

# ***THE PARISH PUMP***

**The occasional Newsletter of  
Trimley St Martin Parish Council  
July 2004**



**From the  
Chair**

Welcome to another edition of the Parish Pump.

For all of you waiting for news of any future planning in the village there have been no new or revised visions since the last newsletter, in fact the whole planning process seems to be lumbering very slowly while central government decides on what it wants. In the meantime all we can do is to prepare ourselves and wait. I know STAG have been active in this way and the Council received a large bound document containing all the signatures against development in the Trimley's. The feelings of the majority of parishioners should now be well known by those who will have to make decisions.

Being fortunate enough to live and work in the village it always amazes me at this time of year how beautiful the trees and hedgerows look. I know many of us have very busy lives but there are miles of public footpaths in the village and it is worth getting out and walking some of them to appreciate what it is that many villagers are anxious to preserve. Trimley St Martin still has beautiful views across two separate river valleys and more areas of peace and solitude than you might imagine. The Council has two projects running at the moment related to the environment mentioned later, the ongoing Rivercare with Keith and the hedgerow survey with Berridge.

Finally we have very recently had a meeting with the Port of Felixstowe to discuss improvements to the Dock Spur roundabout. Also present were representatives of the Highways Agency, the POF's transport consultants, and a member of SCDC Planning Dept. The talks were very constructive and the views of the Trimley's and Felixstowe appear to have been listened to; we can hopefully expect some worthwhile proposals to upgrade both the safety and improvements to the layout of the roundabout to allow increased traffic flows as a result of the POF Southern Re-configuration, if the Planning Inspector allows the appeal. You might be interested to follow the progress by logging into the planning enquiry website at [www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/felixstowe/index.htm](http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/felixstowe/index.htm). We will obviously keep you updated on this.

**Nigel Smith**

## Clerk's Corner



I cannot believe that by the time this issue of the Parish Pump is delivered, we will be half way through the year!! The village always looks wonderful this time of year with the fields full of crops and the vegetation lush and green, although we could do without the grass growing quite so quickly; it's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge, no sooner have the grass cutters got round to cutting the various greens and verges in the village, than they need doing all over again!

The Parish Council held their annual Council meeting in May and Nigel Smith was duly re-elected as Chairman and John Barker continues as Vice Chairman. In May, ourselves, Trimley St Mary and Kirton and Falkenham Parish Councils held a joint Parish Liaison meeting with representatives from Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, Highways Agency and the community police sergeant to discuss issues that we all seem to have in common, such as problems with noise from the A14, congestion problems outside the schools, provision of bus shelters, street lighting and location and adequacy of dog bins. We are working hard with the relevant authorities to try and remedy some of these problems, some of which are easier to tackle than others!! It has been pleasing to note from the regular monthly reports that we receive from our local Community Policemen, that there are few incidences that occur in our village and that when crimes do occur, it is generally persons from outside of the village that they are committed by. On July 10<sup>th</sup> it will be the Trimley Carnival, a day when the two villages come together to enjoy the days entertainment. There will be a number of floats in the procession, mainly entered by local organisations and on the field at the Sports and Social Club there will be a number of stalls along with a fun fair, BBQ and live bands to keep you entertained. The Carnival Committee are small in number but have put in a huge amount of organisation from as far back as November to make sure the Villages have a truly great Carnival Day and your support would be welcomed to make the day a success.

Tracey Hunter

## RIVERCARE



Thanks to the good people, mainly dog walkers, their thoughtfulness in picking up as they go along means that the foreshore remains free of excessive litter. However there are items, which almost certainly come from passing boats, and not from careless folk having barbecues, picnics, or whatever.

With regard to boats, commercial shipping, etc. disposing overboard; I intend raising this matter at the forthcoming Stour and Orwell estuaries forum.

Now with regard to the river foreshore, this is part of private land, and although the owners have no objection to people enjoying it as a local amenity they do not want the privilege abused. This means that the lighting of fires and leaving rubbish is not on!

A crate has been placed in which to deposit litter, etc. But it would be much preferred if it was taken away by the same method in which it came.

I am still considering organising another clean up party but it would not be as daunting as before and perhaps require fewer people. If anyone has ideas on how we could achieve this or would like to volunteer in some way then please contact me on 01394 283646.

It would be under the auspices of the Rivercare scheme who have and continue to be very supportive. This includes insurance cover in case of accidents whilst working by the river.

Meanwhile my thanks again to those making the effort and please continue to enjoy our beautiful environment.

