

June /
July
2023

376

Tostock Chronicle

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www.tostockpc.org.uk

We had a couple of big events last month, the King's Coronation, and our own Council elections. Our new Councillors are featured from page 12 onwards.



Our Coronation day was another big success for the village, and the write-up and pics are shown on page 5.

The Wheelbarrow Gardens event is in a few weeks time, and in September we

have the Arts Show and Quiz Night.

This edition completes my first year as editor.

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Coming Soon

Wheelbarrow Gardens and Craft Show

Sunday the 18th June

Art Show 2nd and 3rd of September

Quiz Night "We have decided upon Friday 15th September at 7.30. More details in the next Chronicle. 'Be there or be square!' " **Billy Gray**

Hot Weather so don't forget to water your trees

STEM Day last week in October

If you want to write an article for the Chronicle, just let me know.



Regulars

Coffee Mornings — Every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10.30 am. In the village hall.

Past & Present — Every 1st Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm in the village hall

Bingo — Every last Tuesday of the month from 2.00 pm in the village hall

Wheelbarrow Gardens and Crafts

In The Church, Sunday 18th June.

A reminder to you all to get your wheelbarrow's planted and your crafts assembled ready for the 18th June. Please bring your exhibits down to St. Andrew's Church on Saturday 17th June between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm where you will be able to display them. If you're planning to sell your crafts, could you please let me know so we can arrange things in church.



We are asking for 10% of your total sales towards Church funds. We also need plants for the plant stall, cakes, sausage rolls, scones etc for the "Tea Tent" and books for the book stall. John Walker is busy making fudge, chutney and jam ready for his stall. Any offers of help during the day would be most appreciated. Let's all get together to make this a fun filled event.

Sue Marriott: 01359 270143. 07988172164, email susan_m06@hotmail.co.uk

Sue Marriott

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be in Tostock on the following dates for the next two months -

June 16th
July 14th

Perkins Way 15.40 - 16.00
Gardners Arms 16.05 - 16.25

Tostock Media

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01359 270456

Tostock Website



Adrian Malcom

adrianjmalcom@aol.com

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Tostock Village Hall News



The Village Hall AGM took place on Monday 17th April in the Village Hall. If you missed the AGM, but would like to be more involved, please contact us via tostockvillagehall@outlook.com

The Committee structure for the year ahead remains unchanged. A big thanks to all of the Committee for the volunteer time they so readily give to help with the management of the hall and its surrounding outside areas. Our next Committee meeting takes place on **Monday, 3rd July at 7.30pm.**

If you have any matters relating to the village hall or its playing fields that you would like to be discussed, please email tostockvillagehall@outlook.com.

For all booking enquiries, please email tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk

Well done to all involved in organising our great Village Celebration of King Charles III Coronation on Sunday, 6th May 2023 and thank you to The Gray Project for their fabulous music.



Tostock Art Show

The 42nd **Tostock Art Show** will be held over the weekend of **2nd – 3rd September 2023**, with the popular Preview Evening taking place on Friday, **1st September 2023**.
See separate notice for further information.



The Village Hall Improvement Project continues to remain in its fund-raising stage which involves looking at grant applications, this is hoped to be completed by the end of this year.



The village mower is currently awaiting a service due to ongoing maintenance problems. However, this is allowing us to play a small part in 'No Mow May', bringing a boost of much-needed nectar to pollinators across our community open spaces!

Tostock Past & Present Society

A successful evening was held in April when George Agnew gave us a talk on the History of Rougham Hall. Following a request from several members we hope to arrange a visit to the site at some stage in the future.

Our June meeting, **Tuesday June 6th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**, sees a talk by **Pip Fletcher** on her family connections with the Von Trapp family. Pip has called the talk "**The Real Sound of Music**" and for many of us, who have seen the musical, Pip's talk will reveal what really happened.

Following on from Rory O'Brien's talk on the **Theatre Royal** last year a visit has been arranged to tour the Theatre On Friday **August 4th at 11am**. The tour lasts about 90 minutes and we hope to have Rory as our guide. A booking form will be circulated in June and the cost is £10. (£5 for NT members).

A Special note for your diary. The Society are holding an open day in the Village Hall on **Saturday July 8th (10am - 4pm)**. The extensive **Village Archives** will be on display and light refreshments will be available

We are always looking for new members and non-members are always welcome to attend our meetings.

