visit www.leapalong.co.uk for more information

The Policing Review – how it will affect Rushmere St Andrew

Suffolk Police have carried out a major review of their operational structure effective from the 4 April 2016. Local consequences of this review are:-

- The Kesgrave and District SNT Office has now closed
- The County of Suffolk is now split into three operational areas, West, East & South
- The South Area, which includes Rushmere St Andrew, covers areas J11, J12, J21, J31, J32 & J33 as shown on the map below.
- The Ipswich East SNT Office covers the area shown in map ref J31. This includes Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew south of A1214 and Wards for East Ipswich

(Rushmere, St John's, Bixley, Holywells, Gainsborough & Priory Heath.

- The Woodbridge SNT Office covers the area shown in map ref J32. This includes many parishes in addition to Rushmere St Andrew north of the A1214.

There has been a change in the way that areas are patrolled in that Police Officers and PCSOs will no longer be 'owning' villages as their roles have changed and they will be dealing more with specific priorities.

Local Police Stations and SNT Offices will no longer be open to members of the public. The Police Stations remaining open to the public are Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft only, with opening hours

of Monday to Friday 9-5pm and Saturday 10am-6pm.

Police Response Teams will be on duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week and will deal with emergency calls. If the matter is of a less urgent nature you can dial 101 to ask for advice or to report a problem. Please be reminded there is also the Suffolk Constabulary website for further information and guidance.

Lost property will no longer be accepted at Police Stations.

Local SNTs have now become 'borderless' in so much as their personnel may be called upon to assist at any SNT in the Southern area. PCSOs will also no longer be working past 6pm. Going forward, parking

enforcement will be prioritised amongst the following:-

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Terrorism, Cyber Crime, Safeguarding, Vulnerable People, The Chronically Excluded, Child Sex Exploitation, Missing Persons (youth), Mental Health Issues, Slavery & Trafficking.

This is the direction Suffolk Constabulary is tasking SNTs to follow.

Match Funded PCSO (Police Community Support Officer)

With regards to PCSOs, overall numbers have been significantly reduced and their working hours changed from a rota within the hours of 8am to midnight down to 8am to 6pm.

This had consequences as far as Rushmere St Andrew (RSA) is concerned in that hitherto we Match Funded a PCSO with costs shared 50% by the Police and the remaining 50% split two thirds Kesgrave and one third RSA.

Negotiations have been extremely

difficult with an initial proposal from the Police that the Match Funded element would be withdrawn and replaced with a fully funded PCSO split two thirds Kesgrave and one third RSA – in reality a doubling of our contribution. Fortunately the Police recognized our anguish and across Suffolk have now given an extension of one year to the existing Match Funded scheme.

However, RSA and other parishes have not been happy with the loss of the evening coverage by the PCSOs who have demonstrated significant success in dealing

with ASB during the evenings. We feel this change of rostering is being dictated by HR policies as opposed to evidential records and the sponsor requirements. After much deliberation we have decided to run with the new system for one year and closely monitor the effectiveness of the new Policing Model.

The Parish Council will have to think very hard about any subsequent continuation of a sponsored PCSO from April 2017 when the only option available will be a fully funded PCSO.

The Suffolk Local Policing Review and what it means for you

On 4 April 2016 the structure of policing in Suffolk changed following the Suffolk Local Policing Review. As part of the review, the Kesgrave and District Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) office on Grange Farm, Kesgrave closed. Rushmere St. Andrew (south of Woodbridge Road East), and Kesgrave Town are now policed by the Ipswich East SNT based on Heath Road in Ipswich. The northern part of Rushmere St. Andrew is policed by the Woodbridge and District SNT.

The number of staff based at the Ipswich East SNT has increased as it now incorporates some staff from the Kesgrave and District SNT and the Ipswich South East SNT. The team consists of two sergeants, six PCs and eleven PCSOs. The SNT also now covers a wider area, and wards are no longer allocated to specific officers who now cover the whole Ipswich East area. In effect, this means that Rushmere St. Andrew is now covered by more than double the number of PCSOs previously based at the Kesgrave and District SNT. You can still contact me in the usual way.