Keith Slaughter



## A14 Trimley Footbridge

**The footbridge will be closed for 3 days during the Summer School Holiday — week commencing Monday 2nd August. This is to allow the bridge structure to be inspected and the epoxy resin surface to be replaced. The new surface will be of an “anti-slip” type. This should make it easier and safer to walk across the bridge in icy and cold weather. The Highways Agency will signpost alternative routes. We will post any updates on the Parish Website.**

## Trimley Saints Players



Saints' were very pleased to win two awards at the ESTAA's in March (the East Suffolk equivalent of the Oscars!), for Best Director and Best Supporting Actress. They are now into rehearsals for their next production, 'Allo, 'Allo which will be presented in the Memorial Hall on 7th - 11th September. This should be a hilarious show, and much fun will be had at rehearsals. For tickets, please contact our box office on 671119. Book early, as we usually sell out! Saints' AGM was held on 7th April, and we were pleased to present generous cheques to the local MS group, the Memorial Hall, and Trimley Bowls Club, totalling £834.

Heather Rodwell

## **Trimley St Martin Hedgerow Survey**

The Parish council is pleased to be associated with the Suffolk Hedgerow survey. This is supported by the Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Green Print Forum. It's key objectives are to:

- ◆ Raise local community interest in the surrounding countryside.
- ◆ Establish a record from which future changes can be measured.
- ◆ Help reverse the decline in wildlife and wildlife habitat.

It is an important project and will eventually be an excellent record of hardwood species present in the local field boundaries and the associated features of these vital wildlife corridors

The project needs enthusiastic volunteers who can survey the field boundaries in this parish as part of a small team. No previous experience is required.

If you do have experience in identifying British hardwood species then your involvement would be much appreciated by the coordinators.

We expect the project to get under way over the next month and should continue until this winter, it's easier to identify the species with either leaves or fruit attached. The completion of the survey for our area is hoped to be by the Autumn of 2005.

All the information gathered will form part of a central data store of the whole county but also importantly the Trimley St Martin Parish will own the data for its portion of the survey and it is hoped to publish the results at the end of the survey.

There is periodic free training provided for those who would like to take part.

If you would like to be involved or would like more information please contact me.

Daytimes 01473 643983

Evenings 01394 670467

Email [bedge.eve@btopenworld.com](mailto:bedge.eve@btopenworld.com)

**Berridge Eve**

*Folk who have lived in the village for a number of years will probably remember a local village character — Ray Howlett — Ray was a keen local historian who published a series of booklets on the history of “the Trimleys”. By kind permission of Ray’s son we are pleased to print extracts from these booklets.*

## **The Enigma that is Trimley**

### **A short History of two parishes.**

#### **Chapter 1 - Prehistoric Up to 1066**

There is but sketchy evidence of the dark ages leading up to the Norman Conquest of 1066. So geology and theories merge into actual history.

Long before the Trimley as it is today, great changes were taking place climatically, which over the millions of years, led to geological changes in the basic structure of the land in which we live.

Whilst excavating part of the route of the by pass, workmen came across, at great depth, old bones. At this depth they would have reached London Clay, deposited during movements of glaciers during one of the great ice ages. At the base of the formation there were rounded black pebbles. Associated with these pebbles is usually a foot or two of grey sand, in which sharks teeth were found. From this come septaria, man's earliest cement, used in the building of Walton Castle and St. John's church, Trimley. Fossils found near Woodbridge, of turtle and palm trees, indicate that the climate at one time was sub-tropical. Although prehistoric, the fossils show a resemblance to present day forms of life.

The clearest evidence of Trimley's link with the prehistoric past can be found in the crag pit, off the by pass. Here at one end is a cliff face with layers of red crag, which is rich in the Felixstowe/Trimley/Newbourne area. This dates from about 2,000,000 years old. It is a shore deposit consisting of current bedded sands, shelly in places with occasional layers of silt and ironstone. The shells bear evidence of having drifted and deposited in banks, which according to one geologist were piled near the shores of land locked bays, through the action of prevailing easterly winds. These still exist in Trimley: At the time when these deposits were made, sabre tooth tigers, elephants, bison and monkeys still roamed around the area, still joined to the continent of Europe.

What then of the crag pit and the surrounding Mill Pouch, Pouchen Meadow or the Pouchen, thought to be so named because it is shaped like a pouch? Beside the shells of cockles, whelks etc., long extinct, among the crag, have also been found other deposits of hard pieces of brown fossils. These are thought to be the infilling of burrows of prehistoric worms or a shrimp like animal. Other fossils found include pieces of antler of ancient Red Deer, extinct for over one million years. But no coprolites, the forerunner of modern fertiliser, although these were a thriving business in nearby Levington and Falkenham at one time. These have however, been found down by the river Orwell.

The pit was at one time part of the parish land of St. Mary and used as a gravel pit to help keep the roads under repair.

