

Aldringham cum Thorpe with Sizewell Newsletter



Website: www.aldringham.onesuffolk.net

December 2023

Wishing You All a VERY
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Photo courtesy of Wendy Sturme

A well-stocked Cake Stall, with volunteer Di Holmes helping out, was one of the attractions at the Thorpeness Christmas Fayre on December 2nd at The Dolphin. The Fayre raised £1,500 for the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS).

Parish Council Update December 2023

It does not seem possible that we are now putting up the Christmas Tree in Mill Hill, Aldringham, and arranging the lights. Where has the year gone? Anyway, although the weather for 2023 has been very blustery we, the Parish Councillors, have continued to get things done to improve the Parish.

Current projects in Aldringham



The new bus shelter outside Aldringham Court

Bus Shelter at Aldringham Court - The Parish Council is delighted to have been able to provide Aldringham Court care home (formerly known as Ridsend) with a striking new bus shelter at their entrance. The colour was chosen by the care home, as it picks up some of the details from Ridsend, the fine house architect Cecil Lay built for his mother, often considered his masterpiece. We think it stands out well amongst that tree-lined stretch of the Aldeburgh Road.

Bollards on Aldringham Green - At last we have found a winning alternative to the wooden bollards that seemed to rot as fast as we could install them. These new grey posts are manufactured out of recycled waste plastic, which are not only a green product, but have a prospective lifespan of over 25 years. Just think of the saving on the number of wooden ones in that time and all the backache to put them in!

Flower Planters to Green spaces - Many thanks to Maureen, our Chair, who came up with the idea to use discarded half whiskey barrels for flower planters. These

are easy to maintain and provide vivid splashes of colour at various green points in the Parish throughout the year. We have also planted out 250 narcissi bulbs, of 500 donated to us by East Suffolk Council, for some early season intensity next year.

Speeding through the Parish- Both villages are greatly concerned by results that our various Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) throw up. Speeds of up to 85mph have been recorded in both villages within the 30mph limit (see statistics further on).

Aldringham Lane Flooding

Unfortunately, having solved the flood problem outside the Parrot, flooding has occurred further along Aldringham Lane this year, so please do be careful if you are driving along this road after a lot of rain. Several vehicles, unfortunately, have had problems.

Parish Councillors are keeping an eye on this area and are working with Suffolk County Council Highways and the landowner to see how we can eliminate this problem in the future. Hopefully, we can all work together to solve this.

Christmas Celebrations- The Annual Singing of Carols on Aldringham Green is to be held this year at 6.00pm on the 14th December and all are welcome. This will be followed, as is tradition, by mulled wine and mince pies at the Outside Inn. We hope to see you all there.

Current projects in Thorpeness

Speed Indicator Device – a new one has been erected near the Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground Entrance along the Thorpe Road. Hopefully this reminds everyone when they are approaching Thorpeness to reduce their speed and drive carefully through our lovely village. I know that this reminds me each time I drive into the village to make sure that I receive SID'S 'Thank You'. We are also looking at placing another device in the Parish as several motorists seem to think that they are Formula 1 drivers and go through both villages between 70 and 80 miles per hour. Please keep to the speed limits.

Planting -The remaining 250 bulbs left over from the Aldringham planting have now been planted along Old Homes Road. Hopefully in the spring these will brighten up this area.

There is still more tidying work to be done, and hopefully this can be achieved with a village work party in the spring.

Pansies have been planted in the new tubs opposite the Dolphin and around the Oak Tree in Old Homes Road. There are also tubs outside the Ogilvie Pavilion, so these should cheer us up in the Spring also. Hopefully the deer will not eat them for Breakfast.

Private Road Improvements - The privately-owned roads along The Sanctuary and The Uplands have now received attention. Thank you to The Hotel Folk for carrying out this work.

Coastal Erosion - Unfortunately the coastline of Thorpeness has suffered in the last few weeks and will continue to be battered during the winter. The Thorpeness Coastal Futures Group (see later article) are issuing a Newsletter to update the public, so people are aware of all the dangers and what will happen in the

future. **Please**, keep your distance if you are anywhere near the cliffs at the North End of the village - signs are in place regarding the dangers so please do not put lives at risk by ignoring them.

Joint Projects

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Events - The Parish Council was able to hold events in both Aldringham and Thorpeness to gauge the local response for our Neighbourhood Plan which will shape our future progress up to 2035. The events were held at the Outside-Inn at the Parrot in Aldringham on Oct 18th and the Country Club in Thorpeness on Oct 19th. More than 100 villagers turned up in total, and pored over various maps, timelines and propositions and offered their approvals, disapprovals and suggestions as well as chatting to neighbours doing the same. Many thanks to Chris at the Parrot and the Hotel Folk staff at the Country Club for making us most welcome throughout the long day. We shall look forward to the next steps. All the comments and results are now in the Process of being reviewed and the draft Neighbourhood Plan document is now being written. We are now just over halfway in the process. The Neighbourhood Plan Group led by Eric Atkinson has spent many hours on this project, and committee members were in attendance on both days of the Consultation to help with questions.

Thank you everyone for working so hard for the Parish.