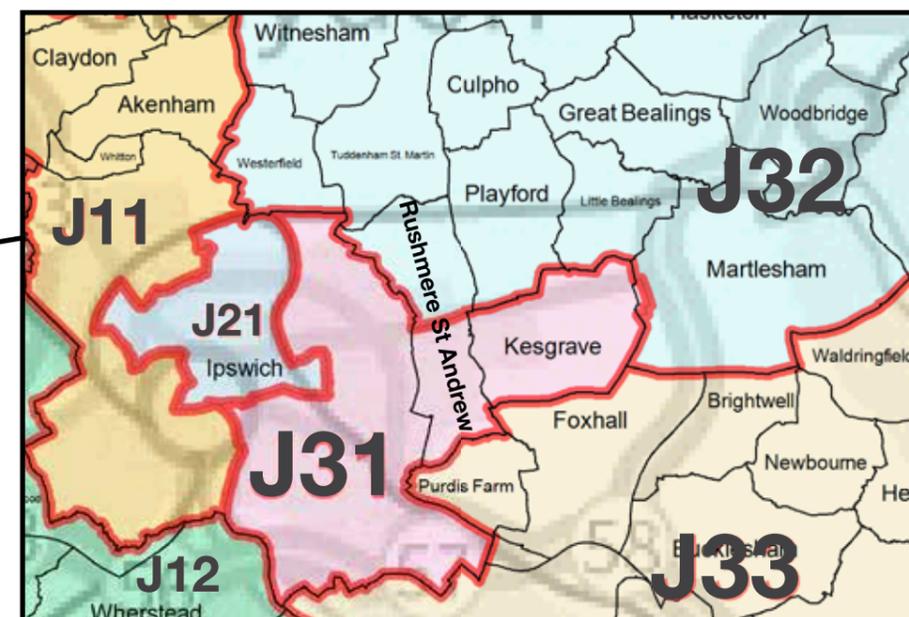
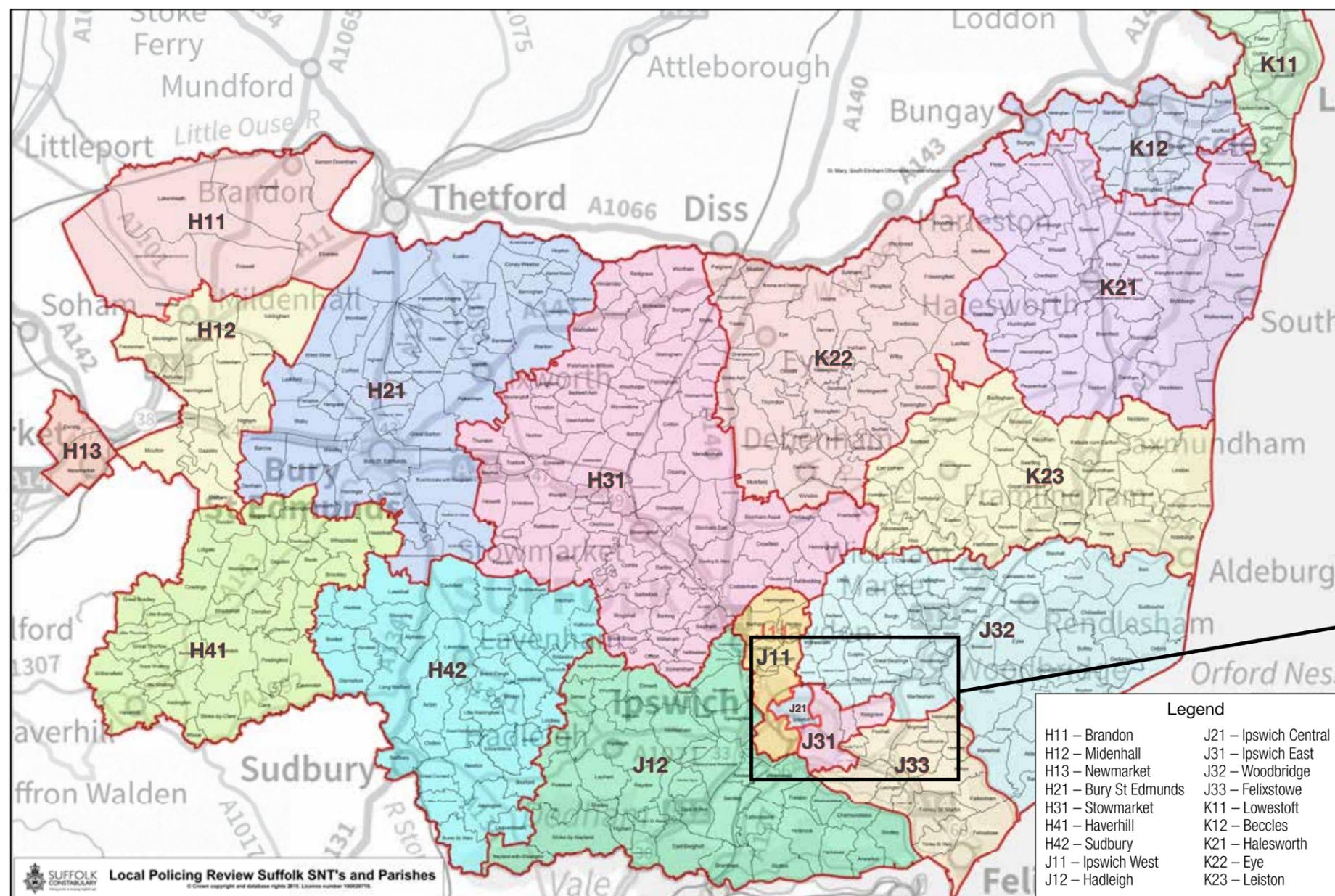
PCSOs no longer routinely work after 6pm, so policing in the evenings is covered by our SNT and Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) police officers. PCSOs are now managing such things as ongoing antisocial behaviour and working closely with our partner agencies to introduce long term problem solving initiatives. Where problems exist, our PCs are being tasked to conduct targeted patrols with a view to using their enhanced powers to deal with any offences or antisocial behaviour identified. PCSOs are still able to change shifts and work later in order to attend specific meetings.

