

THE PARISH PUMP

The occasional Newsletter of
Trimley St Martin Parish Council
www.trimley-st-martin.org.uk

From the Chair

It seems that for as long as the Parish Pump has been going we have been preoccupied by two issues affecting the future of our village; the threat of new areas of housing and the dualling of the railway line both of which could have profound consequences.

Taking housing first, the future level of development in Trimley St Martin is largely tied up in scenario four of the David Locke report that was published this spring. This was a report commissioned to suggest a way forward for growth on the Felixstowe peninsular. Paid in part by a grant from EEDA, the East of England Development Agency, the report breaks the future of the area down into four growth scenarios. Scenarios one, two and three leave Trimley St Martin largely untouched but scenario four encompasses virtually all the housing previously put forward by other interested parties. This is the 'going for maximum growth' option that would dramatically change Felixstowe and both Trimleys so I suspect scenario four will be something that we will be hearing much more of in the coming months and as a Council we know, from the feedback we have had from residents, is an option that will not be welcomed.

On the matter of rail dualling we continue to have discussions with the Port over certain issues, some of which we hope we have agreed and some that are sticking points that may well have to be addressed at a public enquiry. The repositioning of the work site adjoining Reeve Lodge seems to have been resolved although a vehicle wheel washing facility will still have to be located near the roundabout. We also hope that we have secured the continuance of the bus route along the Levington link road during rail construction. The closure of the Grimston Lane crossing and no provision for a footbridge at footpath No 1 that leads to the river are two points that remain unresolved.

Finally we have been successful in getting a grant from Suffolk County Council to tarmac the driveway along the side and rear of the Memorial Hall this will greatly improve this area especially now it gets increased use by the Trimley Bowls Club. Our thanks to John Goodwin for helping us secure this funding.

Nigel Smith

Clerk's Corner

At last – the sun is shining!!! After what seemed like months of cold weather and the month of May being mainly wet, it's nice to see the weather improving. We are lucky that we have an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on our doorstep and a walk down to the river foreshore at this time of year is lovely, especially in the evenings when the sunsets over the river can be truly spectacular. The Parish Council are about to embark on a project to improve the footpaths in this area and hopefully improve the access down to the river.

Recycling

With the good weather comes the tradition of the BBQ and I also believe there is some sort of football competition going on at the moment!!, so there are bound to be plenty of empty bottles around!! Don't forget these can be dropped off at the local bottle bank at the Trimley Sports and Social Club (TS&SC) . The money raised from this, I understand, is donated to a chosen charity by TS&SC.

Play Equipment and Tennis Courts

You may not be aware, but the play equipment and playing field at the rear of the TS&SC is open to use by any resident of the village. This was a condition made by the Parish Council when the Sports and Social Club was originally built when money was donated by the Parish Council and SCDC for the equipment. The tennis court is available to hire for a small charge and if you would like to make use of this, you should contact TS&SC for details of availability.

Carnival

As you can see from the advert, the Carnival takes place on the 8th July. The Parish Council would like to thank John Sills and his small band of volunteers for organizing the carnival this year. This is such a huge undertaking and provides a great day of entertainment for local people. I understand there are many attractions that have been arranged and an increased number of decorated lorries will be taking part in the procession. Do go along and support this local event, all the monies will be donated to local charities.

Tracey Hunter



Orwell foreshore Litter Clearance

Although this is ongoing by various caring people, it was decided to hold an organised group session on Saturday April 22nd. This was mainly concerned with clearing each end of our foreshore; the main part having remained clear thanks to the above mentioned carers, dog walkers, etc.

Each end had got really bad: the foreshore downstream towards the nature reserve and also the corner of the saltings between the lake and the marina. Most of this litter had almost certainly been deposited by tidal action from the river, probably having come from passing boats.

We cleared these areas and bagged everything up (except larger items such as a car wheel and the top of a kitchen cabinet!) and left them so that they could be picked up after the weekend.

One lot in the marina, by kind permission of the harbour master, and the other by Nigel Smith, our council chairman. I thank them both for this most sincerely as also I thank the following folk who did all of the hard work:

Christine Baker, Jenifer Pozzani, Robin Biddle, Joe Smith, Wilf Youngs, Andrew Walters of the Rivercare scheme, and my partner Diana for providing the essential refreshments.