Website - Once again thank you to Alan Williams for continuing to keep this updated. Alan would like to hear from local groups wanting to update or insert information on the site. Please contact him through Parish Clerk Shirley Tilbrook at

pc@aldringhamcumthorpe.suffolk.gov.uk

Shortage of Parish Councillors - At the moment, three people have shown interest in becoming Parish Councillors, so hopefully they will join us in the New Year. The few Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk have been extremely busy this year with planning applications, consultations with the power companies, The Neighbourhood Plan, and various ongoing projects. Please, if you wish to become a Parish Councillor, contact our Parish Clerk Shirley Tilbrook at

pc@aldringhamcumthorpe.suffolk.gov.uk

Keeping our Pathways and Roads Safe - Can we please ask everyone in the Parish to make sure that all hedges/shrubs/trees etc are kept cut back on a regular basis, so they do not interfere with walking along pavements, driveways and the roads. This is especially important in Thorpeness where we have a lot of visitors, tourists and residents who have to walk into the road. This is a safety issue so please make sure regular maintenance is performed. Thank you.

Finally - **A Merry Christmas to You All**

Maureen Jones

Chair

Energy Updates

Well what a difference an election can make! We have now a major change in our East Suffolk District Council - one which has a very different view of the Energy Companies and how they will deal with our three villages.

We now have a Council run by a coalition of Greens and Liberal Democrats, and the Aldeburgh and Leiston ward has two new Green Members to add to Tom Daly, who has been in place since the last set of local elections. Tom is now the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Energy and Climate Change to monitor the next moves of the Energy Companies, especially the ones that will most affect us.

Scottish Power East Anglia One North and East

Anglia Two are getting close to establishing a presence in our Parish with pre-contract works along the cable route from their Thorpeness landfall to the Friston substation. Despite Judicial reviews outstanding from both SASES and SEAS, they have applied for discharge of requirements for proposed soil survey works for both their Projects. These are essentially Ecological and Onshore Management Plans for their Soil survey works along the cable corridors. If these applications are passed then we will see this and Ecological surveys and the Archaeological Works following closely, so there will be a steady pick-up of works traffic in the area. There is also a proposal for using the old RAF Leiston as a base for archaeologists in this area.

National Grid Ventures

Nautilus – no new updates or information on feasibility studies to alternative connection at Isle of Grain.
LionLink (formerly EuroLink)- Possibility of consultation on a Scoping Report later in the year.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Sea Link Project- Expect a statutory consultation later in the year after their Scoping Report Consultation on Sea Link in November last year.

Sizewell C- The legal challenge from TASC (Together against Sizewell C) against the DCO was dismissed by the High Court, however an appeal is now being undertaken by TASC and Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth so we will wait to see the outcome of that. EDF still face the major problem of raising the finance on the initial build sum of £31 billion with construction costs going skyward all the time.
So, quite a quiet summer of news on these three Energy Projects but that will surely change.

I urge you to follow the Council's Website and go on the link for Energy Updates from East Suffolk Council, now being released to us –

<http://aldringham.onesuffolk.net/news-events-and-items-of-interest/newsview/248>

This will give you all the news, and you can use the interactive guides of the cable routes from Scottish Power and if you follow all the links, you can get lost in the wealth of information being provided- good luck !

Bill Seale

Parish Council Vice Chairman

Planning

Since the August Newsletter, the Parish Council has been consulted upon 15 planning applications, 3 in Aldringham and 12 in Thorpeness. The 15 applications comprise: -

Erection of a new dwelling	1
Erection of a replacement dwelling	2
Building alteration and/or extension	5

Variation to an existing consent	1
Tree felling/surgery	6

The Parish Council registered objection to one application, supported one application registered no objections to eleven and two remain under consideration. East Suffolk District Council have so far permitted nine of the applications, a further five await a decision and one application has been withdrawn by the applicant.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Parish Council now has Speed Indicator Devices stationed in Aldringham and Thorpeness. The Aldringham device is moved between sites on Aldringham Lane and Aldeburgh Road, whilst the device in Thorpeness is permanently positioned on Thorpe Road, near the Ogilvie Pavilion.

Recent speed and traffic volume data recorded by the devices is summarised below:

Aldringham	Max Speed	% over the limit
Mill Hill – westbound	65 mph	40% – 55%
Mill Hill - eastbound	65 mph	43% - 53%
Vicarage - southbound	75 mph	55% - 63%
Vicarage - northbound	75 mph	48% - 56%
Aldringham Park – southbound	85 mph	60% - 68%

Thorpeness	Max Speed	% over the limit
Thorpe Road – eastbound	72 mph	23%
Thorpe Road - westbound	89 mph	35%

The Thorpeness device presents the percentage of drivers exceeding the limit as an overall average, whilst the Aldringham device presents the data on a daily basis and is therefore expressed as a range for the purposes of this summary.

Tony Wheeler

Parish Councillor

District Council Report

Since the election on May 4th your Green District Councillors are Sarah Whitelock, Katie Graham and Tom Daly. They are part of the GLI (Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent) administration at East Suffolk Council..

Energy Projects

On September 27th Tom Daly, as Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change, brought to Full Council a motion regarding Sizewell C and the Friston energy mega-hub with associated cable corridors. The motion reversed the previous administration's 'neutral' position on the energy projects and called for a much more robust approach in order to protect the residents of this ward from destructive and unnecessary construction projects. Many of you will have received 'consultation' documents from National Grid about Sea Link and been told it's a done deal. The GLI administration is totally opposed to these appalling plans, agreeing with campaigners that the offshore grid is the only way forward.

Our Direction 2028

East Suffolk Council is setting its direction with the adoption of a new Strategic Plan that will underpin the services it delivers for the next four years.