This represents a considerable change in policing across Suffolk, so regular reviews of the new structure will take place to ensure that we continue to give you the best service possible.

If you have any questions regarding the new structure or anything else that I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mike Sarbutts

Police Community Support Officer 3194
Ipswich East SNT, Heath Road, Ipswich. Tel. 101 (non-emergency number)
michael.sarbutts@suffolk.pnn.police.uk www.suffolk.police.uk





Nature notes from around the parish

Some of you will recall that the Parish Council has acquired ownership of the land at Ipswich School Sports Centre (formerly Rushmere Sports Centre) in The Street. On part of that site there is a piece of 'no-man's land'.

Once we became aware of that, we seized the opportunity, with the school, to turn this into a 'nature reserve'.

In pursuit of that objective one of our councillors applied for a grant of 100 trees from the Woodland Trust. Success – in the first week of March the 100 plants arrived and were duly planted with the exceptionally kind help of Roger Osborne (FA Cup Hero) who is now the Manager of the Sports Centre which is the home of Ipswich School's Sports Facilities.

In addition to that a further 300 trees were purchased by the school's Estate Dept. We now have the makings of approximately 150m of mixed natural hedgerow enclosing a wildflower patch. We hope to add small animal shelters for the likes of hedgehogs etc.

The whole project is designed in a manner to encourage wildlife in all its forms. It is hoped that there will be periodic scientific studies carried out to monitor the progress and to record the species within. Having said that we are mindful that this is an area to which there would normally be no access, apart from essential maintenance. Our attendance there will be minimal and we would anticipate a survey being carried out approximately once a month.

When this newsletter is distributed it will be the height of the bird nesting season so please, no hedge trimmers, no chainsaws and check thoroughly for amphibians, hedgehogs etc before you strim long grass! Thank you!

Meanwhile you may have read of the plans to encourage hedgehogs. Please take a look at the link below and see if you can make your garden 'hedgehog friendly'. I took a saw to the lower part of one gate and one fence in my garden and we now have regular visits from these delightful animals.

This year the Butterfly Conservation Society is hoping that we will all play a part in recording sightings of butterflies and moths. Again I have put the links below for further information.

Whilst writing this article I have just returned from inspecting both our village ponds followed by a dog walk across the Sandlings Public Open Space and into Rushmere Common (the Heath!).

We are so fortunate that Rushmere St Andrew continues to be a wonderful place in which to live. I hope everyone does their 'bit' to look after it! As a Parish Council we are passionate about caring for our environment.

Indeed we have installed several additional dog poo bins in various parts of the Parish over the past couple of years so wherever you are in Rushmere St Andrew – if you walk your dog PLEASE clean up after them – No Excuses!

Hedgehogs:

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Butterflies:

www.butterfly-conservation.org

If you would like any advice regarding nature/wildlife/trees/hedgerows etc then I'd be happy to help or find someone who can deal with your query. You can contact me on 07494 447391.

