

THE PARISH PUMP

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

April 2005

With the cold, dull days of winter behind us I am glad to be able to report that the outlook might also be improving on the planning front, or at least our understanding of what to expect from it. The fog has begun to lift on the numbers of houses needed in our area and after taking into account existing planning permissions and an estimate of 'windfall sites' (these are small pockets of housing sites throughout Suffolk Coastal) then allocations within SCDC area could be as low as 420 houses in the Haven Gateway area. There are still however two provisos when it comes to Trimley St Martin, namely:

1. That SCDC will want the ability to make the decision on where within the area these houses are situated. Therefore it could be that they would want them mainly in Felixstowe, Kesgrave, Martlesham, Woodbridge....or Trimley.
2. The current figures are derived from the "Spatial Strategy" but there is always a danger that they could be adjusted again by central government.

So unfortunately we are not taking anything for granted.

Master Planning

The one event that the members of your Council feel is going to prove very positive for the future of our village, is the awarding to the Felixstowe area of a Masterplan grant, partially funded by the East of England Development Agency and the EEC. This has been given to enable the preparation of a detailed and fully consulted plan for the future of Felixstowe and the surrounding area. A firm of consultants, David Lock Associates of Milton Keynes, have been appointed and it is this Council's intention to be actively involved at all stages wherever possible. From what I can gather at the time of writing, the Masterplan will have real 'teeth', in that its findings will form the major decisions on housing, transport, recreation etc for this area during the next twenty years. This will be fed into the Local Development Framework that replaces the old local plan. The other important point to remember is this is coming from a grant aided, council backed initiative and not from the inevitably 'weighted' perspective of a landowner or developer.

I believe it is an opportunity this Council must grasp in our efforts to retain the predominately rural character of our village. We feel Trimley St Martin's role is to provide the green recreation for the peninsula not the dormitory for Ipswich and Felixstowe and we would want this incorporated into the Masterplan.

As a council, we feel strongly that this should have been called "A Felixstowe Peninsula Plan", the Trimleys must be an essential part of the consultation process.

Council Tax

'Finally you will be pleased to know that the Council Tax for your parish this coming year is within the lowest 10% of all SCDC parishes'

Nigel Smith

Clerk' Corner

As I write this article, looking out of my office window, it looks more like Siberia than Trimley, as there is currently a blizzard outside!!! All very nice for those of us that are watching from the warmth of our homes, but a much trickier prospect for those who are trying to get to work! The A14 has been particularly hazardous this last week or so and this has led to a number of accidents along this stretch of road. We are of course in the unfortunate position of being placed alongside one of the busiest and the only main road into one of the biggest ports in Europe and incidences of jack-knifed lorries are all too common. It is the view of this Parish Council that there is not enough preparation by the Highways Agency in reacting to the weather conditions with regard to gritting the major roads, especially the A14. We understood that a single gritter travels from the Port to the Norwich (A140) turnoff along the A14 and then travels back, but if an accident occurs along one stretch of the A14, then the gritter is held up along with the rest of the traffic. Recently two lorries jack-knifed at Seven Hills on the westbound carriageway, totally blocking it. Where was the gritter? — stuck on the westbound carriageway on the Felixstowe side of the accident. The consequence of this was that that from Seven Hills towards and over the Orwell Bridge, no further gritting was able to take place — result absolute chaos—again!!!

This is simply not good enough and we have again written to the Highways Agency and Suffolk County Council asking that this situation be looked at. Surely it is not too much to ask that there are at least two gritters along this busy stretch of road – you would think not!

Trinity Second Vision

Your Councillors have looked carefully at the Trinity Second Vision and I can confirm that their stance remains the same – they are firmly against the proposals and I have written to SCDC accordingly. Whilst the revised vision shows a reduced area of proposed housing around the Thurman's Lane and Church Lane areas, it still shows a high density of housing in and around the remainder of Trimley St Martin, which we believe would totally destroy the character of the village and its surrounding countryside; the narrow High Road and country lanes are not remotely equipped to deal with the significant increase in traffic that this monstrous development would create. The village does not have the infrastructure to deal with more than a small number of affordable housing that the Parish Council recognises is needed.