'Our Direction 2028' presents the Council's key ambitions and priorities with an overarching aim to promote a bright, green, open, free, and fair future for all East Suffolk.

Its four main priorities, Environmental Impact, Sustainable Housing, Tackling Inequalities and Thriving Economy reflect the political ambitions of the new GLI

administration, and set the path the Council will embark on, collaboratively, for the four years until 2028.

Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council, said: "After many years of Conservative Administration our residents voted for change. Our communities put their trust in us, and we will deliver important services on the basis of clear priorities which reflect our shared values".

The Council will develop an action plan to measure exactly what is being achieved.

To follow East Suffolk's journey, head to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/ourdirection2028.

Festive Free Parking

To coincide with Christmas lights 'switch ons' and other festive events across the district over the coming weeks, East Suffolk Council is offering free parking in council-owned car parks from 3pm on the following dates:

Framlingham – Friday 8 December

Leiston – Saturday 9 December

Free parking will also be available from noon to 6pm on Saturday 16 December across the district.

East Suffolk Council says 'no' to oil and gas

As part of the King's Speech on Tuesday November 7th, it was confirmed that hundreds of new oil and gas licences will be granted in the UK by the Government.

East Suffolk Council has responded by confirming that it will no longer accept new tenancies from companies committed to oil and gas production. Councillors at East Suffolk have written to Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP stating their opposition to any new oil and gas licenses.

However, the Council, which owns considerable commercial land in the North Sea port town of Lowestoft as well as business parks in Beccles and Leiston, has stated that green companies will now be "at the front of the queue" for tenancies. This includes welcoming leading renewable energy service company RMI Renewables to their flagship PowerPark development in Lowestoft. GLI Cllr Toby Hammond, who is Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport as part of GLI administration, hopes there will be many more.

This decisive move by East Suffolk Council also follows recent decisions by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to delay targets on decarbonisation.

Grants for Winter Support - Now Live

Voluntary organisations, community groups and faith networks can now access grant funding for projects that help ease cost of living pressures around food and heating this winter – but applications need to be in soon. The East Suffolk Cost of Living Winter Grant Fund, made possible with funding from the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board, is offering grants for projects that

help East Suffolk residents to stay warm and fed during the colder months.

Organisations can apply for up to £2,500 for a wide range of projects – as long as they support individuals and families to stay warm and/or to access healthy nutritious food, particularly between the end of December and end of March. The closing date for applications is 9am on Wednesday 6 December.

GLI Councillor Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk Council cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism, said: "We know that lots of our residents are struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living, so I am really pleased to be able to launch the winter 2023/24 cost of living grants, thanks to funding from the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board.

"We are particularly looking for applications from small community groups and voluntary organisations who want to support residents this winter, for example by offering hot breakfasts, lunches and/or dinners, somewhere warm to catch up with friends, cooking classes, energy advice and much more.

"We want to hear from you if you have a great idea – big or small – to help your community this winter."

The Grant Panel will meet on December 13th, so projects will find out whether they have been successful just before Christmas.

Apply now at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-cost-of-living-winter-grant-launch/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

East Suffolk District Councillors

Suffolk County Council

2023 is nearly over and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all and the Parish Councillors for everything you do for the community and wider. Volunteers can be hard to find and are often the first person people look to in times of need.

Thank you also to everyone who has responded to the many consultations and meetings. We have been bombarded locally with one after another, and the expertise and knowledge that has been included regarding these is outstanding, valuable and appreciated. Although I do try and post items onto the local chitchat pages, sometimes it can be useful to have a couple of actual pages with some information that may help in bad weather or emergencies. Please always listen to the local news and radio for updates when these happen but the below may help you to be prepared and know who to contact quickly.

I don't know about you, but I always keep our "power cut toolbox" stocked up with rechargeable light/torches/mobile phone power bank and other items that I can locate quickly if needed. Ideas below.

As always, please do message or email if I can help in any way.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas Season and Best Wishes for 2024.

Cllr T-J Haworth-Culf

T-J

Suffolk County Cllr

Useful info:-

Weather warnings - Get the latest weather warnings from the Met

Office. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/>

Flood Alerts

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

The Orwell Bridge - Closures of the Orwell bridge are authorised by National Highways. You can find out the latest information relating to the Orwell bridge by visiting <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/travel-alerts/>

The following Twitter/X feeds also provide any late changes to closures and also any national or South East information:

[@HighwaysSEAST](#)

[@NationalHways](#)

Other roads in Suffolk - You can find out more information about road closures by visiting

<https://one.network/>

You can also get the latest information by following Suffolk Highways on Twitter/X

[@Suff_Highways](#)

Report a Fallen Tree - Report a fallen or overhanging tree or hedge in Suffolk quickly and easily online. [Link to Highways Reporting Tool](#)
<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/?type=5&subtype=510>

Please report a fallen or overhanging tree as per below::

If it poses an immediate danger to public safety -

call [0345 606 6171](tel:03456066171)

on a trunk road in Suffolk - call the Highways England Information Line on [0300 123 5000](tel:03001235000)

School Closures Decisions about whether schools close are made by the schools themselves. Please check with your school directly, they should be able to give you more information.

You can also [check school closures](#) on suffolk.gov.uk.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-closures>

Power cuts - For help about power cuts - call [105](tel:105) or go to www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut You can also register re priority services so please do look into this.

Suffolk Prepared - Find out more information on how you can plan ahead to deal with emergency situations from the Suffolk Resilience Forum.

