

BEYTON VILLAGE NEWS



DECEMBER - JANUARY 2024



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES – 2023-24

Beyton Parish Council Meetings 2023-24

5th December 2023	5th March 2024
9th January 2024	9th April 2024
6th February 2024	7th May 2024

Parish Council meetings
Will usually take place on the second Tuesday of the month, starting at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise.

If you would like to make written representation rather than attending in person, please send an email or write to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 7 days from the date of the meeting. Meetings are open to the press and public and there is a section of the meeting where residents are invited to raise questions or make comments; although there is no requirement of the Council to answer any questions at the meeting, Councillors will take account of the balance of views expressed when they are deliberating matters during the remainder of the meeting.

BVA Committee Meeting

Wednesday 11th December 7.30pm The White Horse

Carol Singing on the Green

Tuesday 19th December 6:30pm Old Bus Shelter

Village Walk

Sunday 7th January 10am Old Bus Shelter

Save The Date – More details to follow in the New Year!

Friday 8th March Beyton Quiz Night

Saturday 25th May Beyton Open Gardens & Super Car display

Chairman:	Graham Jones	chairman@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Vice Chair:	Ann Alderton	ann.alderon@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	Peggy Orsler	peggy.orsler@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	John Clark	john.clark@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	Helena Harris	helena.harris@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	Jonathan Wilson	Jonathan.wilson@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	Kerry Mason	kerry.mason@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Parish Clerk:	Tina Newell	parish.clerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk



**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT EDITION**

Please let us have any contributions by **Weds 17th January 2024 at the latest** for consideration for the next edition.

Please send to: **editor@beytonvillage.news** – Letters welcome



EDITOR'S WELCOME

Between the lows of a very wet few weeks and the highs of the village now owning the village green, there has been plenty going on in Beyton with plenty more events to come.

I feel very fortunate to live in a community that is so friendly and active and would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Beyton Village News over the past year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Editor



BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The big news for Beyton is, of course, that the Parish Council has finally managed to purchase The Green on behalf of the village.

Perhaps you saw the announcement on the Beyton website or NextDoor where – as I write – the story has been read by more than 2,000 people from the village and surrounding area.

But in case you missed it, the council has secured The Green after extraordinarily long and complex negotiations dating back many, many years.

Over that time many villagers – along with solicitors, of course – have been involved in the process of negotiation. However, it would be difficult to single out any individuals for fear of missing the contribution of others, so it is best to say to all those involved, the village owes you a debt of thanks.

It is no exaggeration to state that this is a momentous step for Beyton. For the first time, villagers, via the Parish Council, can take full responsibility for all aspects of The Green including insurance cover, granting permission for events, ensuring the care of all trees, the stream, and the like.

However, it is important to remember that the land will remain legally registered as a "Village Green" with no major changes anticipated.

Previously the council had a lease on the land but, over the years, this proved problematic, hence the need for negotiation and the council to take charge.

As our official statement read: "We would like to thank the Ladies of the Manor

– sisters Mrs Gloria Goodson and Mrs Sandra Bishop – from the Walpole family whose association with the village dates back to the 18th century. They have been helpful, understanding and considerate during what were quite detailed negotiations, and we thank them for their stewardship of the land over many, many years."

To commemorate the significance of this event, Beyton Parish Council plans to erect a plaque acknowledging the historic ownership by the Walpole family and the ultimate acquisition of The Green for the people of Beyton.

The unwelcome autumn storms caused havoc throughout Suffolk and with it brought flooding to the familiar areas of Beyton (photo of Thurston Rd kindly taken by Wendy Lewis. Luckily, there were no reports of damage to homes in the village. By and large the ditches in the village flowed well, in fact perhaps too well as water backed up trying to flow into Thurston. Basically, too much water flows into Beyton, is managed quite well through the village but not enough flows out. The Parish Council will continue to work with Suffolk County Council, the Environmental Agency and Anglia Water to resolve this ongoing problem – it is not going to be easy!

The Neighbourhood Plan has reached the stage where amendments requested by the Independent Inspector have been made to the draft which is now with MSDC for approval. This review will coincide with the Elections Team review of the electoral roll which means that a referendum on the plan is likely to be delayed until the end of February or the beginning of March 2024 – unless of course the government decides to call a General Election in the early part of the new year. I can't imagine a general election taking precedence over Beyton's NP – can you?

Yours

Graham Jones
Chairman,
Beyton Parish
Council





THURSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS



St Martin-in-the-Fields

The College was contacted by Bridget Read, a resident of Thurston village, letting us know that St Martin-in-the-Fields singers were due to give an evening concert at St Peter's Church. Things moved at pace; Sophie Parry, one of our Performing Arts teachers managed to arrange two workshops for our students with the St Martin singers (Beyton Campus in the morning and Thurston Campus in the afternoon). This was an exceptional opportunity for our students:



Edith (17 years of age and studying A Level Performing Arts - Music)

We are grateful to the amazing St Martin-in-the-Fields Choir who visited our Sixth Form at Beyton and led a vocal workshop for us. This was an incredible opportunity for all the students involved, working together with professional singers, as well as it giving us an insight into what future opportunities in ensemble singing and music could look like. From warming up with bodily percussion, to singing in beautiful four part harmonies, this was an experience that has helped many students become more confident in their singing abilities, and helped us to be more open to new musical experiences.