Acoustic Barriers

You may recall from my last report that a consultation letter had been sent to owners whose properties border the A14 into the proposal of erecting acoustic barriers to cut down on the noise emitted from the traffic along the A14. I can advise that the Port have arranged for a detailed topographical survey to be carried out such that design work can then be carried out in respect of the height and location of the barrier. The Parish Council will then be consulted on these, sometime towards the end of April.

Dualling of the Felixstowe — Ipswich Railway Line

It now seems certain that if POF/HPUK get the permission for the South Reconfiguration then the dualling of the line through our village will go ahead

With regard to the proposed dualling, I have informed the Port that the council wishes to be fully involved in the consultation process of the Environmental Statement, it is felt that the proposed dualling of the railway line through Trimley will cause untold disruption to those residents living near to the crossing points. Of particular concerns the effect that the proposed up-grading on the crossing points will have to those that regularly use them.

I understand that the dualling of the railway is dependant on the success of obtaining the Governments permission to proceed with the Felixstowe South Reconfiguration expansion and whilst as a Parish Council we are keen to get as many of the expected increase in lorries/containers off the road and onto the railway, this too is not without its considerable problems, not least the noise and pollution that the increase in the number of freight trains travelling through the village, will bring to local residents.

Annual Parish Meeting

We will be holding our **Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 5th April, 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall**, annual reports from the representatives of SCC, SCDC, Parish Council, local schools and Memorial Hall Committee will be received. However, this is also your chance as a resident of the village to discuss any important issues that you feel affect the village. Councillors are keen to hear the views of local residents and everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

Tracey Hunter

TRIMLEY CARNIVAL – Saturday 9th July

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th April, 7.30pm at the Trimley Sports and Social Club. We are still looking for volunteers to join us, either in the preparation beforehand or

on the day itself. If you would like to join us, please come along to our next meeting or phone Jane Welton on 272135.

If you are interested in putting a float into the procession, please also phone Jane on the above number.

The Trimley Marshes

The marshes are extensive and occupy approximately 250 hectares. Most of the marshes were once tidal salt marsh but now only fragments of this still exist and pieces that do survive are on the estuary side of the main sea wall.

Salt marsh drainage goes back to at least the Roman times in Britain. Sea levels were falling in this time and the Romans being great engineers took advantage of this all over the south of Britain. After the Romans left drained marshland was neglected.

By late Saxon times sea levels had risen, populations were expanding and reclamation began again. In the 16th Century acts were passed to ensure the continued maintenance of the major sea defences. The Trimley Marshes are mentioned in the 1531-1861 Sewers (nothing to do with sewage) acts for this area. The 17th century saw another increase in reclamation and this was further accelerated into the 18th and 19th centuries.

If you look at the marshes you can see the ditches and field boundaries are not all neat and tidy straight lines. These ditches and boundaries are the remnants of the original natural creeks and streams from the old salt marsh.

It makes lots of sense to use these channels as they already provide drainage and once a banked sea defence is built these features aid the drainage of the salt water. To supplement these straight ditches are dug and you now see a haphazard pattern of twisty and straight ditches. 'The Old Fleet' is one of these serpentine ditches and is likely to be as old as the original salt marsh.

The most important feature of the marshes are the sea wall and its ditch on the landward side. This ditch acts as a reservoir for the run off from the 'new' land at high tide. The clever bit is the engineering of a sluice that allows the water to leave at low tide and stops the return as the tide rises.

It is very difficult to work out the age of the marshes mainly due to the constant maintenance and expansion of the marshes that has removed much of the evidence of past drainage. We can say that an area in the south of the marshes predates the main sea wall. We know that some of the sea defences date to before the Sewer Act of 1531. The Romans were salt making on the marshes and draining at least small areas. It is likely that most of drainage dates from at least the Late Saxon period and the scale of what we can see today was pretty much as it was by the 15th century.

Berridge Eve

© Berridge Eve 2005

Trimley Saints Players have been nominated in no less than 4 categories for this years East Suffolk Amateur Theatre awards. The presentation night will be the 19th March, and Saints will be there hoping to pick up a trophy! Saints played to near capacity audiences for this years Panto, Dick Whittington, and will be presenting a cheque for £1000 to the Tsunami Appeal at their AGM on the 29th March in the Memorial Hall.