James Wright – Tree and Pond Warden

Councillor Julie Clarke retires

In the Spring 2015 newsletter, we reported Julie Clarke had decided not to seek re-election as a Councillor when the four-yearly Parish Council elections came around in May 2015. Julie had decided that, not only did she have lots of other community commitments taking up a lot of her time but, she felt it was time for others to have the opportunity to serve as councillors.

However, when nominations closed, it was apparent that there would be a significant chasm appearing, whereby the Parish Council would only have a rather depleted 10 Councillors out of a full complement of 15. Julie, together with John Withey and Mark Sones, realised this would leave the Council rather challenged and made themselves available for co-option to bring numbers up to a more appropriate 13.

Over the past year we have managed to bring the numbers back up to 15 and Julie has decided that Council now has a broad base of experience to enable her to stand down and concentrate more fully on her other commitments which include School Governorship plus Trustee and Management Committee member of the Parish Halls-Rushmere St Andrew, the Charity that runs the Village Hall and Tower Hall.

Julie's final Parish Council meeting took place in April 2016 where she formally tendered her resignation from the Council.

In the last year, not only did she sit as Councillor, she took the formal position of Vice-Chairman and took the Chair for a number of meetings over the year. Indeed over the years Julie has been the Chairman of a number of our Committees.

Our thanks therefore go out for her outstanding 14 years of service to the Parish Council, especially the 'bonus' year, and we wish her every success with her ongoing challenges.

News from Kesgrave Library

The staff and Community Group have as usual been very busy over recent months. The Christmas and Spring Fayres have taken place and raised useful funds for the enhancement of Library facilities as well as providing fun for the children.

All the usual weekly activities have continued and a new Friday morning story time session has been added to the programme using donations kindly contributed by Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council.

The Library has been fortunate in benefitting from a number of grants in recent months and this has enabled it to make significant improvements to the children's area.

It was also lucky enough to be loaned some original children's book illustrations by Nick Butterworth and Algy Craig Hall and these are now on display. The new mobile shelving units are now complete and these have added a good level of flexibility in the use of floor space.

January saw the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Library on its current site and this was marked by a birthday party complete with the customary cake.

In February there was a very successful Harry Potter Night and youngsters enjoyed dressing up and joining in with related craft activities such as making Harry Potter spectacles.

The Library was closed for a week in April to allow for a thorough refurbishment of the building.

This included the removal and subsequent replacement of all books and fixed shelving, washing down and repainting the walls using paint kindly

donated by B&Q, cleaning the carpet and soft furnishings and the rearrangement of some areas of the Library.

All the work was done by Library staff and volunteers. I hope you will call in and see the results of their hard work.

Details of all the Library's activities can be found on both the Parish and Library websites.

The Library staff are also considering starting up an Adult Craft Group.

Please let them know if you would be interested in such a group.

Mirabel Brown

Field adjacent to 155 The Street

The East Anglian Daily Times (EADT) recently reported the silent protest which took part on 6 February at the field adjacent to 155 The Street Rushmere St. Andrew. Over 170 trees were planted there between the late 1990s and early 2000s by locals who wished to be part of the former landowner's vision of creating a woodland nature reserve.

Many locals hold dear this site that contains trees which were planted in memory of loved ones. The plantings were co-ordinated by Leonard Woolf who has held an agricultural tenancy on the site since the 1960s.

He was presented with a Green Hero Award last year in recognition of his achievements in environmental conservation.

This silent protest was an attempt to persuade Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) to maintain the site's designation

as an asset of community value. Save Our Rushmere's Rural Identity (SORRI) and Save Our Country Spaces (SOCS), [two local action groups with no affiliation to Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council] recently lost a High Court legal action, against the premise by which outline planning was granted, to develop the site for housing by a consortium of charities.

Even if the site is developed ultimately, locals would like to preserve the woodland element of it. If anyone planted a tree and would like to register interest with the representatives of the charities involved, please write to Paul Hewitt, Withers, 16 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EG.

For an update on the Woodland, please contact Barbara Robinson of SOCS barb@cdrobinson.plus.com or Ron Spore of SORRI ron.spore@icloud.com

Ann Cracknell, Parish Councillor

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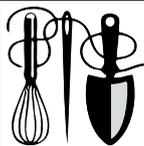
Kesgrave Family Fun Weekend in celebration of HM The Queen's 90th birthday

The Clubs, Associations and Societies of Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew welcome you to a weekend of Sport, Social and Fun activities at the Millennium Jubilee Hall and Field, Millennium Way, Kesgrave