For further information contact Anthony Scully (Chairman) 01359270482
email a.rod.scully@gmail.com.



Speakers for Tostock Past & Present Society 2023 (7:30 pm in the Village Hall)

June 6th - Pip Fletcher *The Real Sound of Music*

September 5th- Clive Stevens *The Friendly Invasion - Part 2*

October 3rd - The Samaritans

November 7th - AGM + Helen Simmons *The Battle of Fornham: 17th October 1173*

December 5th – Jim Langlois & Anthony Scully *Tostock Archives*

Tostock Carpet Bowls Club

Tostock have now finished the league games with us ending the autumn/winter season in fourth place – we sadly lost out being third by only one point. There are seven teams in this league. The Bury League finals day is in the process of being arranged. Four members played in the Suffolk v Bury League Competition early May – Bury League winning the cup for the 5th year running.

A few friendlies have been arranged to take us over the summer period. By the time you read this we will have had our AGM. Members can look forward to their annual lunch shortly – venue to be arranged.

Doreen Buckle

King's Coronation

More than 100 villagers and their families met at the Village hall on the afternoon of the 7th May, the day after the Coronation. In contrast to the damp Coronation day the weather was beautiful, with warm sunshine peeping through the clouds.

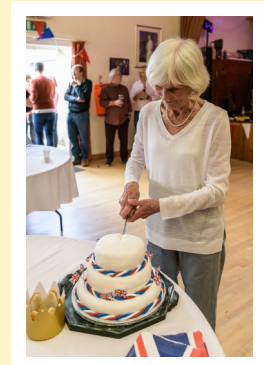


As ever, people brought an abundance of delicious food which was happily shared and the picnic was enjoyed both inside the hall accompanied with music and outside in the beautiful sunshine.



We were royally entertained by 'The Gray Project' who played and sang a wide mix of jazz-funk, while we danced, jigged and shimmied along. A thoroughly joyous occasion for all.

Jane Putt made the delicious celebration cake, beautifully decorated in red, white and blue and Union flags, which was thoroughly enjoyed.



The next morning more than 30 people took part in the 'Treasure Hunt' around the village, decoding clues and collecting litter as they went. There was a seven way tie for the winner: Wilf and Duncan, Lisa and Andy, Rushdy and Lilly, Florence and Olive, The Coles family, Kate and Kim, Jane and Leon, Brett and Lylah and a special mention to The Longs for recognising the Greek tiles at the Leap. We then enjoyed drinks and refreshments.



The volunteers

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the celebration possible; putting up the marquee, decorating the hall, providing the food and the music, providing tea and coffee and for cleaning and tidying up afterwards.

Vanessa Malcom

St Andrew's Church Tostock

Benefice of Pakenham, Norton & Tostock with Great Ashfield, Hunston & Stowlangtoft

Rector Revd Katherine Valentine Tel 01359 235095

Email kavalentine677@gmail.com

Website for more details of all our churches - including Tostock - see the national Church of England website www.achurchnearyou.com

Our benefice Church magazine is also available online at www.vcnews.org.uk



Services at Romney Cottage, The Green, Tostock.

All are welcome to this informal worship where we sing and pray together for our village, and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Usually on the third Monday morning of the month at 10:00 am.



The next Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday June 13th, at 10:30am, and on the Green if the weather is fine, if not, back to the Village Hall. So dust off the garden chairs and let's hope for a fine day.

The Church floodlights were sponsored in May by Mary Pettit, in loving memory of Ken on his Birthday on May 1st.

In June, the lights are sponsored by Emma and Alan Enston to celebrate Harry's first Birthday.

For July, the lights are sponsored by Moira Diaper, in loving memory of Arthur on his Birthday, July 3rd.

Jeanne O'Reilly

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News From The Tower

Along with many Churches across the country we joined in Ring For The King over The Coronation weekend, We rang a series of Call Changes including two arrangements called Kings and Queens. We then raised a glass to Toast our New King and Queen. Those who rang were Mark and Serina Steggle, Keith Osborne, Jim Langlois, Tracey Welham and Sue Marriott.

We also had a visiting band of ringers on the Sunday afternoon who rang a peal (about 3hrs long) and dedicated to The King.



