

Feb /
Mar 2024

380

Tostock Chronicle

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BBC Radio Suffolk Interview



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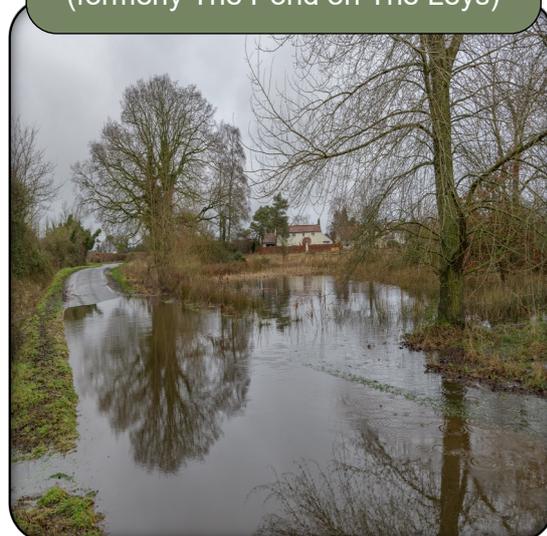
Regulars

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

Lake Tostock
(formerly The Pond on The Leys)



What A Christingle Represents

The lit candle represents Jesus as the Light of the World.

The four sticks represent the four compass directions and the four seasons.

The red ribbon or red tape represents the blood of Jesus.

The orange represents the world.

The fruits or sweets skewered on sticks represent the fruit of the Earth. I added a few too many sweets to my Christingle, oops!

I was lucky enough to make a Christingle at St Mary's Church in Pakenham where they had a lovely service!

Happy New Year everyone!

Yours Bella

Our special **Junior Reporter**



Parish Council Meeting

9th January 2024

Brief summary of the Parish Council meeting 9th January 2024

Members of the Council and the Public stood for a minutes silence to remember Cllr Vanessa Malcom.

Speeding and Highway issues were again a hot topic. The 20mph speed limit is due to be introduced in Tostock (*now introduced. Ed*) to make the 'rat run' unattractive.

Report from the Budget Working Party reflected the poor financial state that the Parish Council had been left in and the measures that needed to be taken to rectify it. The report is on the village website and also the Parish Notice Board.

Minutes of the meeting are on the village website.

Next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



Death of the
Tostock Village
Sign

Tostock Village Recorder

VACANCY OF TOSTOCK VILLAGE RECORDER

For the past 5 years I have taken on the role of Tostock Village Recorder, but have now resigned from this post due to moving later this year.

We now need a volunteer to take over my role as the Village Recorder.

Why is a Village Recorder required?

To record today's activities and be on the lookout for items of historical interest that might otherwise be overlooked or lost. These records will be of great use for future historians and of local interest.

What does the Village Recorder do?

How much a Recorder does is down to each individual and how much time they have at their disposal. The minimum requirement is to produce an annual report which summarises some of the events and changes that have taken place during the past calendar year. This is normally submitted in January/February to the Suffolk Local History Council who send it into the Suffolk Archives.

My own experience of being the village recorder has been producing an Annual Report taking photographs during the year of village events/activities as well as physical changes to the village. In addition, I have close contact with the Tostock Past and Present Society, the Tostock Chronicle, and help maintain the Tostock Archives which are held in the Village Hall. But how much one does is entirely up to you and the amount of time you have spare.

There is good support from the Suffolk Local History Council who are always available to give advice. In addition, there is a yearly Recorders Conference held in Elmswell where one can meet fellow recorders.

I have enjoyed this post and it has given me an insight to the village and its history as well as introducing me to many of you. Whilst I am still in the village, I will continue helping in the Village Archives and will help to support the new Recorder if they so wish.

If you want to know more, please contact me on
jimlanglois@btinternet.com

Jim Langlois



April / May 2024

Please may I have your contributions on or
before **15th MARCH**

preferably in word format, much appreciated.

NEXT EDITION

kim.mars84@gmail.com

07950 682 499

TOSTOCK PAST & PRESENT SOCIETY

Tues Feb 6th 7:30pm Village Hall
'Notable people in Bury St Edmunds'
Mike Dean will take us on an illustrated 'walk'
around Bury showing where notable people lived
and talking about them.