Saturday, 11 June, 11am – 3pm – Childrens and teens 5-a-side football • Childrens races • Fun run • Archery • Yoga, Karate and Dance in the Grand Ring • Dog show • Live 1940's style music and swing band • Face painting • Treasure hunt • Cake show • Flowers • Many competitions and all with prizes • Exhibition of Kesgrave through the ages
Refreshments, ice creams, hot and cold food

Sunday, 12 June – Cycle speedway • Cricket and bowls matches • Spedeworth cars and photo opportunities with free tickets • Jitter Bug/Jive Dance with prizes for best dressed couple

Information – Kesgrave Town Council www.kesgravetowncouncil.org.uk

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Trees have played an important part of the parish over the past years

The loss of our ancient trees at Rushmere St Andrew should as far as possible be avoided, as they form part of our Parish identity. The rare photograph of Smugglers Pond (shown in previous editions) showing a tall tree, is almost certainly an English Elm, said an expert, that can grow to a height of 80 feet.

The cutting down of this tree would probably have been done by William Fisk and the two men that he employed.

It must have been a sad day to see this prominent long established Rushmere St Andrew tree cut down with the wood, said a Rushmere village worker, used to make coffins for Rushmere St Andrew.

However, memories and local gossip do get muddled. I'm told by a local undertaker that most early coffins were made of Oak, although Elm was used. Perhaps the local idea was copied from a Mr Nat Ablitt, a Rushmere St Andrew character who had his coffin made from a tree cut down in his grounds at Rushmere St Andrew.

Local history tells us that he had his

daughters come to see how he looked laying in his coffin, then kept his coffin hung up in his barn till he died and was buried in it. In history there is always the unexpected!

A glance back into history is always a fascinating experience with information gathered when looking at old photographs. The wood from the Elm trees in The Street, Rushmere St Andrew, leading to Smugglers Pond (shown below) surely found a worthwhile use.

However, looking at the tree in the photograph of Smugglers Pond with high power magnification, there appears a long vertical split with a hollow core in the bottom trunk, so perhaps the tree was taken down because it was too dangerous and the wood was simply used for firewood.

William Fisk, carpenter, wheelwright, undertaker and maker of coffins for Rushmere St Andrew, lived and worked in the vicinity of this Rushmere St Andrew tree. His premises were situated at the corner of Playford Lane that consisted

of workshops, timber sheds and a stable.

Don Lewis who was living near the premises in The Street, tells us about large underground brick saw pit over which tree trunks would be sawn into planks with a two handed saw, one man down the in the pit, the other on top.

The saw pit was uncovered when the foundations for the new cottages in Playford Lane were being excavated. One 9 inch red brick wall, approximately 6 feet long and 7 feet deep, was left in situ to remain under a floor in the first cottage, and living in Rushmere St Andrew I was interested to watch much of this early history briefly appear.

John Gilson

Editors note: Trees have also traditionally been used as boundary markers, showing where one parish finished, and another starts. The picture on the front page of this newsletter shows some such trees, marking the boundary between Rushmere St Andrew and Kesgrave. Occasionally on old maps a tree can be seen marked as a corner of a parish.



The Street years go, and next page, how it is now

From the December 1990 edition of the Parish Newsletter

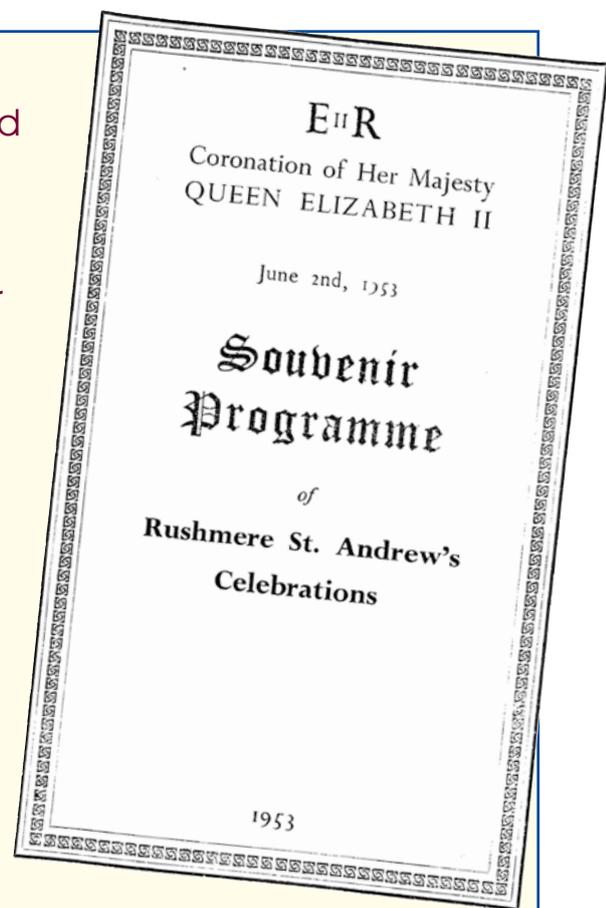
Parish boundaries have changed over the years. In bygone days the 'beating of the bounds' was carried out at Rogation-tide, taking the form of a procession around the parish boundaries in a clock-wise direction. In 1559 Queen Elizabeth I order that 'the clergy shall once in a year at the time accustomed walk about their parishes with the Curate and other substantial men of the parish . . . and at their return to the Church make their common prayer'.

