

# ***THE PARISH PUMP***

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

**April 2004**



**From the  
Chair**

Over the winter months there was very little new information on the likely number of new houses required in the Suffolk Coastal area. As spring arrives we finally have some idea of the housing needs as promised in the last Parish Pump; these have now been published by the Eastern Regional Assembly. They have been 'banked' with central government and are the most accurate figures that we can currently work with. The total housing requirement for the area until 2021 is 10,100 homes (505/annum). On first glance this figure seems alarming, but after taking out existing planning approvals not yet built, potential sites within existing village envelopes and allocations still to be built on the Ipswich fringe the figure for potential new greenfield sites up until 2021 may well be a tiny fraction of this number. How many of these would need to be accommodated in the Felixstowe peninsula is still very much undecided. Whatever the outcome I can assure the residents of Trimley St Martin that we will publicise the figures for this area as soon as they are made available to us.

We continue to discuss with POF their southern reconfiguration plans and see safety on the dock spur roundabout, road and rail traffic noise, vehicle pollution and coastal erosion as the main issues affecting the village while of course being mindful of any increase in job opportunities that the new development may provide. While mentioning traffic noise there have been discussions about the possible provision of acoustic barriers along the A14 I would be interested to know what residents felt about this and indeed any other measures to improve the quality of life in the village, please e-mail myself or write to the Clerk.

Finally a brief mention about the link road that has now been named Howlett Way after Ray Howlett who many of you will remember as the lifelong resident, author and local historian of Trimley St Martin. By the end of April we hope to have the newly planted beds weeded and any replanting completed. Arrangements are also being made to have new 'Welcome to the Trimleys' signs to be erected. Lastly there is the problem with litter, we are now having a clean up of as much as we can before spring growth commences and would ask everybody to help keep the village free of it throughout the coming year.

**Nigel Smith**



## **CLERK' CORNER**

Well Christmas now seems a dim and distant memory, although if you went along to the Trimley Saints Players pantomime, Babes in the Woods, the memories of this will stay in your mind for a long time to come!!! A great production that was enjoyed by young and old. It's great that a village has such a thriving theatre company and long may they continue.

This looks like being a busy year for the Parish Council and the support of the residents will be required especially in respect of the Local Plan and our Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup> will be your chance to let your Councillors know your feelings as to what improvements you may like to see in the village. Details of all meetings are displayed on the notice board outside the Memorial Hall, which you may have seen has now been replaced with a rather smart new notice board which was paid for by part of the locality budget from our local C.C. Patricia O'Brien. Unfortunately, the old board had deteriorated to a dangerous state and needed to be replaced. If you have any notices that you would like to place on the board to advertise various events etc, please contact me on 01394 210337.

Tracey Hunter

## **“Trimley Panto”**

Trimley Saints had great fun presenting Rock 'n Roll Babes in the Wood in January. We played to virtually capacity audiences, and all seemed to love this show with a difference! Saints raised over £800 to give to our charities: the local MS group, the Memorial Hall, and Trimley Bowls Club. Cheques for these will be presented at our AGM on Wednesday 7th April in the Hall. Look out for our next production: 'Allo, 'Allo, to be presented in September.

Saints have been nominated for 10 awards at the forthcoming ESTAA awards night in March, this promises to be a very exciting evening for Saints!

Heather Rodwell

## **The Forgotten Trimley St Martin Mining Industry**

It just happens that under our feet lies something called coprolite, not fossilised dung as some people will have us believe, but fossilised bones of creatures from prehistoric times.

Now this material is phosphate rich and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a valuable commodity that was the ideal raw material for the manufacture of fertiliser.

Coprolite was mined heavily around Trimley St Martin and surrounding villages and at the height of the industry the open cast method of mining was used. Huge holes were dug in the countryside in order to get at the precious commodity. Owners of land with viable seams were offered around £20 for the rights to mine their land, the price of a nice house in the Victorian era. Commercial mining was driven by large companies like Packards and Fisons who started to process the raw material in huge quantities and start supplying the world with fertilisers.

19<sup>th</sup> Century maps often show these mines but there is little to see these days as they were filled in soon after each area was cleaned of the coprolite nodules and restored to farming land.

Depressions in the ground and the lakes near Thorpe Lane are all that is left of this important industry. Take a walk along the track between Alston Hall and Goslings Farm and see if you can spot the workings.

Contrast the quiet countryside now to when the mines were active, It was a dirty, noisy, labour intensive and dangerous job. In their enthusiasm to get at the coprolite undermining was common, and collapse causing death inevitable. As for the miners they were a mixture of locals and imported labourers who were paid a more than fair wage for their time. This was a boom time and sometimes likened to the California 'Gold Rush' though not as glamorous.

Thousand of tons of coprolite was dug and loaded on to carts and possibly taken to the riverside at Trimley St Martin foreshore. From there it was transferred to flat bottomed barges to be shipped to Ipswich and thence to mills at Bramford.

The industry collapsed early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century due mainly to cheap imports of phosphates from America and far East.

But what happened to the wealth from this boom time? Well the bulk of the profits went to the land owners, the fertiliser producers and the shippers. Not much was left for the general population except the lucky ones who owned a small piece of land with a viable seam beneath.

So don't think of Trimley St Martin with a history of only farming, imagine a bustling mining village with migrant workers and the odd drunken miner staggering home after handing his hard earned cash to the local landlord.

**Berridge Eve**

**Annual Parish Meeting  
Tue 6th April - 7.00pm  
In Memorial Hall  
All parish residents welcome**

**The Trinity Vision !!!!**

You might have seen the recent press reports regarding a changed vision, this was based on the press release reproduced below (from [www.trimley-vision.co.uk](http://www.trimley-vision.co.uk)). At a recent POF/local authority liaison meeting, I quizzed Tim Collins and Dr Fairbrother about this.

They admitted that as yet there has been no change to the vision which is unacceptable both to your council and we believe to the great majority of residents.

Why the press release then? We will keep you informed, our meeting notes are posted on our website.

**The Trimley Estate**

**A vision revisited—March 2004**

Planning framework proposals for the Trimley Estate on the Felixstowe Peninsula are currently undergoing significant revision by Landscape Design Associates, a leading firm of consultants, it has been revealed.

The original proposals – put forward for discussion by Trinity College during 2003 – were made in response to pending changes in the Suffolk Coastal District Council local plan. Now, following wide-ranging consultation, these are being amended to take account of useful local feedback.

“We recognised at the outset that the College's proposals were conceptual and would evolve

over time” comments Tim Collins of Bidwells Property Consultants, “and the revised proposals seek to conserve the rural character and separate identities of Trimley St. Martin and Trimley St. Mary”.

“In particular, the College has recognised at an early stage recognises the need to try to avoid routing significant additional traffic down Church Lane and Thurman's Lane, and as far as possible to secure the country feel of those lanes and a number of the very important views across the fields to the rear of the parish churches”.

“The amount of feed back from the public consultation has been substantial,” adds John Phillipps, Director of Landscape Design Associates, “and we were keen to respond as soon as possible. Our current ideas include improving existing village facilities relocation of the new village centre in addition to adding new ones : we are still considering where the best place for these might be , whilst keeping the village separate and protecting local views and rural lanes”.

“We are also looking at future educational requirements, particularly at the secondary school level, where land in Walton , Trimley St. Martin and Trimley St. Mary may need to be safeguarded for that purpose. I hope that the community will continue to respond to our ideas with their own thoughts and innovative suggestions”.

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)

email the Chair: [chairman@trimley-st-martin.org.uk](mailto:chairman@trimley-st-martin.org.uk)