Trimley Memorial Hall Committee will be holding their AGM on the 15th March. The committee are now looking at a project to enlarge and refurbish the kitchen extension, to include disabled toilets, in line with the Disability Discrimination Act. The Hall committee are hoping to sell the full size snooker table. The table is very old, and was acquired following World War 2 for the men's club in the village, by Canon Banks, who then lived in Longford House. Apparently he approached one of the Gentlemens Clubs in London successfully! Sadly, no-one is interested in using the table any more, and the maintenance costs are not justified. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested on 275575.

Heather Rodwell

Lock It or Lose It !

Over the last couple of weeks you will have read about or become aware of the number of thefts from - or thefts of - cars in the villages close to Trimley St Martin. What's alarming to us at the station is that a number of these vehicles were unlocked. Some had the keys left in the ignition. Some of those key rings had the house keys on them. Garages were unlocked. Some garages had connecting doors to the house - unlocked. There's a thread running through these crimes. All were easy pickings for the thieves - no real hassles of having to break in and risk alerting the owner by making noise. Why not come back for more if people are going to be so helpful! Heard the radio adverts recently where someone uses a megaphone to advise others that they have left their car open and property in easy reach? Same thing really!

Your insurance company will refuse to pay up if they are aware that you didn't lock it! Your insurance company can have access to your crime report - so they will find out if they want to make the effort.

The message is really really simple - **Lock it or Lose it !!** (please).

Mick Richardson

Ps 535

Felixstowe Community Police Team

Grass Verges

The Council are concerned about the damage being done to the grass verges in the village by vehicles during the recent wet winter period. Whole sections of the verge have been churned up in some places, we are especially concerned about the damage done to the grassed area in front of the village sign, on the junction of High Road, Cavendish Road and St Martin Green,. We would ask that residents do not damage the grass verge and certainly do not park on them when the grass is very wet. We will be asking SCDC to repair these before their Summer grass cutting programme starts.

The Enigma that is Trimley

A short history of two parishes

Schools

In the early 1800's education was a sketchy business and only carried out by volunteer social workers such as the clergy, and supported by voluntary contributions. This was "School pence" which was usually one old penny per child per week.

Under the Government endowment returns for 1818 there is no educational endowment for Trimley.

But there are three day schools, containing about 100 children. "The poor are desirous of having their children educated and would thankfully accept the means, if offered to them for so important and excellent a purpose." These day schools were probably run by the church, possibly in the rectories or in the common meeting rooms.

By 1833 there was in St. Martin one daily school containing 40 children (mostly males), who are instructed at the expense of their parents. One Sunday school is attended by from 30 to 40 children of both sexes and supported by voluntary contributions.

This day school in St. Martin was opened in 1832 and still stands in Mill Lane, what was then "The Heath". Known now as "Old School House", it has for many years been turned into two houses. In the common entrance hall, the pegs are still on the wall, where the pupils used to hang their coats.

It was opened to the poor of both parishes and run by the church.

Around this time there was a free school run in St. Mary, first occurring in the National Society's report of 1837, when a weekday school is said to be in existence of 10 boys and 28 girls, superintended by the Rev. Edgar, Rector of St. Mary's, schoolmaster Thomas Moore. By 1838, superintended by the Rev. Edgar and his lady.

This school was no doubt run from a wooden hut, the forerunner of the Welcome Hall, which stood on the "Pightle", or a village green next to the "Three Mariners" public house. The Pightle was church property, the wooden hut used as a day school, Sunday school and place of rest. In 1898 the Rector at that time, sold the Pightle to Capt. Pretyman, Lord of the Manor for £100. This was much to the annoyance of some of the inhabitants and the common story goes that to prevent the sale the hut was burned down by irate women. This did not prevent anything, however, as Capt. Pretyman built the Welcome Hall in 1902 for the use of the two Trimleys. This was to be run by a board of Trustees, which at the moment is the Management Committee. The Trustees of the Memorial Hall in St. Martin is the Parish Council.

A National Society report of 1846/7 shows there is a day and Sunday school with 38 boys and 26 girls. A mistress was paid £27 per annum. Total expenses £41 per annum supported by voluntary contributions and school pence.