Apparently it was usual to recite a passage from scripture at the major turning points. The ceremony had a dual purpose, it was a service for blessing the fields and it also served to verify the boundaries every year and to impress them upon the minds of everyone concerned.

It was particularly important that the younger members of the community should have this knowledge impressed upon them, and it is said, that boys were beaten at key points on the route so that they would always remember them and were able to pass on this information (with equal vigour) to the next generation.

We talk about the Jubilee Walk, created to commemorate the Queens Golden Jubilee, and it's refurbishment for her 90th birthday. On the same theme, and a lot earlier, is the programme celebrating her coronation on 3 June, 1953

- 2.30pm National Anthem and Opening by the Chairman
 - 2.35pm Decorated Cycle Parade, followed by Sports, Sideshows, Bowling for Ham, Treasure Hunt, Tug-o'-war etc
 - 4.00pm Teas for Children under 5 and their mothers
 - 5.00pm Teas for Schoolchildren
 - 5.30pm Old Folk's Tea
 - 6.30pm Fancy Dress Parade
 - 7.00pm Presentation of Souvenirs and Sweets followed by Prizegiving and Coronation Draw
 - 8.00pm Open Air Dancing
 - 9.00pm Her Majesty The Queen's broadcast Speech
 - 10.00pm National Anthem
 - 10.05pm Adjournment to Rushmere Heath for Bonfire and Firework Display
- GOD SAVE THE QUEEN



The Street years go on previous page, and how it is now

The new Lawn Cemetery extension – visitors welcome!

You may recall from our last newsletter that the Parish Council had commenced work on constructing an extension to the Lawn Cemetery.

We can now report that the work is complete. Thousands of block pavements later we have the roads and pathways in place, the ground has been levelled, rolled, stones removed, seeded and recently the new grass had its first cut.

The perimeter hedge is now growing well and approximately three hundred plants and shrubs are in place in the borders. The site will now be left as a maintenance only area for about three years to enable all the plants and hedging to fully establish before it is taken into use.

The area is however, open for inspection, so if you are visiting the Lawn Cemetery please feel free to wander through and look at the variety of plants and shrubs now growing.



FORTHCOMING VACANCY Assistant Clerk

Mrs Jean Potter our Assistant Clerk will be retiring at the end of the year. The Parish Council are therefore seeking to recruit an Assistant Clerk to commence work with effect from around mid-October to allow for an assimilation period.

The role is very varied and will involve working closely with the Clerk, Parish Councillors, the Public and other bodies including our contractors. The post-holder must have good computer skills (including Microsoft Office) together with business and financial awareness.

Hours will be negotiable but a minimum attendance of 58 hours per month will be required inclusive of some occasional evening work (typically two or three evenings per month).

Work will primarily be office based and will require attendance at meetings plus a proportion of local site visits. Remuneration will be based on experience and qualifications within the NJC for Local Government Services, Pay Band LC2.

If you are interested please contact the Clerk for a job application form and further details tel 01473 711509 email mel.bentley@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

Aspirations to become a Parish Councillor?

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor in Rushmere St Andrew, Tower Ward (south of the A1214).

If you are interested in this rewarding role and would like to have a say on how your parish is run then please apply without delay.

Please call the Clerk on 01473 711509 for more information or send your contact details to:- Mr M Bentley, PO Box 456, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich, IP4 5WH, or email to:- mel.bentley@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk.