St Andrew's Church Tostock

JUNE - JULY 2023 CHURCH SERVICES

Our beautiful and ancient church is open every day for visitors and private prayer.

JUNE 4TH TRINITY SUNDAY		
8am 10am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church 3-IN-ONE	Norton Pakenham
JUNE 11TH 1ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
9.30am 9.30am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Holy Communion Evensong	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham Norton
JUNE 18TH 2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
9.30am 11am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion Morning Worship Evening Prayer & Praise	Pakenham Great Ashfield Norton Tostock
JUNE 25TH 3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
9.30am 9.30am 11am 11am	TOAST Family Communion Morning Worship Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Norton Hunston Tostock
JULY 2ND 4TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
8am 10am	Holy Communion Family@Church SAINTS	Norton Pakenham
JULY 9TH 5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
9.30am 9.30am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship CMS Family Communion Evensong	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham Norton
JULY 16TH 6TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
9.30am 11am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion Morning Worship Evening Prayer & Praise	Pakenham Great Ashfield Norton Tostock
JULY 23RD 7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
9.30am 9.30am 11am 11am	TOAST Family Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Norton Hunston Tostock
JULY 30TH 8TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
10am	BENEFICE COMMUNION	Stowlangtoft

Tostock Church School

Background.

Prior to the school being built some of the village children received their schooling through Sunday Schools (1818-1847). In the 1860's there is some evidence that there was a cottage school in the village and likely to have been in the grounds of Heatherdene (on Church Road and currently owned by Mr and Mrs B Markell). Originally this would have been two cottages. The teacher was a Miss Elliot.

1874- onwards.

The school was built in 1874 with money largely found by the village. This was in response to the Education Act of 1870, which required that all children were entitled to education. The plot of land that it was built on was given by the Tostock rector, Reverend Tuck. The school was originally designed to accommodate 62 children in two rooms, with a toilet block outside. The pictures below show what the school did look like and today.



Tostock Church School

There is very little documentation available for the early part of its life. It was known as Tostock Voluntary School and was administered by a board of managers. The Reverend Tuck was Chairman of the Board of Managers. Two other managers were a Lady Malcolm, wife of Sir James Malcolm who lived at Tostock Place and a Mr Robert Gardiner (also landlord of Royal William). Although being a 'Church School' it did depend on voluntary subscriptions from parents and by Government grants.

Below is a copy of the contract and agreement that all the teachers had to agree to and sign in the 1920's. There are a small number of these held in the Past and Present Society archives.

U.S. FORM No. 6
 Form of Agreement for Engagement of a Principal Teacher in Voluntary Schools.

This Agreement made the day of 1925, between THE BODY OF MANAGERS of the School known as *Tostock Ch.* Non-Provided School, situate within the County of West Suffolk (hereinafter called "the Managers") by *Mrs. L. M. Malcolm of Tostock Place, Suffolk* the Correspondent of the Managers of the one part and *Mrs. Lily Huffell of* (hereinafter called "The Head Teacher") of the other part.

Witnesseth that the Managers agree to engage the said *Mrs. L. Huffell* from and after the *19th* day of *February* 1925, in full time service, and exclusively in the capacity of a Teacher, as the Head Teacher in the *Tostock Ch.* Non-Provided School, and the Head Teacher agrees with the Managers to accept such appointment, subject to the following conditions:—

I. The Head Teacher shall attend at the said School regularly and punctually every time that the School is opened as a Public Elementary School, and shall act and duly teach and serve as Head Teacher of such School under the directions of the Managers and in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education and the Local Education Authority.

If the Head Teacher shall give such notice during the first year of his or her engagement under this Agreement, and any portion of the period covered by such notice shall fall within the fixed holidays at Easter, Whitsuntide, Midsummer, Autumn or Christmas, a proportionate part of the salary of the Head Teacher may be deducted for such portion of the said period.

IX. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to affect the rights or powers of the Managers under the Education Acts.

As witness the hands of the said parties.

Witness to the signing hereof by the said
Rose A. Gardiner
Leys Road, Tostock

Witness to the signing hereof by the said
G. E. Cotterill
Robert Gardiner, Tostock

Lily Huffell
 (Head Teacher)

Robert Gardiner
 Correspondent of the Managers.

The Local Education Authority for West Suffolk hereby consent to the appointment of the above-named Teacher.