With these deposits it rather leads to the assumption that the whole of the area was a land locked bay, extending as far as Candlet. It has been suggested that Candlet was an ancient 'settlement, perhaps on the shores of this bay? All that remains now is the stream which still springs from the Pouch and finds its way eventually to Kings Fleet in Felixstowe.

On a map of 1740 there was a wide track running from what is now Old Kirton Road to the Pouch, with a stream beside it. No doubt this stream now runs underground and links up in the Pouch. This track was known as Crows Well Way and is still a public footpath.

On the next meadow toward Capel Hall, known as Mill Meadow, stood a water mill. Within the wood there are traces of bricks, also snowdrops blooming in the spring. During stream cleaning

operations in preparation for the by pass, a hand millstone was found, identified as being of medieval origin.

In 1740, Church Lane was known as "Lane to the Pouch". Mill Farm nearby gives an indication of the water mill. Today's stream is not sufficient to drive a mill, therefore it must have been dammed in two points to have given a good head of water.

At one time the meadow was cropped by farm horses and the boys played cricket and football on it. Here too in living memory Boy Scouts used the meadow to pass their "Tenderfoot" badge. Known then as "Dobbler's" and "Butchers" meadow.

No evidence of prehistoric man have been found in Trimley, although a whole tree trunk hollowed out for a canoe was discovered in the River Orwell mud. But there is ample evidence of Roman occupation, more so in nearby Felixstowe, where many coins have been found. Walton Castle, now only a pile of rocks visible at low tide at Cobbold's Point, was built by the Normans upon an original Roman fort and so ingloriously pulled down and used to pave Walton High Street, in an attempt to curb the powers of the Bigods, Lords of the Manor at that time, who also owned Bungay and Framlingham castles. Flint arrow heads were discovered in Capel Hall Lane which, it was thought, was at one time a Roman camp.

After the Romans moved out in order to try and salvage their crumbling empire, the dark ages began. Vikings, Angles, Saxons and Danes made their raids. Some like the Saxons left their mark and their culture. The burial ship at Sutton Hoo, place names such as Wolf Kettel, a hamlet of Nacton, named after Ulf Kettel, a Saxon chieftain who fought a bloody battle with the Danes there in about 900 AD.. The graves of the dead are contained in the tumuli still to be seen in the area known as the Seven Hills in the Nacton area.

Around 500 AD., Angles from Holland and Belgium invaded Suffolk and Norfolk - hence East Anglia. They drove out the inhabitants and settled along the high points of riverbanks. Thus hamlets such as Thorpe, Grimston, Morston, Lestanton and Blofield are the most ancient in the Trimleys. They then gradually moved into what was then vast tracts of heath land and meadow land, settling among the Roman road, which was a direct route to Walton Castle - today's High Road. The name of Trimley means Tryma's Leah - a woodland clearing or meadowland. Tryma was no doubt the chief of that settlement.

In the days of King Alfred, for administration purposes the districts were divided into hundreds (hundred families). Trimley area was known as Colnies Hundred.

The settlement was surrounded by a wooden fence. Outside the perimeter was common land for the use of everyone, for grazing and furze for fuel. Trimley's commons disappeared many years ago, probably under the Enclosure Act. Therefore there is no registered village green or common in Trimley.

Danish Kings gave way to Saxons, until in 1066 another invasion took place and the last time England was invaded and conquered. This was by William the Conqueror from Normandy.

In 1086 King William ordered a great survey, to assess the wealth and worth of the kingdom he had taken over. This was carried out and became known as the Domesday Survey, or the Domesday Book, now in the Chapter House at Westminster. Here each person, land and property, was assessed for taxes and real recorded history began.

© **The Enigma that is Trimley—Ray Howlett, 1980**

### **Village "Greens"**

Complaints have been made to the Parish Council that youths are playing football on small open grass areas in the village and in doing so are causing damage not only to the grass itself but to nearby parked vehicles; also gardens are being entered, without permission, to retrieve lost footballs. Clearly, these small areas are not suitable for this activity and older children should be encouraged to use the pitches at the rear of the Trimley Sports and Social Club, leaving the small areas of grass in the village for the younger children to play in safety.



# Trimley Carnival

Sat 10th July

At Trimley Sports & social  
Club

Processions starts at 2pm

From Faulkners Way

Floats Stalls Majorettes

BBQ Live Bands

Funfair

**The Parish Clerk of Trimley St Martin is:**

Mrs Tracey Hunter,

18 Punchard Way

Trimley St Mary

☎ 01394 210337

email: [hunter.trimleymartinparish@ntlworld.com](mailto:hunter.trimleymartinparish@ntlworld.com)