Read: Six things you can do to prepare for an emergency. (<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/prepare-yourself/>)

Best wishes, TJ (County Councillor TJ Haworth-Culf)

Community Emergency Planning

Once again, as I write this update for the Parish Newsletter, the heavens have opened and it is raining cats and dogs. Many roads are flooded or at risk of becoming flooded. It is a timely reminder that we can never be complacent about the weather and the threat from flooding. Currently there are no flood alerts for our

parish, but it is worth reminding ourselves of the information that the Environment Agency website offers. The Environment Agency warns against driving or walking through flood water because drain covers and manhole covers may have been dislodged or removed by the force of water. There may also be debris or other material that can injure and cause you to trip and fall into the water. All floods are dangerous and you should take advice from the emergency services and your local authority if you're in a flood or under threat from flooding.

The Environment Agency advises that you should:

a) Check for flood warnings on local radio, TV or the Environment Agency website

(<https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/flooding-extreme-weather>) in order to keep up to date the latest flood alert situation for your area. Alternatively call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

b) Follow the advice of the Emergency Services.

c) Avoid driving or walking through flood water.

d) Sign up for flood alerts through the website address above.

We should note that long term weather forecasters are saying we should brace ourselves for more of the same i.e. higher than average rainfall. My advice is to keep your wellies at the ready!

This time of the year is also the time that we are reminded about the dangers of seasonal flu and the precautions we should take to avoid getting the flu. The first thing to remember is that we need a 'flu jab' that will reduce the risk of contracting flu and/or reduce the effects of flu if you do catch it. If you haven't had your flu jab yet contact your GP surgery for an appointment or take advantage of the 'walk in' flu surgeries being run by local chemists. Be aware that flu is spread by others at Christmas parties, crowded pubs, airports, planes and trains. If you feel vulnerable do not be afraid to wear a mask when travelling and wash your hands frequently. These actions will help reduce the spread of flu and reduce the risk to yourself, helping to keep you well.

Finally, don't forget to look out for your neighbours, stay warm and stay safe.

Roger Brown / email: roger.brown72@btinternet.com

Uppen About – some Parish Tales

***Uppen:** to mention, disclose or reveal - (a word 'much used around Aldbro' according to Edward Moor's dictionary of Suffolk Dialect published in 1823)*

A Local Link to World's Most Famous Diamond

Anyone who enjoyed the splendour and pageantry of King Charles III's Coronation and admired the glittering gems in the Crown Jewels might be surprised to learn of a little local link.

Thorpeness resident Judy Gane was able to persuade her brother Bill Cullinan to give a talk to Aldeburgh's Phoenix Club recently about their grandfather's brother Thomas Cullinan, who mined diamonds near Pretoria. These included the largest rough diamond ever

discovered (3,106 carats) and named after Cullinan. Both Cullinan 1 (The Great Star of Africa) and Cullinan 2 were cut from the original diamond and are part of our royal regalia.

Bill's talk covered the background of his and Judy's Great-uncle the mine owner, and Grandfather, a cattle farmer, who were brought up in South Africa and established themselves in their respective professions over the years. Mining this remarkable diamond was obviously a life-changing experience for Thomas who sold it to the Transvaal government. In turn, the government gave it to Edward VII, with Thomas receiving a knighthood in 1910 for his services to industrial development in South Africa. His nephew years later became a doctor who practiced for many years in Suffolk. The Phoenix club have a number of interesting talks throughout the year. If you would like to learn more and how to join, please email Mary Erwin (membership secretary) on info@aldeburghphoenixclub.org.uk

Blistering Recyclables!

Thorpeness resident David Jenkins has a solution to a recycling problem. He writes:- 'Until recently, I had not known what to do with tablet blister packs when all the contents had been taken. Should I put them in a bin? If so what colour - blue or grey? I have now found a source that will recycle them. Consequently, I have put a dedicated BLACK PLASTIC DUSTBIN by the front porch in my garden at 8 The Uplands, Thorpeness, and invite you to put any empty packs you may have in it, Alternatively you can hand them to me at any gatherings, meetings or events I am attending'

David Jenkins 01728 452959 david1936jenkins@gmail.com

AONBs become National Landscapes

From 22nd November, all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales are to be known as National Landscapes, including the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB (designated in 1970). This will become the **Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape**, reflecting the extension into Essex in 2020. The new name 'reflects its national importance and its vital contribution in protecting the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work undertaken to protect their natural beauty'.

Primary legislation has not been changed, so while legally the name remains AONB, these nationally designated areas will be referred to as National Landscapes. The renamed National Landscapes team will have new email addresses in the following format: _first.second@suffolkandessex-NL.org.uk.

ALittle Bit Rubbish

A council services manager, presumably filling a staffing void, must have felt a bit rubbish when, instead of reversing down Pilgrim's Way as most Refuse Disposal operatives do, he took a shortcut under the Thorpeness

Almhouses arches – and nearly raised the roof. His lorry took a couple of hefty chunks out of the Grade II listed building, but careful repairs have since been made.

Steaming Ahead



A traction engine rally passed through Thorpeness on a sunny November afternoon - photo courtesy of Chris Jones

Local Groups

St Andrew's Church



On the day of our Patron saint (St. Andrew, of course – 30th November) we celebrated his patronage with a service in church led by Revd Mary, followed by a fish and chip supper in the vestry. A jolly time was had by all.