As we were so impressed with the experience and the songs that we were given to try, a few of us went to the concert later that the choir was putting on at St Peter's Church in Thurston, where they performed a four part concert and even sang one of the songs that we had learnt earlier in the day. It was so inspiring and exciting for us to sing as an ensemble that we put together an ensemble song for us to sing and perform at our music showcase a few weeks later.

Oliver (11 years of age)

Last half-term, I was invited to take part in the St Martin singing workshop at our school in Thurston. I enjoyed the warm-ups and all of the singing – it was good for helping improve my skills. I particularly enjoyed the song 'Ooh La La Lay' because it sounded amazing when we all sang it together. I'm really excited to have been chosen to be in the school musical this year and I think this workshop will have helped my performance and confidence.'

Thank you so much to St Martin singers and for Bridget for bringing this opportunity to our students.

Dr Jean Wheeler Thurston Community College – Community Voice





PONDS



Everyone is aware of the work that has been done to rejuvenate the pond behind the Bus Shelter, but this was but one of several ponds that once existed in the village.

As youngsters' water was for us, always a magnet to play in. Whether it was building a dam to hold back the water, or fishing for newts and sticklebacks (I'm not entirely sure the instinct ever goes away!)

Our favourite spot was always what we called "The Wash". This is the area near High Hedges where the water emerges from under the road at the North end of the Green. It was bigger in those days; traffic wasn't really an issue and it rarely dried up. There were always three spined sticklebacks and newts there, which we would catch in nets made from a piece of wire, one of mum's old stockings and a stick. We would then pop them in a jam jar on a piece of string, to be returned after much admiration!

This wasn't the only pond of course. There was "Joe Durrants" pond under a huge Elm Tree in the area now grassed over in front of the Old Thatch. This was always a sterile pond, due to the presence of the tree and the rotten leaves that accumulated. The only interest was a Kingcup plant growing at the back, under the tree. I still have a piece of this in the pond in my garden!

Another significant pond was the "Lily Pond". This is the one on the Hessett side of Chevin's Wood, now badly overgrown and bereft of lilies. I don't remember it ever being dry in those days and there was often a moorhen's nest on fallen branches on the wood side and it was full of white Easter lilies.


There were a series of ponds on Quaker Lane. Two on the North side, one opposite the terrace houses and another in front of the bungalow near the entrance to the old farmhouse. Both of these were overgrown and subsequently filled in, along with the connecting ditch.

I can vaguely remember another pond in the meadow behind Summer Lea, presumably for the cattle and horses kept on the farm in earlier days. This disappeared along with the hedges when the change to arable farming demanded larger fields.

Lastly the one pond which still exists, albeit in a poor state, is the one in front of "Hole in the Wall Cottage". This is badly overgrown and silted up. Beyton Environment Group did look at this, along with the owner and the contract farmer, a few years ago but nothing came of the on-site meeting. Although there was a mild expression of interest, the work involved in coppicing the hedge behind the pond and digging the pond out was seen as a big project beyond the resources available at the time, but maybe one day . . .

And we mustn't forget the BEG site ponds – one in the school orchard at Beyton Sixth and the two at Oak Tree Pond. The school one is a "proper"





pond always holding water and holding newts, dragon fly and damsel fly lava. Those at Oak Tree Pond are a work in progress, still drying out in late summer and too shaded for significant habitation by anything other than small insect populations

In bygone days ponds served 2 main functions, the first was the obvious one of providing water for the animals in the meadows, the second was to drive the carts through to soak the wheels in the summer months to prevent the spokes shrinking and loosening the structure of the wheel (as in Constable's Haywain). These ponds were maintained as an important part of the farm, they also provided a valuable wildlife resource.

In today's world this resource is critical to the welfare of much wildlife. Fortunately, it is now supplemented by the presence of garden ponds throughout the village which benefit both amphibians and insects.

Roy Crosby



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

"for our tomorrow, they gave their today"

A very big thank you to the residents of Beyton for your generous contributions to the Poppy Appeal. With your support our dedicated collectors managed the excellent sum of £701 in cash, which is just a little bit short of last year.

Some of you may have noticed and indeed may well have taken up the option to donate electronically using your mobile phone, these donations will be added to the Beyton total in due course.

This excellent achievement was only possible with the dedication of our tribe of volunteers and a special thanks and well done must go to them.

Door to Door Collectors: Rod Scott, Sheila Mole, Neil Higham, Eve & Mick Fenner and Wendy & Alan Lewis.

Static Box Holders: Beyton Garage, Thurston Community College 6th Form Campus and The White Horse.