Dated the *19th* day of *February* 1925.

County Education Secretary.

Vic Huffey, born in Tostock in 1897 and lived here most of his life. He remembered that his father attended the cottage school in Church Road. Vic attended Tostock School in the early part of the 20th century and left in 1910. Some of his memories follows:

'If you were bad at school, Old Jackie Tuck (the Rector) was sent for. We were bent over the desk and he would give twelve good cuts across the backside with a cane.'

'The coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 was celebrated with a feed in Capon's barn (the flint barn on the Leys). I was five years old. There were dancing bears on the Leys and I can remember I was frightened as hell!'

Tostock Church School

Elsie Manning (nee Knock) also attended the school in 1904 and left in 1911 (so attended at the same time as Vic and many of the other village children). Elsie was the daughter of the village postman. Elsie remembers that there were about 75 children in attendance and this grew to 100 in 1914. There was an infant's class (approximately 35 children) in the smaller classroom which was situated at the back. The larger classroom being at the front and held over 40 children sitting tightly packed on long or double desks. The boys still wore pinafores over their other clothes. In 1913 the small classroom was enlarged. Elsie's memories are quite extensive and worthy of a separate article.

A list of known Head Teachers (HT) and Teachers are as follows:

1874 Miss Ada Blanks

1885 Miss Mary Jane Chapman

1908 Miss Grace Ingram (HT), Miss Bloom and Miss M. Ingram

1912 Miss L.M. Rambotham (HT)

1918 Miss A. Booth

1917-22 Miss E. Knock (Honey)

1923-24 Miss Lily Harfitt (HT), Miss Brand and Miss Grace Goddard

1925 Miss Elsie Weston (HT)

1926 Miss Margery Cooper (HT)

1928 Miss Edith Dale (HT)

1941-45 Miss Jude (HT). Mrs Marsh (evacuated with her school from London)

1949 Miss Grace Goddard



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Tostock Church School

The front school door which is still there today had its wrought iron work created and done by Bert Huffey who was an army farrier and blacksmith used to live opposite the School on Church Road.



The picture on the left was taken of teachers and their pupils.

To Be Continued..

Jim Langlois

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Tostock Parish Councillors

Paul Callow

My name is Paul Callow and I am relatively new to the village of Tostock having moved here in January 2020 with my wife. We have been made to feel most welcome and have been impressed with the diverse range of activities and events that take place within the village.

After spending my entire working career in Information Technology delivering software applications to Local Government, I decided to retire to enable me to spend more time with family and ride my bike. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, the bike riding has taken a back seat at the moment, however I am the Chair of the local cycling club, the West Suffolk Wheelers.

As a Parish Councillor I am keen to build on the sense of community and work with my fellow colleagues to continue on building a stronger and vibrant village.

paul_callow@hotmail.com



Sarah Cobbold

Hi I am Sarah I am 41 years old, was born in Hayward's Heath West Sussex and then we moved to Suffolk when my parents bought their business in Bury St Edmunds in the mid 1980's, We lived in Thurston for many years before moving to Hunston then I met my partner and we moved to Tostock 4 years ago. Although only a resident here for a short period of time I used to keep my horse at Tostock Old Hall for 15 years and spent many happy hours hacking around the village and further afield. I have had a varied career after leaving Culford school many years ago now, from working with racehorses to working in offices and then driving HGV's.

I live with my long term partner Stuart in Pamment Close, currently we have no pets but I'd like to think that in the near future we will have a dog.

I'm looking forward to helping ensure that the village and the lovely community we have is looked after.

sascobbold@icloud.com



Tostock Parish Councillors

Jane Storey

My name is Jane Storey and I live at Ticehurst Farm, on the old A45. I moved in originally in October 1959 with my parents and my sister Sara. I moved back again in July 2021 after my mother died.

I am a widow with no children but enjoy spending time with my nieces and nephew.

I work part-time at Greene King and own and manage Ticehurst Yards Business Centre.

I was elected to the County Council in 2002 and represented Tostock until the elections in 2021. I have also been elected to Mid Suffolk District Council – representing Badwell Ash ward, then Elmswell, Norton and Tostock ward, and finally Woolpit. I was a Cabinet Member on Suffolk County Council and also served as Chairman. I was co-opted onto Tostock Parish Council in 2019.