This was a pre- precursor to the Christmas season with Advent Sunday itself starting the build up to Christmas and following on close behind. The church will be lit by hundreds of candles for our Advent Carol service on Sunday evening and the choir have been very much in training.

Cards listing all the December services at St. Andrew's - and elsewhere in the Benefice – are in the church so please do visit and take one of those cards home with you. Pop it on the mantelpiece.

Last week we said a sad farewell to Jeanne Taylor who had been our organist for many years and had been a true friend to the church. RIP Jeanne.

Many of us will also be meeting on the green at Aldringham for carols round the tree followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Parrot.

So as Christmas approaches we are all looking forward to sparkles and joy, lots more carols and mince pies and happiness all around.

David Copp

Churchwarden

Friends of St Andrew's

Our last fundraising event for this year was a Coffee Morning which was held in the Church in October. It was well attended by many of our regular supporters and quite a number of newcomers. We raised £480 for the Fabric Fund. The amount raised this year from the Bridge Drive, two Coffee Mornings, and the Bric a Brac stall at the Aldeburgh Church Friday Market totalled £1,667.27. The Friends Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our events in any way including helping to set up for events, bringing items for sale, such as cakes, books, bric a brac, draw and tombola prizes.

We begin in April 2024 with a Bridge Drive followed by a Spring Coffee Morning.

*Ann Norton Membership Secretary 01728 830519
anneenorton@btinternet.com*

Pilgrims Together

Hello All, and Christmas greetings from all of us here at Pilgrims Together.

We have had a very busy summer since the last newsletter with our summer services by the pond in front of the Meare in Thorpeness being a tremendous success. Lots of people joined in even when the weather was wet and windy and the area was flooded. That all seems a long time ago now and as we head into winter we are still very active and hope to see you at some of our outside services during the Christmas season. Our regular monthly breakfasts and walks on the first Saturday of the month are continuing to bring in more and more people to the Parrot in Aldringham and we give landlord Chris a big thank you for his continued hospitality. The cost of a breakfast roll and a hot drink is £6.50 per person and is served from 9.30am. It's usually followed by a local walk setting off at about 10.30am - please come and join us for either breakfast or the walk or both, no need to book just turn up. We like to support local fundraisers and social events and by the time you read this we will have had our stall at the Thorpeness Christmas Fair in the Dolphin with all profits going to SARS.

During December you will see us 'popping up' at many local carol singing events and we will be leading 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' by the Meare in Thorpeness on Sunday 17th December at 4pm, (please remember to wrap up warmly for this one). We look forward to seeing many of you at Aldringham's 'Carols on the Green' at Mill Hill in Aldringham on Thursday 14th December at 6pm. We will also be leading a carol service at Aldringham Court Care Home on Saturday 23rd December. It has been our great pleasure to visit Aldringham Court on a monthly basis this year and to lead a short but meaningful service to those residents who are unable to attend church regularly due to age or infirmity. We visit them on the third Saturday morning of the month and have held a Harvest Festival and a Remembrance Day Services recently. We are looking forward immensely to singing carols with them, to listening and sharing memories and stories of times past with those who live at the home and also those who work there.

We are continuing with our weekly Pilgrim services on Wednesdays at 6.30pm all through the winter on Zoom and if anyone wishes to join us then please use the address at the end of this article to find out how to participate - you will be most welcome.

As we have done in the previous two winters we are planning some quizzes and ceilidhs (Scottish word for gatherings and storytelling) on some Saturday evenings in January and February. These will be held on Zoom and if you wish to know more then again please contact us through the address below.

For most of us it is a most wonderful time of year celebrating the birth of Jesus, a child sent to us through humble beginnings and who became the Saviour of the World. With all the conflicts we are witnessing at the moment in the Ukraine, Israel and Gaza please spare a thought or prayer for those who are suffering pain and loss through no fault of their own, especially the children. May they soon know peace.

All our worship and activities can be viewed by contacting us on; Facebook

link: <https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimsTogether473>

email address: pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com

We at Pilgrims Together wish you all the joy of the season and a very happy new year.

Sue Atkinson

On behalf of Pilgrims Together

Good Neighbours

A relatively peaceful few months for Aldringham cum Thorpe Good Neighbours, with the most requests being for transport to medical facilities, as usual. We have neither gained nor lost any volunteers, but are always happy to welcome new ones. Our volunteers' annual coffee morning is on December 12th at the Parrot. If you would like to meet up with us, please call the Helpline and we will be delighted to see you.

Chairperson Jo Ogilvie is compiling an up to date list of local Warm Spaces for anyone who would like to visit them, and we can provide transport, if required.

Helpline Phone Number 07521 047 843

Pippa McLardy

Hon Sec

Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground

Everything is getting back to normal with all the regular events taking place during the summer months including cricket, croquet, and the August bank holiday Classics at the Pavilion. This year this proved another great success with probably the biggest attendance we have had so far and many classic cars and bikes on show. The annual Marmalade Club cricket match and Country Club day took place in August and we had a number of caravan rallies and private hires.

The monthly quiz has been restarted and takes place on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. A local bike group have been meeting monthly through the summer months on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month from 4pm. The bar is open and refreshments are provided by a visiting local burger van, everyone is welcome to come along.

Over the summer we submitted a pre-application of our plans for the new build, to East Suffolk Council, in order to seek the views of the planners on our proposals. Our architect and had a very productive meeting with Steve Milligan, the ESC Planner. We have now received the written comments which indicated they are very supportive of our proposals, and gave guidance on what would be required in a full application. We have instructed the architect to prepare the full application for submission as soon as possible and that work is now progressing.