Applicants should note that Councillors are expected to attend regular monthly meetings on *the second Thursday of each month* plus any additional meetings as may be arranged and to represent the electors of Rushmere St Andrew Tower Ward in raising and discussing those issues of interest and concern on which the Parish Council is empowered to act. Applicants should also note that membership of the Council is open to electors who are citizens of any state in the European Union or of the Commonwealth and

- Whose residence is in Rushmere St Andrew or within three miles of Rushmere St Andrew, **or** whose principal place of work is in Rushmere St Andrew, and who is not disqualified (by reason of a criminal record, bankruptcy or involvement in corrupt practices).
- Other conditions apply, for further details of conditions, please contact the Clerk to the Council.

Flooding: Finally a successful outcome

We all know of locations where at the slightest hint of rain, standing water soon 'floods' the roadway. In most cases although inconvenient, the water eventually drains away without really causing too many problems.

In the case of one particular resident, due to a combination of factors, whenever heavy rain fell the resident's house was under 'threat' of being sprayed by passing vehicles. Due to the (then) design of the road it was possible for passing vehicles to splash this 'floodwater' across the entire front of the property. This meant the resident having to 'run the gauntlet' of trying to access their own front door without being soaked. Bad enough for herself, but just awful when trying to deal with a getting a disabled family member in or out of the car.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the same resident was one of several locally who landed up with sewage in their garden.

So what has been achieved? Taking the last point first, we have now established full working cooperation with Anglian Water. They now conduct regular checks of the pipes and the nearby pumping station. There the regime has been changed such that in the event of a breakdown in one of the pumps an operative must attend to deal with the matter within three hours (substantially better than the previous arrangements).

It became evident that rainwater was flowing from Holly Lane, Playford Lane and from the higher part of The Street, all settling close to the pond but outside one particular property. It was then fairly straightforward to identify possible solutions to a problem which had been 'on the agenda' for years but about which little positive action had actually taken place.

In our Autumn 2015 Newsletter we referred to the work done by the SCC Kier May Gurney team last year and noted our considerable disappointment that several of the remedial actions promised had not been carried out. We should have been celebrating success but instead, at the meeting held under the auspices of our MP, Dr Dan Poulter in October, the atmosphere was anything but congratulatory! In a nutshell the summary was that the works had for the most part been a real failure. Harsh criticism but you need to be involved to appreciate how disappointed we were.

So, once again to the drawing board! Following a continued stream of emails, discussions, meetings and brow beating the decision was made to do further work (actually to do what was asked for the first time). We were promised slot drains,

clearing the gulleys and ditch, making a flow into the pond and resurfacing of the highway for approximately 75 metres to grade the surface and ensure drainage into the new drains! Just a few weeks ago the engineers were back.

A different team this time and all the work was carried out as promised.

The road was reopened on the Friday and we only had to wait a few days for the first heavy downpour. We were back! Sometimes observing from the comfort

of a car, sometimes getting rather wet (from above) but it was almost hard to believe – the drains were all working and the surface water was clearing the highway.

SUCCESS! Hard to believe that this matter, which has been 'on-going' for years, finally appeared to be resolved. Now we just need to persuade SCC to carry out regular maintenance to the road drains in order to keep them clear of silt!

Orwell Flower Club

Orwell Flower Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month except August and December at the Tower Hall, Broadlands Way, Rushmere St Andrew IP4 5SU. Doors open by 6.45 p.m. and our demonstration starts at 7.15 pm. Membership is £37 per year and visitors are always welcome at £4 per meeting.

We are looking forward to our Open Meeting on Thursday 27 October at Kesgrave Community Centre. Our guest demonstrator will be National Demonstrator John Chennell and there will be a chance to win one of his arrangements and other prizes in the raffle. We will also have other stalls including £1 Mystery Gifts, Handbags and Handmade Jewellery.

Tickets are £15 each and include a light buffet and a fruit punch. Doors open at 5.45 pm. and the demonstration will commence at 7.15 pm after the buffet. We welcome all members and non-members, friends and families to a lovely evening.

For further details please contact Secretary Delcie Corbett on 01473 623371



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Parish Halls - Rushmere St Andrew

Many people are under the impression that the Parish Halls are run by the Parish Council. Whilst it is true that some parish councillors do also serve as trustees on the Management Committee, Parish Halls is completely independent of the Parish Council. It is a Registered

Charity run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the local community. It has a Management Committee made up of 7 elected trustees and 7 appointed trustees who are members of some of the regular organisations who use the halls. At present we are under-represented as we

have vacancies for one elected trustee and two appointed trustees. If you feel you would like to consider becoming involved more information can be obtained by contacting our Secretary, details below.