I look forward to serving Tostock residents on the Parish Council.

jane-storey@btconnect.com



Glenn Lebbon

I have a local garage (GL Cars, on Church Road) selling vehicles and renting cars, vans and motorhomes, and have a service workshop and do MOTs. I've been in business for 40 years in Tostock. I have also built a few houses in the local villages. I am a local lad, growing up in Rougham, and attended Rougham Primary School, Beyton Middle School, and then Thurston Upper.

I am married to Alison, and we have four kids. I have first-hand knowledge of the potholes in Church Road, and I would want to see these dangerous hazards fixed.

glenn@oakparkproperties.co.uk



Tostock Parish Councillors

Julian Kearsley

I have lived in the village with my family for around ten years and have come to love the village and the friendliness of the villagers. I greatly value the community feeling we have and know that there is a great deal of affection for the village by its inhabitants. I am looking forward to serving on the Parish Council in order to ensure that the character and environment of the village is sustained and enhanced.

I have worked in local government for thirty-eight years and I hope to bring my experience to bare as we move forward in a collaborative and engaging way.

juliankearsley@btinternet.com



Vanessa Malcom

My name is Vanessa Malcom and I have lived in the beautiful village of Tostock with my husband and family for 33 years. We have a dog and are often seen walking her around the village. I help to organise the Art Show, and belong to the Crochet Group as well as several other village groups. I am minutes Secretary for the Past and Present society and sit on the Village Hall committee. Five years ago I took early retirement from my job in Suffolk County Council, where I worked for Early Years education as a consultant, and since then I have had the time to become even more involved in the village.

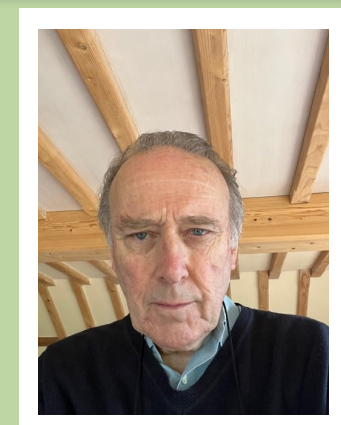
As a new Parish Councillor I am looking forward to addressing the issues affecting the Village, particularly the traffic and road issues that have arisen since the road works on the A14 have begun. I am particularly interested in encouraging wildlife in the Village and developing and building on the excellent community spirit that Tostock already enjoys.

vjmalcomtpc@outlook.com



David Blundell

I'm married to Marcia, with one daughter Emma. I have lived in Tostock for 40 years. From 1970 to 1985 I worked for two local engineering companies followed by 45 years living and working in Suffolk as a Project Design, and Management Engineer, for companies including Rank Hovis, Johnson Mathey, Lever Bros. IFF Haverhill etc. Now semi-retired with hobbies of gardening, woodworking, metal-working, and various design projects. tostock.design@btinternet.com



Tostock Parish Councillors

Roger Cross

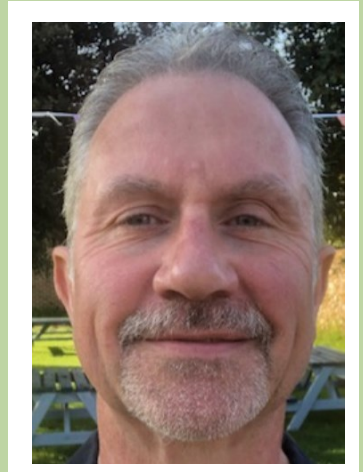
Hello, my name is Roger Cross and I have lived in Tostock for the past 17 years in Flatts Lane With my wife Jo, along with all our animals horses, cats, ducks, chickens and anything furry that comes along.

I was born in Drinkstone in 1964 where my Father still lives and I lived there until I built my first house near Stowmarket when I was 22. We then moved to Woolpit and lived there for almost 20 years before coming to lovely Tostock where we have settled and feel part of the community.

I was Managing Director of our business in Kent until retiring in February to spend more time at home and enjoy the Suffolk scenery.

I look forward to working with the parish council to serve the village over the coming years.

roger.cross64@icloud.com



Michael Bauly

My name is Michael Bauly. I was born in Tostock and have lived here all my life.

I am married to Bee and have 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

I own (with Bee) and manage Ticehurst Gravels – a gravel and sand company and reclamation yard which is located at the bottom of New Road.