Keith Slaughter

Trimley Saints Players

Saints are now rehearsing for their summer presentation:



'Are You Being Served?'

a hilarious comedy screened way back in the 60/70's.

The storyline is that 'young' Mr Grace treats the staff to a (non) luxurious holiday in Spain, where they find themselves in some tricky situations. All your favourite characters are there, played by your favourite Saints! The show will be presented at the Memorial Hall from Tuesday 12th - Saturday 16th September. We don't like turning people away, so be advised to book early. Just call 671119 for tickets.

Trimley Memorial Hall

Work is well underway for the new building project at the Hall. The existing lobby will be turned into a disabled toilet, and a new lobby + kitchen will be installed. This has only been achieved with generous funding received from: Parish Council, County Councillor, Lottery, Trimley Saints, Port of Felixstowe, Trimley Carnival, Methodist Prayers group, Felixstowe Lioness's, Round Table, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Mr Andrew Schofield, and of course from the Hall Management Committee funds, all in all a great team effort! The project will make the Hall more user friendly for all members of the community, and will be a great benefit to the village.

Tracey Hunter

From your County Councillor

May I start this, my first few words for The Trimley St Martin Parish Pump with a word of thanks to the editor for allowing the opportunity and space in the magazine. I am delighted to have the chance in order that village residents might get an idea of who I am and more to the point what I believe in. When I was door knocking over a year ago in the run up to the County Council elections one of the most frequent comments was "we only see you lot when you want a vote". This criticism was in fact not a fair one to me as I had never before stood for election, however I have to say it was totally true in as much I have never seen or heard from my own local councillors at any time other than when an election might be due.

How is it possible to let people know you exist? well I am lucky in that I am allowed to write an article each month for the Felixstowe Flyer and now your Parish Pump, I also try to attend any events that I hear are happening in the two Trimley Villages. My wife and I have been regally entertained at the Memorial Hall pantomime, no not the Parish Council! the one with singing and dancing, we have also learnt about Peruvian crafts at the Welcome Hall and then I endeavour to attend as many Parish Council meetings as I can.

The big hot potato at present is of course the SCDC "Going for Growth" option on their recently commissioned plan for our area, part of that plan it appears is to build on the car parks nearest to the Felixstowe sea front, so much for Felixstowe as a resort. Perhaps the suggestion will be for would be visitors to stop at the "park and ride" in Ipswich, get a bus to the town centre, walk to the railway station and then come to Felixstowe by train, other than that not sure where they might be able to park. The big fear in the villages is of the rape of the green spaces, I think everyone accepts that there will be growth in our area but on what scale and at what cost. This "Going for Growth" should coincide quite nicely with the closure of our hospitals, the Bartlett is of course already earmarked for closure and the cynics amongst us are not taking bets on how long the General will remain after the demise of the Bartlett. The fact that we are a peninsular and that the A14 is very busy as a matter of course seems to have passed out of the Radar of those who would saturate the area with new homes. What happens when the Orwell crossing bridge is

next half closed for "essential maintenance"? I suppose the retort has to be don't ask!

John Goodwin

The Enigma that is Trimley

A short history of two parishes - Pubs, Clubs and Organisations

Ever since the monks in olden days started brewing beer and making wine, each village had its own public house. From the old alehouses came today's 'pubs. Subject to change like all institutions; over the years habits change. Whereas the church at one time dominated the community, the centre of the leisure hours were the ale houses and then the public houses. In days before stricter licensing laws, when the 'pubs stayed open all day (and half the night) and even up until the last war, there were scenes of drunken brawls on a Saturday night that are seldom witnessed today. Although there appeared to be no rivalry between the two parishes, outsiders from Felixstowe and particularly soldiers stationed there seemed to have always been in trouble. In St. Mary at one time there was "The Three Mariners" and the "Ship". The former still remains, although there is a suspicion that at one time it stood on the corner of Station Road. "The Ship" has for many years been turned into two houses. These are situated adjacent to Chapel Yard, to the side of what was the Old Chapel on the High Road. "The Mariners" is believed to have been named after "The Three Jolly Mariners" of the crew of Thomas Cavendish, who, staying with their Captain at Grimston Hall, sometimes terrorised the neighbourhood with their brawls.