If you would like to receive our regular newsletter, please contact Sara Paulley via the Pavilion's website if you wish to be included in the mailing

list. <https://www.ogilviepavilion.org>

Groups now making regular use of Ogilvie Sports Ground are The Croquet club on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (contact Gerald Lomax 07882 621102), Uke-N-Smile ukulele club on Wednesdays (contact iclampin@btinternet.com), the Cricket Club for nets practice on Sundays at 2pm (Contact Francis Byrne 07775 791441). The monthly quiz (contact zenamassey08@btinternet.com).

Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground Trustees

Aldringham Green Coffee Caravan



Photo courtesy of The Coffee Caravan

We've greatly enjoyed creating opportunities for company and connection with our Rural Coffee Caravan visits to Aldringham throughout 2023. We've been delighted to share and celebrate our 20th Anniversary year with everyone this year! We look forward to returning in April 2024. Don't forget to check our Digital Noticeboard and Virtual Leaflet Rack on the RCC website for our latest info and news in the meantime

at www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk, and we're a phonecall away on 01379 855 338 if we can help with any signposting enquiries throughout the winter months. We'll look forward to seeing everyone again in the spring!

Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group **SEASONS GREETINGS** **Good health & Happiness in 2024**

The Heritage Centre summer season has been a great success again and with the help and support of our fantastic membership volunteering to welcome our visitors, we have been open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through from Easter to the end of September plus the last weekend of October.

Our gratitude to Elizabeth Tipping for masterminding the Rota of Volunteers with great support from Kathy Tappin. SO – what have we been up to in recent months ?

In early August TAHG were part of the annual Village Summer Fete that took place at The Dolphin in Thorpeness – brilliant as ever and so amazingly hosted by David James, Kerry and their lovely team. Great for community and also raising funds for local charities. In late August TAHG were part of the St Andrew's, Aldringham church open day. Thanks to Eric Atkinson and Sara Paulley for putting together our display on the Gannon family for that event

In late September we hosted a "Sell Out" evening at Sizewell Hall where an audience of both members and non-members (the size of the room allowed this flexibility) were entertained by Hamish Ogilvie with both a potted history of the Ogilvie family in and around Sizewell Hall and of course the family connections in creating the Thorpeness that we all know so well since it's construction in the early 1900s.

Hamish brought along a large selection of printed materials from the family archives for the audience to look at during the evening. His talk gave us a real "through the keyhole" description of how the estate was organised in general by his grandfather, specifically using The Book (that still survives), which went backwards and forwards with instructions from his grandfather to the Estate Office. Most illuminating and fascinating! Audience questions followed

For many of the audience this was their first opportunity to see the inside of Sizewell Hall and some of the grounds which really made the evening special too!

Victor Jacks, who was the inspiration and driving force for Sizewell Hall being taken over in 1975 and converted / transformed in to The Christian Conference Centre that is still is today, also gave a short but extremely interesting insight in to how the property transferred from the Ogilvie family and the work that was done to create the education and religious centre it is today.

Our thanks to the Sizewell Hall team for making us so welcome and their assistance in producing such a successful event.

Janey Blanchflower very kindly, and in her incredibly knowledgeable way, gave a Walking Guided Tour around Thorpeness to a visiting group in late September – thank you Janey.

What else are we doing ?

A new Information Board trail for Aldringham is in the planning stages and with work from our history team and support through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds and Parish Council it is hoped this will be in place in 2024.

At the Heritage Centre itself we are working on : Commemorative Plaques, audio presentation of the library of voice recordings and ongoing maintenance of the centre to keep it looking great – an external repaint and grounds work are planned.

Our special thanks go to Maureen and Chris Jones for looking after and developing the planting around the Heritage Centre – as time goes by it has really become a great feature! Thanks of course also to the hard working and dedicated Committee of TAHG many of whom have been involved from the very start of the Group.

I make no apology for repeating that TAHG could not function or be as successful without the hard work and commitment of all who volunteer their time, energies and skills and also all those who attend our social events - thank you so much.

Great to report that our membership is strong and on the increase – we thank you for your support and continued involvement.

To join our group or find out more please make contact via : info@tahg.org.uk

Richard Bodek Chairman info@tahg.org.uk

The Men's Shed Saxmundham

The Men's Shed, which has a number of participants from Thorpeness, continues to gain strength as time goes by.

We meet every Wednesday morning at The Town Council's offices in Station Approach, Saxmundham, where we have a well-equipped workshop and, just as importantly, a comfortable Coffee Room! The Shed undertakes many tasks for Individuals and community groups including The Art Station, The Long Shop Museum, Saxmundham Town Council, and Saxmundham United Reformed Church to name a few. Tasks for Individuals include repairing chairs, standard lamps and creating a chopping board.

Sounds interesting? Give us a look very Wednesday 10 - 12 (noon) with no obligation to join. We supply the coffee and biscuits.

David Jenkins 01728 452959 david1936jenkins@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Had I submitted a report at the beginning of November, it would have had little content. Sadly, since then, we have been aware of 'undesirables' in Thorpeness. During the night of 10/11th November a CCTV camera in the garden of a house in Lakeside Avenue picked up two men, wandering in the garden and peering through windows. This is a sign that we shouldn't be complacent. We have so many empty houses in the village, particularly at this time of year. Do keep your eyes open, particularly being aware of unoccupied houses near you, watching for any questionable activity. We should never think we are interfering, just being friendly neighbours.