This will be the year which will determine whether this wonderful society can continue in 2025. We have increased subs to £30 per person for 9 talks which works out at just £3.33 per talk with tea and coffee included! Please support by joining as a member for the year or just come to those talks which interest you @ £5 per person.

On a positive note we are looking for speakers for 2025
Do you have an interesting story?
Have you interesting stories about Tostock?

John Parnum johnparnum@yahoo.com

Tostock Carpet Bowls Club

Doreen Buckle

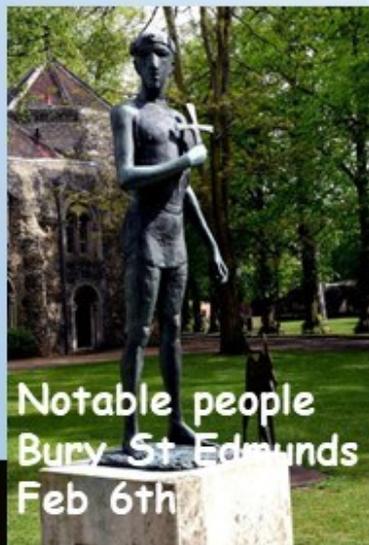
We have several home games coming up in the Bury League. A few members have played in various Suffolk competitions and have done quite well against the stronger sides. Unfortunately we are out of the Bury League knock-out, we tried our best.

February	Thursday 8	Stanningfield	Home
	Thursday 15	Stanton	Home
March	Tuesday 5	Woolpit	Away
	Thursday 14	Cockfield	Home

If anyone hasn't tried carpet bowls they are welcome to come along to one of our sessions, carpet bowls is quite popular in our area. Please give me a ring on 270605.

TOSTOCK PAST & PRESENT SOCIETY

Engaging talks for 2024



Notable people
Bury St Edmunds
Feb 6th



Through the lens
March 5th



A Suffolk Bevin Boy
April 2nd



Smallpox in Suffolk
May 7th



A life in Service
Sept 3rd



Trinity House
Lighthouses
June 4th



Does my bum
Look big in this
Dec 3rd



Funding and supporting
A Ugandan School
Nov 5th



The Whistlecraft
Family of
Rickinghall
October 1st

Enjoyable social evenings at Tostock Village Hall
First Tuesday in the month at 7:30pm
EVERYONE WELCOME

For more information please contact johnparnum@yahoo.com

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



Highlights of the season

LENT 2024

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, 14th February with a service at Pakenham of Holy Communion and the traditional Imposition of Ashes. All are welcome to come and take this opportunity to dedicate ourselves to prayer and reflection in the coming 40 days of Lent.

We are also running a **Lent Course** on the following 5 Wednesday evenings:

HEALING AND HOPE IN THE ONE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD **5 sessions for prayer, reflection and bible study from Christians** **in the Middle East.**

Weds 21st & 28th Feb, 6th, 13th & 20th March
in the Martin Room at St Mary's Pakenham.

Journey with us this Lent as we reflect on Jesus' message of healing and hope. What does it mean for our lives today and how can we invite healing and hope to rule in our hearts, our homes and our world?

During this course we will hear biblical stories of healing and hope and how they unite Christians around the world.

This course is published by the charity Embrace the Middle East, which works extensively with and through Christian churches in this troubled area.

MOTHERING SUNDAY - LOVE YOUR MUM! (AND GRANDMA!) **and bring them to church to celebrate on** **10TH MARCH 9.30AM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**

This is a lovely family occasion for all ages, when however young or old we are we can say thank you to God for our Mums, Grandmas, and for anyone who has shown us a mother's love. Posies will be given out at all our services on this day.

All ages and families of any shapes or sizes welcome!

EASTER SERVICES

There are many special services in Holy Week and Easter across the benefice. There are opportunities to remember Christ's last supper with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, to have some quiet meditation, build an Easter Garden, or walk with others on Good Friday, and to share the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Day. We look forward to seeing you and your families at this special, solemn and joyful time of year.