I have served on various committees in Tostock, including the Parish Council, and am keen to see that Tostock retains its unique character yet embraces new ideas.





TOSTOCK TENNIS CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

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TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP - ELIZABETH DUNN
SECRETARY - SUSIE WALTON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS -
JOHN AND LIZ ADAMS AND NIGEL KAINES

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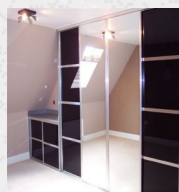
ELIZABETH DUNN (01359 270270) - EJD1@TALKTALK.NET
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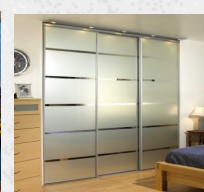
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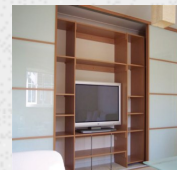


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Camilla L Burt

BSc Podiatry, MAFHP, MCFHP

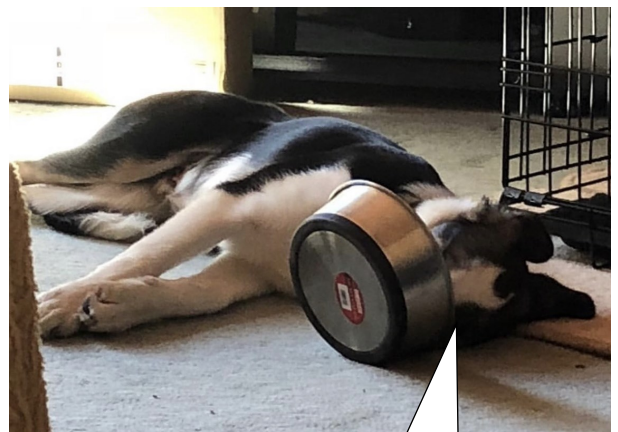
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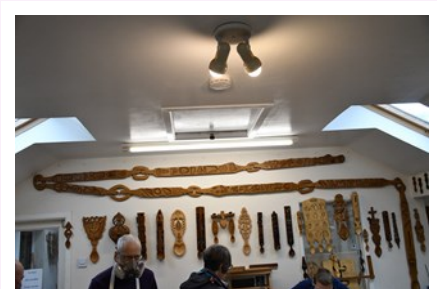
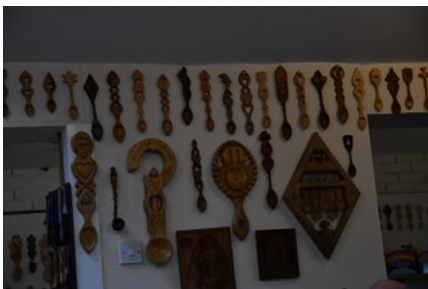
It's a dog's life

At the waterhole



Somebody's
spiked my water

Firstly my thanks to Jim for his kind words and encouragement. For this edition we'll have something completely different from wildlife, for a change. So what I am hoping to do, is to bring some love and romance into our Tostock lives. So lets play the music and dance. You can't have country life without a few country crafts. Congratulations and credit to all you Tostock women for all the crafts and skills you have shown to us all at our village Coronation party – baking imagination shown in the cup cakes etc. And the crochet post box toppers and lovely flower arrangements – well done to you all who organised. We have covered Corn dollies in the past, so this time it's something for the men because you ladies have set the bar so high, although you women can have a go if you wish. Last year for our Summer holidays Penny and myself took a coach trip to Wales. One of the days excursions was a trip along the Pembrokeshire coast line, so off we set early in the morning, after about an hours journey driving merrily along, we seem to be caught up in no-mans-land and way out into the middle of the sticks, when the bus driver suddenly pulled into a layby, right outside someone's house and a large looking garage. The driver explained in fact it so happened to be a family run business of Wood carvers, manufacturing the most beautiful Welsh Love Spoons. Once inside their garage workshop it really did open up your eyes, there was literally hundreds upon hundreds of these wonderful carved love spoons, everyone different. There is a love spoon for every conceivable reason and occasion possible, including the longest hand-crafted love spoon in the world, which is in excess of 27ft long, completely crafted from one piece of wood.