Anything untoward can be communicated on our Neighbourhood watch circulation, so please keep me updated. My very best wishes for a safe, healthy, happy Christmas.

Evelyn Rumsby (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.)

Thorpeness Coastal Futures Group CIC

It's while since we have done an update on the state of the beach and future plans for coast and village defence works but with all the recent extreme weather, we thought it was a pertinent time to bring everyone up to date.

Recap

In 1976 following a tidal surge that threatened houses at the north end of the village, gabion (rock cage) sea defences were built. In 2010, following another tidal surge, further defences in the form of bags filled with shingle were installed from Tinker's End to the northern point of North End Avenue (NEA) and the original gabions repaired. Residents contributed 1/3 of the cost of this work. Since 2010 there has been further storm damage and surges have contributed to the beach, particularly at the north end, reducing dramatically in size. The defences have been put under extreme pressure and in some places this has resulted in the collapse of the rock cages and bags.

When a house gets within around 11m of the sea, it is considered an emergency. In 2021 this happened to No 22 NEA and the owner raised the money to install rock defences on the seaside of their property. The situation of the Red House was considered an emergency in 2022 but the owners were unable to raise the money needed to defend the house, so the council ordered demolition. To keep Thorpeness safe and to prevent losing further houses, it's clear that our village needs a long term protection plan.

In 2021, the Thorpeness Futures Community Interest Company (CIC) was set up to work with local residents, councils and other local organisations to raise money for and put in place a comprehensive long-term coastal and flooding scheme for the whole village. Since then there has been constant dialogue with Suffolk Country Council/Coastal Partnership East.

Recent storm damage and exposure of the bags

In recent weeks the beach has taken a battering and the remaining shingle filled bags have been exposed. Residents are in positive dialogue with the council to get the bags recovered. Clearly covering the bags and maintaining the gabions are worthwhile preventative measures to protect properties from further damage. It should be noted, that the council only holds official responsibility for public safety maintenance - they are under no legal obligation to re-cover the bags or indeed invest in any structural/repair maintenance.

The North End point (where the Red House previously stood)

There is currently no sea defence on this corner and with the winter coming we are expecting further erosion at this point. This is a popular walking route and many people visit Thorpeness to access the beach via the common. To ensure the safety of the path and also the properties at that end of NEA the owners of these properties are looking at developing defence options like those currently outside No 22.

Developing a long term defence solution for the village from Red House Plot to Headlands

The CIC have been pushing Suffolk Council/CPE for many years to agree what a longer term more permanent

sea defence solution could look like. Consultations done 5 years ago came to the conclusion that the most appropriate solution would be rock defences (as seen at No 22). Since then various further consultations have been commissioned but with no substantive outcome. The CIC have stepped up their pressure on CPE to formulate a defence strategy.

Protecting the rest of the village

While it's currently the North end of the village that is suffering most with erosion from the sea, with an increased number of extreme weather events that we are experiencing in the UK, there is a very real concern that rising water levels will not only begin to threaten the southern section of coast in Thorpeness but that at some point (as in 1956) the sea will flood the Meare and the fragile freshwater marshes habitat will be threatened. Protecting the rest of the village will form part of the next stage of the long-term plan.



These photographs, courtesy of Thorpeness CIC, show the shocking extent of cliff falls in the last few months.

Longshop Museum



A young 'apprentice' falls foul of Mr Garrett's strict time-keeping in a re-creation for schools at the Longshop Museum in Leiston

As Leiston Longshop Museum approaches its 40th anniversary in 2024, it has received a large government-funded grant (from the Museum Estate and Development Fund) for repairs to the fabric of the buildings. Works will be carried out in two phases. Phase 1, which is in progress now, should be finished by the beginning of the new season on April 7th, in time for a number of events marking the last 40 years.

The museum is run currently by Fraser Hale, Simon Middleditch is the caretaker, and the board of trustees is supported by a large band of volunteers, who work with different teams in the museum. These include:- The steam team – those who run and maintain the vehicles; the restoration team - at present restoring a trolley bus and a Buick in the main workshop; the archive and collection team; the display team - collating the artifacts and constantly updating the displays; the education team - running workshops for schools and producing material used by pupils, and the front of house team, welcoming and introducing visitors to the museum. All groups would welcome new volunteers.

The education group recently had visits from around 100 children from two schools, all studying the suffragette movement, and staged a recreation of the trial of Louisa Garrett Anderson (daughter of the famous doctor, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson). Charged with attacking a policeman and causing disorder, she was found guilty and sentenced to three weeks in jail! The volunteers were grateful for help from The Men's Shed in preparing materials for the visits.

We will keep you informed about museum activities next year for the 40th anniversary. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer next year will be most welcome.