St Andrew's Church Tostock

FEBRUARY 4TH PRESENTATION OF CHRIST/CANDLEMAS

8am 10am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church CANDLEMAS	Norton Pakenham
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FEBRUARY 11TH SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

9.30am 9.30am 11am	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Family Communion	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham
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FEBRUARY 14TH ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	Pakenham
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FEBRUARY 18TH 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am 11am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Family Communion Evensong	Pakenham Norton Great Ashfield Tostock
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FEBRUARY 25TH 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am 9.30am 11am 11am	TOAST Family Communion Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Norton Hunston Tostock
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MARCH 3RD 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8am 10am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family@Church - LENT	Norton Pakenham
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MARCH 10TH MOTHERING SUNDAY / 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am 9.30am 11am 11am	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion (BCP) Mothering Sunday Service Mothering Sunday Family Communion Mothering Sunday Service	Tostock Great Ashfield Pakenham Norton
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MARCH 17TH 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am 11am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion Evening Prayer & Praise	Pakenham Great Ashfield Tostock
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MARCH 24TH PALM SUNDAY

9.30am 9.30am 11am 11am	TOAST Family Communion Morning Worship Morning Worship	Great Ashfield Norton Hunston Tostock
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MARCH 28TH MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm	Holy Communion	Pakenham
--------	----------------	----------

MARCH 29TH GOOD FRIDAY

10am 10am 1.30pm 2pm 1.40pm 2pm	Good Friday Meditations Easter Garden Service Walk of witness meet at Village Hall Good Friday Service in church Walk of Witness meet at Nether Hall gates An Hour at the Cross	Tostock Norton Great Ashfield Great Ashfield Pakenham Pakenham
---	---	--

MARCH 31ST EASTER DAY

9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11am 11am 11am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion Family Festival Communion	Stowlangtoft Norton Hunston Pakenham Great Ashfield Tostock
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St Andrew's Church Tostock



Christmas celebrations seem a long time ago now, but there were so many events taking place within a few weeks, starting with the Church Bazaar in November.

As usual, lots of items were brought to the Village Hall for sale, thanks to everyone who contributed. Lots of lunches were served, tombola tickets were sold and prizes were won on the Hamper Raffle. The stalls had lots of interesting items to sell, and visitors commented on the happy atmosphere in the hall. A total of £940 was raised for Church funds, which is probably a record amount. Thanks to all who helped, everyone who came along, and

those kind people who cleared up the hall!

The Charity Coffee Morning in December brought a lot of people to the Hall for a chat and coffee and cakes. Donations were generously given for the cakes and sausage rolls and by the end of the morning £163 had been raised for the Children's Hospice at Quidenham. Grateful thanks to all who contributed!

The next Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday Feb.13th, 10:30 am, in the Village Hall.

The Carol Service was a lovely occasion, lots of people to sing the Carols and hear the readings, especially Gail and Rosemary's dramatic story! Once again, the collection of parcels for the children of the Bury Women's Aid Centre grew and grew in front of the Altar - as you can see from Sue's photo! Thank you to everyone for your kindness and generosity.

On December 19th, The Salvation Army Band came to play for Carols in Church, a regular and popular event for many years now, followed by refreshments, which are always welcome after the singing! A collection was taken to be shared between the Band and the Hospice, and we were able to send £72:50 to both.

Many thanks to the Band and to all who came to enjoy the music and singing!

It always needs a lot of dedicated people to arrange so many events-from decorating the Church so beautifully, cleaning up after an event, providing the wonderful refreshments, ringing the bells, washing-up and just offering help when needed.

Thank you all.

The Crib Service was a very happy time, when the children arranged the figures in the stable as the story was told. Our Holy Communion Service on Christmas Day was taken by Canon C. Andrews, a visitor from Bury St. Edmunds.

Jeanne O'Reilly

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, however, because of half-term and the vicar will be away, *the next one will be on February 26th.*

GOING OUT FOR THE DAY/NIGHT?

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Christmas Flowers and Gifts and Under the Tree

A big Thank you to everyone who helped make The Church look so wonderful over Christmas and all the gifts donated for children at The Woman's Aid Centre. It's amazing how kind everyone is, we were able to send several sack loads of presents to help Father Christmas out., thanks to John and Maureen for delivering them.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with flowers or be on the cleaning rota at Church, please don't hesitate to contact either Jeanne O'Reilly 01359 270337, or Sue Marriott, 01359 270143, 0798817216, for more details, you don't need to be a professional florist, we're a friendly bunch who will make you feel most welcome, most of us have learnt on the job!