photos I took with approval inside the workshop and the 3rd picture shows the longest spoon at the top and down to the right. So for this edition my challenge is for us all to get carving and give it a whirl and to put back a little bit of love back into our lives at Tostock. Now for the history of Welsh love spoons – skilled men, even in primitive times, made presents for their girlfriends and more so for their wives. Less skilled men hired the skilled ones to produce presents for the opposite sex. Remember the troubadour sang to his lady love, the crow voiced male hired the troubadour to serenade to his lady for him. Gallants through the ages have offered "love gifts" to ladies and frequently to more than 1. Coquettes, through those same ages, have collected love tokens from naive swains. In modern times such tokens are often commercially manufactured, but the tradition remains. And the man who has made something for his wife and his home, whether its kitchen tools, furniture, or a piece of art, is satisfied, honoured, and respected. This tradition was not one sided, the lady in question also made things for the man. They might have been clothes, meals, decorative objects, or just a home, but they were done by hand, out of love.

Cont..

CountryLife

In ages past, the people involved were mostly often rustic rather than urban dwellers and often illiterate or tongue tied because they had more hand skills. And many of the men were sailors or others who were required by their work to be away from their lovers. The tradition of carving love spoons is believed to have originated in Wales and may have evolved from wooden cooking, serving or eating utensils, being decorated with various symbols. Stories grew up around them, some telling of beautiful Welsh maidens adorning their hearths with spoons from would be suitors, thus leaving a trail of broken hearts within their community, before choosing the fortunate man. Others tell of sailors filling those laborious hours aboard ship whittling away with utmost determination in dimly lit cabins to make a spoon for their sweethearts. Such incidents are fascinating and give us a peep into the past. Love spoons may have been given as tokens of engagement or betrothal. Today however, their use is varied. Let us say therefore that a love spoon is a tangible expression of love and romance which I have expressed at the top of the page.



Engagement spoons and some ideas and shapes

Cont..

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Before you start carving decide what your spoon is for whether it be for a special occasion such as an engagement, wedding, or birth, special anniversaries, special birthday, events etc. You could carve love hearts, bells, keys, numerals, lucky horseshoes, dates of the occasion, names etc. Expressions of faith, churches and cathedrals throughout the world are full of wood carvings with religious images. It's not surprising then, that symbols of faith have made their way into the tradition of love spoon making. Oak leaf and acorn the hope that love will grow big and strong, the train symbolises travel, the harp for music lovers, wars are poor chisels for carving out peace, love birds for togetherness, bee hive hoping love will always be sweet, bells announcing a wedding or celebration, swans partner for life, flowers the hope that love will blossom, key to your heart, the wheel - I will work for you, heart - hopes and dreams. Time is a precious gift this love spoon you could fit a clock movement in the centre to reminds us that in today's society we need to take a moment to consider that time is such a precious gift and should be cherished more than silver and gold. Life a game of chance, this spoon reflects upon the typical debate of society's understanding of right and wrong. It takes the form of a roulette wheel and poses the question, is life just a game of chance? Do we just spin the wheel and leave it to fate, or do we accept Christ's invitation now. The key to life – is the key to life in. Fame or fortune. scientific advances. exploring space. conquering diseases. wealth. yourself and your family. Or is it the cross of Christ, we have the freedom to choose.



Here are some pictures to show you what tools you require and a picture showing you how to carve the spoon bowl. The materials for making your love spoon can be made with any of the English woods - Oak, Ash, Sycamore, Mahogany, Walnut, Apple, Pear etc.

We will end with the longest love spoon. How many times have we heard the statement "life is a journey" we travel along from day to day not knowing what lies instore for us, sometimes moving quickly and sometimes so slowly that we even don't even realise that we are actually moving. Whether we like it or not our planet is in constant motion, we have no option but to be on a journey. A child will be asked on their birthday if they feel any different to the day before and of course the reply comes that they feel exactly the same. However, we are moving and progressing and as we experience life's journey we come to realise that we need to use our time carefully, making the most of our strength and talents. As we mature it becomes more apparent how precious life itself is.

Cont..