The Trimley United Infant School opened in October 1875, the first teacher was Mary Ann Bone, an uncertificated mistress who admitted 28 boys and 14 girls. This school was for the children of Trimley St. Martin, St. Mary, Kirton and Falkenham. The first headmistress was Miss E. E. Thorpe in January 1876. An excellent booklet was produced in 1975 to mark the school's centenary, well worthy reading in conjunction with this history.

Eventually the population and the various Acts proved that St. Mary needed its own school. This was opened in January 1904 with an attendance of 120 mixed infants. Mr. Stringer ceased duties as Head of St. Martin and became the new Head of Trimley St. Mary Main Road School, as it was known then. Later in the 1930's children from Bucklesham attended St. Martin's, with the provision of free school bikes.

The River Orwell

Like all fair sized rivers, the River Orwell must have experienced quite a history over the years it has flowed from Ipswich to the open sea. From ancient man tentatively navigating its unknown depths in his crude dug out log, to the stately galleys of Rome, and the Vikings and other raiders plundering on their way to Ipswich.

In the 18th century, smuggling was a lucrative, if hazardous business, and no doubt many a keg of illicit spirit found its way into a Trimley home, so well recalled in the book of "Margaret Catchpole".

Between the wars, the paddle steamers, "Norfolk" and "Suffolk", ploughed their way up river on pleasure trips and in those days brown sailed barges, tacked their way, loaded with grain, granite and coal. Sleek yachts now race their way to the marinas situated on the river's edge.

Gone too are the oyster beds. Already almost disappeared at Fagbury End, where, in beds behind the river wall, their culture was not successful. Up river, referred to as the "shingle" end of St. Martin, it was a more rewarding story and there was considerable fishing up until the last war. The oysters were imported from Portugal. The ground was from a point opposite Shotley church to Levington Creek. These luxuries were thought to be subject to poaching. To deter this activity, a watch boat was moored in the river, where a

crew kept an eye open for illegal trawling.

At the time of the Domesday Survey a salt works is recorded. It was on the marshes behind the river wall. It had existed since Roman times and ceased around the Tudor period. Still marked on the map as the Old Salt Works, there is nothing now to indicate the important function which took place. By a series of sluices the marshes were allowed to be flooded, the water evaporated and the salt remained. The Roman word for salt was salarium, from which comes our modern salary, which was paid in salt at one time. Similar salt pans existed at Pin Mill and Ipswich. Hence Salthouse Street.

After the floods of 1953 the whole shape of the cliffs at Trimley St. Martin were changed, where the surging torrent had torn away the banks. Huge trees that were giants on the cliffs many years ago, now lie many feet away, showing the amount of erosion which has taken place over the years. But, "It's an ill wind that blows no one any good", and some of the stones dislodged from the cliffs were used to bolster up the crumbling walls of Framlingham Castle. I am sure the Bigods would have approved!

Prior to the first war, there was a gunpowder factory situated on the marshes near Fagbury, just past Christmasyard Wood. On November 28 1900 there was a terrible explosion which destroyed the factory. Two Trimley men died as a result. The theory for the disaster being, that someone arriving late for work, probably forgot to change his boots for the canvas ones provided. A chance spark set off a chain reaction which did the rest.

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WORLD WAR TWO DANCE EVENING With 'SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY'

At The TRIMLEY MEMORIAL HALL

ON SATURDAY 9th APRIL, 7.30 for 8.00pm – 11.30PM

Enjoy the music of the 40's, experience the air raids!

Join in with the dancing, spot waltzes, quiz, raffle.

Listen to music of the ANDREW SISTERS, GLENN MILLER, GEORGE FORMBY etc.

Wartime dress encouraged, prize for best effort. Bring your own black market booze and wartime buffet.

For more information or tickets at £6.00 per person, ring 276595 or 278054

COME AND JOIN US FOR A GREAT NIGHT OUT!!

Some of the proceeds to Memorial Hall Improvement Fund

A Used Car Lot? — No

We are aware that cars and motorcycles are being parked on the verges adjacent to the Reeve Lodge Roundabout. The two Parish Councils have spent a considerable amount of your money in landscaping this area, including planting the verges, turning it into a pleasant gateway to the Trimleys. We will be asking SCDC to remove cars parked on the verges in this vicinity.

The Parish Clerk of Trimley St Martin is:

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