Jill Hubbard (Education and front of house volunteer)

USEFUL CONTACT DETAIL

Aldringham cum Thorpe Parish Councillors

Maureen Jones	Chairperson	01728 453915
Bill Seale	Vice-Chairperson	01728 832306
Tony Wheeler		07392 230845
Sara Paulley		01728 454990
Shirley Tilbrook	Parish Clerk	01728 830001

District Councillors

Tom Daly		
tom.daly@eastssuffolk.gov.uk		07825 720877
Sarah Whitelock		
sarah.whitelock@eastssuffolk.gov.uk		07824 452388
Katie Graham		
katie.graham@eastssuffolk.gov.uk		07968 077446

County Councillor

TJ Haworth- Culf	
tj.haworth-culf@suffolk.gov.uk	07955 434442

Police - Suffolk Constabulary**Always Dial 999 for Emergencies, including Coastguard**

Non Urgent Issues	101
Community Engagement Officer, Halesworth Locality,	
Halesworth Police Station	Simon Green (PC 187)
ceohalesworth@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Aldringham – Maria Chapman-Beer	
tribunegang@gmail.com	
(Aldeburgh Rd and roads off except Aldringham Park, to borders with Leiston, Aldeburgh, and down Thorpe Rd towards Thorpeness)	
Thorpeness – Evelyn Rumsby	07809 840924

Hospitals

Aldeburgh & District Community Hospital	
Park Road, Aldeburgh	01728 443850
Ipswich Hospital Heath Road	01473 712233

Doctors' Surgeries

The Peninsular Practice	
Church Farm, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh	01394 411641
The Surgery, Main Street, Leiston	01728 830526
The Surgery,	
Lamsale Meadow, Saxmundham	01728 602022
<u>Non-emergency</u> health problems advice	111

<u>Power cut line</u> 0800 31 63 105	or simply call	105
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Dental Surgeons

Aldeburgh Dental Practice	
167 High Street, Aldeburgh	01728 453333
Saxmundham Dental Surgery	
9 High Street, Saxmundham	01728 602537
Leiston Dental Care	01728 561873

Pharmacies

Aldeburgh Pharmacy	
125 High Street, Aldeburgh	01728 452763
Leiston Pharmacy	01728 832231
East of England Coop Pharmacy	
High Street, Saxmundham	01728 602051

Veterinary Surgeons

Aldeburgh Vets	
Hall Farm Lane, Saxmundham Rd, Aldeburgh	
contact@aldeburghvets.co.uk	01728 598111
Leiston Veterinary Clinic	
1d Eastlands, Leiston	01728 833566
Fromus Veterinary Group Fromus House,	
Street Farm Road, Saxmundham	01728 602599

Thorpeness Croquet Club

Gerald Lomax	07882 621102
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<u>Good Neighbours Group</u>	Help Line	07521 047843
Chairperson Jo Ogilvie		07594 238061

Local Heritage Group

Chairperson Richard Bodek	
info@tahg.org.uk	

St Andrew's Church

Churchwardens David Copp	01728 635816
Rex Bourne	rexbourne65@gmail.com

Ogilvie Pavilion

Eric Atkinson	01728 830497
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Thorpeness Cricket Club

Mr F Byrne	07775 791441
Email: byrneengineering@zohomail.eu	

<u>Connecting Communities Transport</u>	01728 635938
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<u>Border Buses</u>	01502 714565
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WHAT'S ON – December 2023 – March 2024

Month		Place	Event
December			
Fri 1 st	6.30pm	Dolphin Thorpeness	Village Christmas Party
Sat 2 nd	12 noon	Dolphin Thorpeness	Christmas Fayre
Tues 5 th	10.30am	22 Lakeside Ave, Thorpeness	Mince pies and Mulled wine in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice
Wed 6 th	6pm	Dolphin, Thorpeness	Christmas Quiz and Supper
Wed 6 th		District wide	Deadline for ESC Cost of Living Grant applications
Sat 9 th	from 3pm	Leiston	Free Parking
Sun 10 th	3 -5pm	Parrot Aldringham	Brass Band and Festive fun
Tues 12 th	10.30am	Outside Inn, Parrot, Aldringham	Good Neighbours' Volunteers' Coffee Morning
Wed 13 th		Parrot Aldringham	Christmas Quiz and Supper
Thurs 14 th	6pm	The Green Aldringham	Carols on the Green followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The Parrot
Sat 16 th	noon until 6pm	District wide	Free Parking
Sun 17 th	11am	St Andrew's Aldringham	Carol Service
Sun 17 th	4pm	Thorpeness Meare	Carols around the Christmas Tree
Wed 20 th		All SCC Schools	Last day of Winter Term
Sun 24 th Christmas Eve	11am	St Andrew's Aldringham	Morning Prayer
Sun 24 th	11.30pm	St Lawrence's Knodishall	First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass)
Mon 25 th Christmas Day	9.30am	St Andrew's Aldringham	Christmas Day Holy Communion
January			
Thurs 4 th		All SCC Schools	First day of Spring Term
Tues 23 rd		Dolphin Thorpeness	Heritage Group Winter Warmer meal
February			
Fri 16 th		All SCC schools	Break up for Half Term
Mon 25 th		All SCC schools	Back for second half of Spring Term
March			
Thurs 28 th		All SCC schools	Last day of Spring Term

Every Thursday morning at St Andrew's Church – Morning Prayers with Revd Sarah du Boulay. Every Sunday – St Andrew's Church Services 11am Pilgrims Together:- Every Wednesday 6.30pm on Zoom –weekly worship followed by get-together. First Sat of the month Outside Inn (Parrot) breakfast bap and ramble. Third Sat, Outside Inn, Coffee and Croissant breakfast .
 Last Wednesday of every month – Community Coffee Morning at the Dolphin Thorpeness
 Second Wednesday of every month – Community Coffee morning at The Parrot Aldringham
 Mobile Library 15/12/23. Aldringham Ogilvie Homes 9.40am, Thorpe Almshouses 10.20, Aldringham Mill Hill 11.05
 Fourth Thursday of every month – Quiz at Thorpeness Ogilvie Pavilion