We need to give ourselves new challenges instead of remaining in our comfort zones, and so this leads to the idea of the longest spoon, something we can share with others by putting our thoughts down not on paper but in wood. This was not easy, for unlike our previous spoons this piece had to be a rather large size. The wood that was selected was a piece of Ash, common to the area of Pembrokeshire, where we live. The next stage was to plan what would actually be recorded on the spoon. With this set, work began but it was not long when we realised that the wood had suffered water damage. We tried to persevere with it, but the damage was so great that the task was impossible, so we turned our attentions to a piece of Sycamore, again a local timber which is common in the area, only to find that this too was unsuitable because of staining caused by poor seasoning.



the longest spoon folded

Cont..

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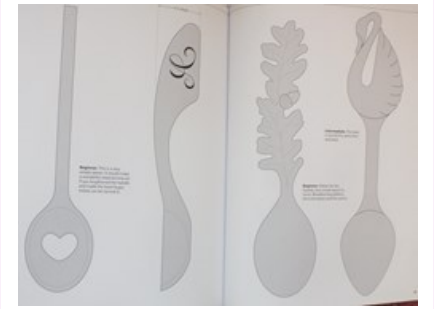
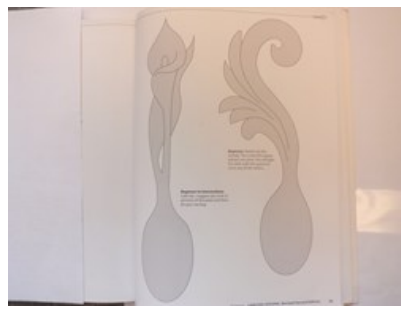
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CountryLife

At this point we could have returned to our comfort zone and satisfied ourselves that we had set ourselves an impossible task. It was better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all. Then my son made a suggestion why don't we use Oak. Previously I had dismissed this idea because I thought it would be too hard to work. With his encouragement we began our search for another suitable piece of timber. We found a piece of Welsh Oak from the Gwaun Valley. The journey had begun, little acorns to mighty Oaks we hoped. These are the words of the proprietor of the workshop and not me. This draws me to the conclusion I am quite optimistic that some of you will be determined to design with a little bit of imagination to carve out an appropriate love spoon and present it to your most precious loved one – good luck. The old saying goes - "You have to practice what you preach" so here is a photo of one that I made earlier on to get you started and a few more ideas to help you on your way.



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Friday	9am–12:30pm, 1:30–5:30pm
Saturday	10am–12:30pm
Sunday	Closed

Correct as on 13th May, 2023, but of course subject to change without notice.

NEXT EDITION

August / September 2023

Please may I have your contributions on or before **15th JULY** preferably in word format, much appreciated.

kim.mars84@gmail.com
07950 682 499

Contacts in our Community

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David Blundell (VH)	tostock.design@btinternet.com
Sarah Cobbold (Poors)	sascobbold@icloud.com
Michael Baully (Poors)	
Paul Callow	paul_callow@hotmail.com
Julian Kearsley	juliankearsley@btinternet.com
Glenn Lebbon	glenn@oakparkproperties.co.uk

Village Officers

Tree Officer	Vacant
Footpath Officer	Roger Cross
Litter Picker	Oliver Holland

Poor's Estate

Sharon Markell	01359 271190
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St Andrews Church

Rector		
Katherine Valentine	kavalentine677@gmail.com	01359 235095
Church Wardens		
Jeanne O'Reilly		01359 270337
Barney Harrison	barneybees@hotmail.com	
Bell Ringers	Sue Marriott	01359 270143

Village Hall

Chair		
Graham MacDowell	crispincottage@hotmail.com	
Hall Bookings		
Doreen Buckle	tostocktvh@hotmail.co.uk	01359 270605

Clubs

Bingo	Diane Brewer	01359 271127
Book Club	Julie Harrison	01359 270247
Brownies	Krystie	07975 556448
Carpet Bowls	Doreen Buckle	01359 270605
Cribbage	Jim Langlois	01359 270456
Crochet	Sarah Reader	reader-family@tiscali.co.uk
Past & Present	Anthony Scully	01359 270482
Rainbows	Krystie	07975 556448
Tennis Club		
Elizabeth Dunn	ejd1@talktalk.net	01359 270270
Susie Walton	susiewalton85@gmail.com	07793 406076

Village Map

<https://tostockpc.org.uk/our-village/tostock-village-map/>

More details and the latest up to date information can be found on our village website.

www.tostockpc.org.uk

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Anglian water	08457 145145

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