Graham Jones Poppy Appeal Coordinato, Beyton



BVA NEWS & EVENTS



Village Walk

We had a good turnout with about 20 people coming to the last walk on 8th October. We went out via Chevins Wood to Hessematt and then along the path between Breach Wood and Mellfield Wood before returning via the long straight lane from Freewood.

The next walk is on:

Sunday 7th January

10am Meet at the Old Bus Shelter on The Green

This is a healthy and social activity, and a great opportunity to get to know other villagers. So why not come along and work off a few of those Christmas pounds, as well as banishing those January blues! The route will be about 5 miles long and will last about 2 hours so we should be back in time for Sunday lunch. Everyone welcome, including accompanied children and dogs (on leads). Hope to see you there.

Carol Singing

Tuesday 19th December

6.30pm meet at the Old Bus Shelter on The Green

Once again, we will be gathering together to sing in a group on The Green and we invite you all to join us for a lovely pre-Christmas sing-a-long. Christmas hats and decorations are encouraged but please do wrap up well.

The carol sheets will be put onto the Beyton village website in advance of the event so we encourage you to download them onto your phone in advance as the connection on the Green isn't that good. There will also be paper copies available on the night.

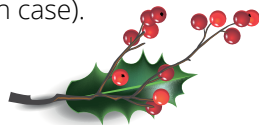
We will have recorded music as backing to help keep us in time and in the same key! We will be collecting donations on the night in aid of St Nicholas Hospice so please bring change and give generously.



After the singing The White Horse are kindly providing complimentary mulled wine and mince pies so everyone is welcome to stroll across to the pub afterwards.

(If the weather is too bad to do the singing on The Green The White Horse have agreed that we can sing inside the pub, so keep any eye on social media and on the noticeboard on the old bus shelter just in case).

Hope to see you all there.



Beyton Quiz

Arrangements are currently being made to hold the annual village quiz in the main hall at the Beyton 6th Form campus on Friday 8th March, with arrival from 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Watch out for full details in the next edition of the Beyton Village News and start putting your teams together now to have a chance of winning the coveted golden egg trophy!

Open Gardens

We are intending to hold an Open Gardens event in Beyton on Saturday 25th May 2024, but we want to check that there are enough villagers who would like to take part. If you would like to show your garden off to visitors, please text Val on **07557 989592** with your name and address to express your interest. We will then firm up the arrangements once we know we have got enough villagers willing to take part.

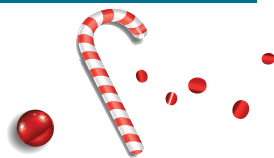
This will be the first time that Beyton has held an Open Gardens for more than 10 years so we hope that villagers will want to support it. It would be good to have a wide variety of gardens taking part: large and small, tidy and wildlife friendly. The only requirement is that you need to have an outdoor access route to the garden so that visitors don't need to go through your house.

If you are interested in taking part, please let Val know by texting the number above by 19th December. Then start thinking about how to make your garden look its best ready for the event on 25th May.

We are also planning to combine this event with a super car display on the Green – further details to follow!

Our next committee meeting is being held on Monday 11th December 7:30pm at the White Horse. If you'd like to know more or be involved in helping us to organise any of these events please do come and join us.

Anselm Gurney Chair, Beyton Village Association





THE WHITE HORSE

The Larks present

Open Mic Night

Wednesday Dec 27th 7:30pm

Contact Chris on 07731 635402

to book a slot to play or sing

All welcome to come and listen and watch



Fitness Suite
NOW OPEN
For Community Use

Book now

www.thurstoncollege.org/gym

Pre-booking essential



THURSTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE





CONTACT INFORMATION



Beyton Village News Comments & Contributions

Email: editor@beytonvillage.news



Websites

<https://beyton.suffolk.cloud>



Facebook

Beyton Village Community
Beyton Village Association
The White Horse Beyton



Twitter

@beytontweets
@thurstoncollege



PC

Clerk

Tina Newell – 01449 672825
parishclerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk



Newspaper Delivery

Suffolk News Delivery Ltd – 01473 396328
info@suffolknewsdelivery.co.uk
Delivery to your door 7 days per week



Beyton All Saints Church

The Rev'd Canon Julia Lall – rector.roughambenefice@gmail.com
Tel 07543 824837

Shops

Thurston – Co-Op

Tel 230803 – Opening hrs: Every Day 7am-10pm

Thurston – Cracknells

Tel 270256 – Opening hrs: Mon-Sat 7am-9pm, Sunday 8am-9pm

Thurston – PO Londis

Tel 230450 – Opening hrs: Mon-Sat 6:30am-8:30pm, Sunday 8.00am-6pm

Rougham – Meg's Farm Shop Rougham Hall Nurseries

Tel 270577 – Opening hrs: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

Rougham – PO

Tel 270201 – Opening hrs: Mon-Fri 7.30am-6pm, Sat 9am-12.30, Sun 9am-12

Garages

Beyton Garage Tel 01359 271166

Thurston Cracknells Tel 01359 270256

Pubs Restaurants

The White Horse Tel 01359 270324





*Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New Year*