In St. Martin there was "The Boat" and the "Hand-in-Hand". The latter is still in being and although records are not available prior to the beginning of this century, it must be a fairly old place. Probably an old alehouse on the road from Ipswich to the coast. One of the previous landlords noted that there were "Hidey Holes" in the chimney breasts of the bedroom, which may connect it with smuggling.

"The Boat" was situated in what is now Boat Cottages, next to the boatyard. Provision for the storing of the beer in the cellar can be seen round the back.

Between the wars an active sport connected with the pubs was steel quoits. This game, no doubt connected with the American game of horseshoes and probably originated that way in this country, thrived with the same enthusiasm as darts today. It was played on a meadow, from end to end, almost on the same lines as bowls, only with more energy. "The Hand in Hand" quoit meadow was behind the pub, on what is now barren land. There was also another one on the land where the bungalow now stands opposite Reeve Lodge.

During the war, a club was begun in Lime Tree Cottage on the corner of Thurmans Lane. Trimley's nearest attempt at a night club. Between the wars the Welcome Hall and Memorial Hall both ran a men's club, with billiards, darts, table tennis and other pastimes

The Band of Hope was operated from the Rectory in Thurmans Lane. Today's Memorial Hall is the centre for also a men's club, playgroup, table tennis club, slimming club, a Wives club, a successful over 60's club and other activities.

The Welcome Hall has much the same, if a little more subdued, but being the venue of the WI, Keep fit, Mothers and Toddlers, and other organisations. There is a flourishing Scout Troop and Guides and Brownies. There are two other playgroups, one in St. Martins and one in St. Marys.

In St. Martins there is still a tennis club and bowls club, always anxious to recruit new members. St. Mary's school already have a swimming pool and St. Martin's school is well on the way. There is also a very creditable Cycle Speedway team and two well supported football teams operating from Stennett Playing Field.

Prior to the Act of 1948 the Parish Council was decided on a show of hands at a Parish meeting. After this Act elections were held. In recent years there has been an active interest in local affairs and elections are quite well supported. Usually the Parish Council ones are over subscribed with candidates. Somewhat different to years ago, when Trimley St. Martin Council were meeting one night in the Methodist schoolroom. Here someone had to ask a passer by to sit in, in order to make up a quorum:

Throughout the history of Trimley as in other villages, the church played a dominant role. Gradually the power of the Rector passed to an elected Churchwarden, with vestry meetings to today's Parish Councils.

Overseers were appointed, with Surveyors, Assessors and a Constable. They held Vestry or Parish meetings. Their duty was to levy a rate in order to run the affairs of the village, mostly looking after the poor. They met every three months, when the Overseer would state the amount needed in the £ charged to meet their needs in the next quarter. The Overseer and the Constable collected the amount and distributed it to the poor.

The Churchwarden's position was of great importance in the village. Their names are listed in both churches' guides together with the patrons and Rectors. They were the Chairmen of Parish meetings, besides their duties in the church of paying church accounts, such as the upkeep of the churches and the churchyard. They were also responsible for paying the Overseers and the Constable, outrelief of widows,

orphans, unemployed, sick and maternity benefits, surgeon's fees and burial fees. The poor rate was levied on occupiers of land, mostly farmers.

Extracts from Chapter 9 © The Enigma that is Trimley—Ray Howlett, 1980

BURIAL FEES

No-one likes to talk about death, but it is one of life's certainties!

Since the closure of the Trimley church yards due to their having reached their capacity, the Felixstowe Town Council agreed that residents of the village can be buried in the Felixstowe Cemetery subject to the 'double' fee charges for all residents born outside of Felixstowe. However, the Parish Council have paid a



single yearly premium to the Felixstowe Town Council such that Trimley St Martin residents pay the same 'single' fees as paid by Felixstowe residents. In money terms, double fees are in the region of £1000 for a burial plot whereas the single fees are half this at about £500. This agreement between the Felixstowe Town Council and our parish council has recently come under discussion since the yearly premium paid barely covers the cost of one burial and the Felixstowe Town Council wished to increase this by a small percentage each year or offered the alternative to the Parish Council of withdrawing from the agreement and thus all residents would have to pay the 'double' fees. Councillors agreed to continue with the agreement since the cost is merely pennies each year on the community tax but provides a substantial help to those that opt for a local burial or cremation plot.

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