We employ two part time caretaker/cleaners who work on a week on week off basis, currently Dave and Kelvin, who work hard to maintain the cleanliness and appearance of the two halls. Jean Potter is our Secretary/Treasurer and Bookings Secretary and can be contacted on 01473 723409 or email: parish.halls@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

For those of you who may be new to the district the two halls are Rushmere Village Hall situated in Humber Doucy Lane on the edge of the village of Rushmere St Andrew, and Tower Hall on Broadlands Way, Rushmere St Andrew near the Water Tower.

Both halls are used by numerous community organisations and are also available to let for one off events such as children's and family parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, seminars and training days. Both halls have ceiling mounted projectors and audio facilities as well as fully equipped kitchens. We do also have a weekly vacancy at Tower Hall on Friday mornings and several afternoons at both halls.

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 30 June 2016 at 7.30pm in Tower Hall and this public meeting is open to anyone who would like to find out more about their local community halls and how they are used.

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors and Officers

Village Ward

Miss Ann Cracknell	148 The Street, IP5 1DH	01473 719746
Mrs Barbara Richardson-Todd	57 Playford Road, IP4 5RJ	01473 411442
Mr Robert E Whiting	105 Playford Road, IP4 5RQ	07833 441347

Tower Ward

Mrs Mirabel Brown	15 Chestnut Close, IP5 1ED	01473 725720
Ms Carole Evans	9 Blackdown Avenue, IP5 1AZ	01473 617535
Mr Dennis J Francis	14 Clovelly Close, IP4 5UF	01473 723453
Mrs Claire Gower	22 Euston Avenue IP4 5QY	07805 353018
Mr Mark Newton	11 Chestnut Close, IP5 1ED	07788 456641
Mr Phil M Richings (Chairman)	29 The Pastures, IP4 5UQ	01473 436688
Mr Mark Sones	94 Penzance Road, IP5 1LE	01473 625511
Mr Brian Ward	12 Playford Road, IP4 5RH	01473 622272
Mr John Westrup	9 Holly Lane, IP5 1DN	01473 272257
Mr John Withey	8 Newby Drive, IP4 5UY	01473 273471
Mr James Wright	5 Butterfly Gardens, IP4 5TF	01473 721499

One Vacancy

Clerk to the Parish Council and Responsible Finance Officer

Mr M R Bentley, PO Box 456, Rushmere St Andrew, IP4 5WH 01473 711509
Parish Council Email: mel.bentley@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

Assistant Clerk

Mrs J E Potter, 21A Claverton Way, Rushmere St Andrew, IP4 5XE 01473 723409
Email: assistantclerk@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

Web site www.rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net

Allotment Manager

Mr John Westrup 9 Holly Lane IP5 1DN 01473 272257

Registrar to the Burial Authority

Mr Andrew Duncan 8 Crofton Close, Ipswich, IP4 4QR 01473 727389

Advertising enquiries Mrs Jean Potter, Assistant Clerk, see above

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Tower Ward: To speak with an Officer at **Ipswich East SNT** – telephone 101
Email: IpswichEast.SNT@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Village Ward: To speak with an Officer at **Woodbridge SNT** – telephone 101
Email: Woodbridge.SNT@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 3194 Mike Sarbutts is our match funded PCSO and covers both wards
Telephone 101 Email: michael.sarbutts@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Further information about Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) including Team Members; Priorities; Campaigns and Meetings, can be found on www.suffolk.police.uk

Nursery places September 2016

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013?

If so you can now apply for a part time place at Broke Hall School Nursery.

An application form is available from the school office or complete a form at www.brokehall.suffolk.sch.uk

For further information regarding nursery admissions tel 01473 729544

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

All meetings listed are open to members of the public, and agendas published on notice boards around the parish and on our web site

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 24 May 2016 7.30 pm Tower Hall

Full Parish Council

Thursday 12 May 2016, Annual Meeting, 7.30 pm Village Hall
Thursday 14 July 2016, 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 8 September 2016, 7.30 pm Tower Hall

General Purposes and Finance Committee

Thursday 9 June 2016, 7.30 pm Village Hall
Thursday 11 August 2016, 7.30 pm Village Hall
Thursday 13 October 2016, 7.30 pm Village Hall

Parish Amenities and Services Committee

Thursday 19 May 2016, 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 21 July 2016, 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 15 September 2016, 7.30 pm Tower Hall

Planning and Development Committee

These meetings are arranged as and when we receive planning applications for discussion. Notice of meetings and agendas will be placed on notice boards and web site.