Summer 2024

Now we've packed Christmas away for another year and finally stopped saying Happy New Year, it's time to start thinking about what's happening in 2024. One date for you diaries is 23rd June, with the return of the very popular Open Gardens, along side this we're planning a Wedding Exhibition in The Church, so start looking out for your Wedding Dresses and other Wedding memorabilia ready to display in Church, more details in the next Chronicle.

Sue Marriott and Sharon Markell.

Mobile Library

The mobile library will be in Tostock on **February 23rd** and **March 22nd** at the following times -

Perkins Way	15.40 - 16.00
Gardeners Arms	16.05 - 16.25

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TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP - ELIZABETH DUNN
SECRETARY - SUSIE WALTON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS -
JOHN AND LIZ ADAMS AND NIGEL KAINES

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2022-23

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	£40
COUPLES MEMBERSHIP	£25
ADULT (SINGLE) MEMBERSHIP	£15
CHILDRENS MEMBERSHIP (U16S)	£5
GUEST COURT FEES — ADULTS £2, CHILDREN £1	

WE WOULD ENCOURAGE FEES TO BE PAID BY BACS BUT CASH AND CHEQUES ARE ALSO ACCEPTED

BANK DETAILS - ACCOUNT: 01082391 AND SORT CODE: 30-91-49
PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AS REFERENCE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB OR WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT US, CALL OR EMAIL -

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

SUSIE WALTON (07793 406076) - SUSIEWALTON85@GMAIL.COM

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Tostock Village Hall News



The Village Hall Committee met on Tuesday, 23rd January 2024 – although as this meeting is after the time of writing our Village Hall News, any matters of interest will be reported in the next Chronicle.

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



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Tostock Village Hall Playground - unfortunately the required maintenance work to improve parts of the ground surface inside the play area will need to be carried out in the Spring, once the weather has improved. **Ahead of this work, the fenced off areas of the playground will need to remain out of use. Please accept our apologies for this inconvenience. PLEASE NOTE that these areas will remain out of use until the work is completed.**

Friends of
Tostock
Village Hall



Village Hall Improvement Project Fundraising Ideas:

Friends of Tostock Village Hall 100 Club - a chance to win up to £100 whilst supporting the village hall's fundraising. More information soon.

Vanessa Malcom

The Village Hall Committee sends their deepest condolences to The Malcom Family. Vanessa has always been a huge part of our community, generously giving her time to so much in the village. A valued member of the Village Hall Committee for many years, more recently having worked with her close friend Diane Mathews to run the annual Tostock Art Show. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this time.

TOSTOCK

BOOGIE
NIGHTS

Many thanks to all who ventured out on a very cold December evening and came to the **Tostock Boogie Night**. The night saw the hall transformed into a boogie wonderland and a great evening was had by all. Our thanks to the people who kindly loaned equipment and donated beer for the evening, as well as to the event organising team. **The evening raised more than £500 towards the Village Hall Improvement Project.** Look out for more events and fundraising activities in 2024.

Tostock Village Hall News (cont..)

Village Hall Improvement Project

The planning application for the proposed improvements to the village hall went live in early January 2024, following an unforeseen and frustrating six-week delay. Full details relating to the application can be seen online using via the Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Portal - search using the planning reference DC/23/05512 or by using 'Tostock' as the key search word.

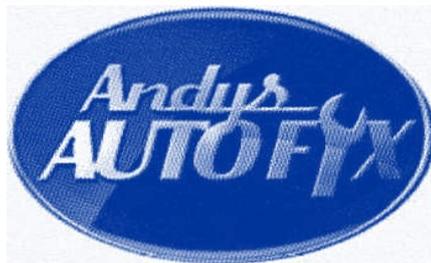


As we have previously outlined, it is important to remember that, if approved, these plans represent a wish-list of required work to the hall which may then need to be completed in a phased approach depending on how much funding we can secure.

If you have any questions regarding the improvements that we hope to make to the hall, please do not hesitate to email us via tostockvillagehall@outlook.com



Many thanks to ALL for respectfully remembering to
PLEASE KEEP DOGS ON LEADS AT ALL TIMES
when walking through or using the Village Hall's paths and playing fields



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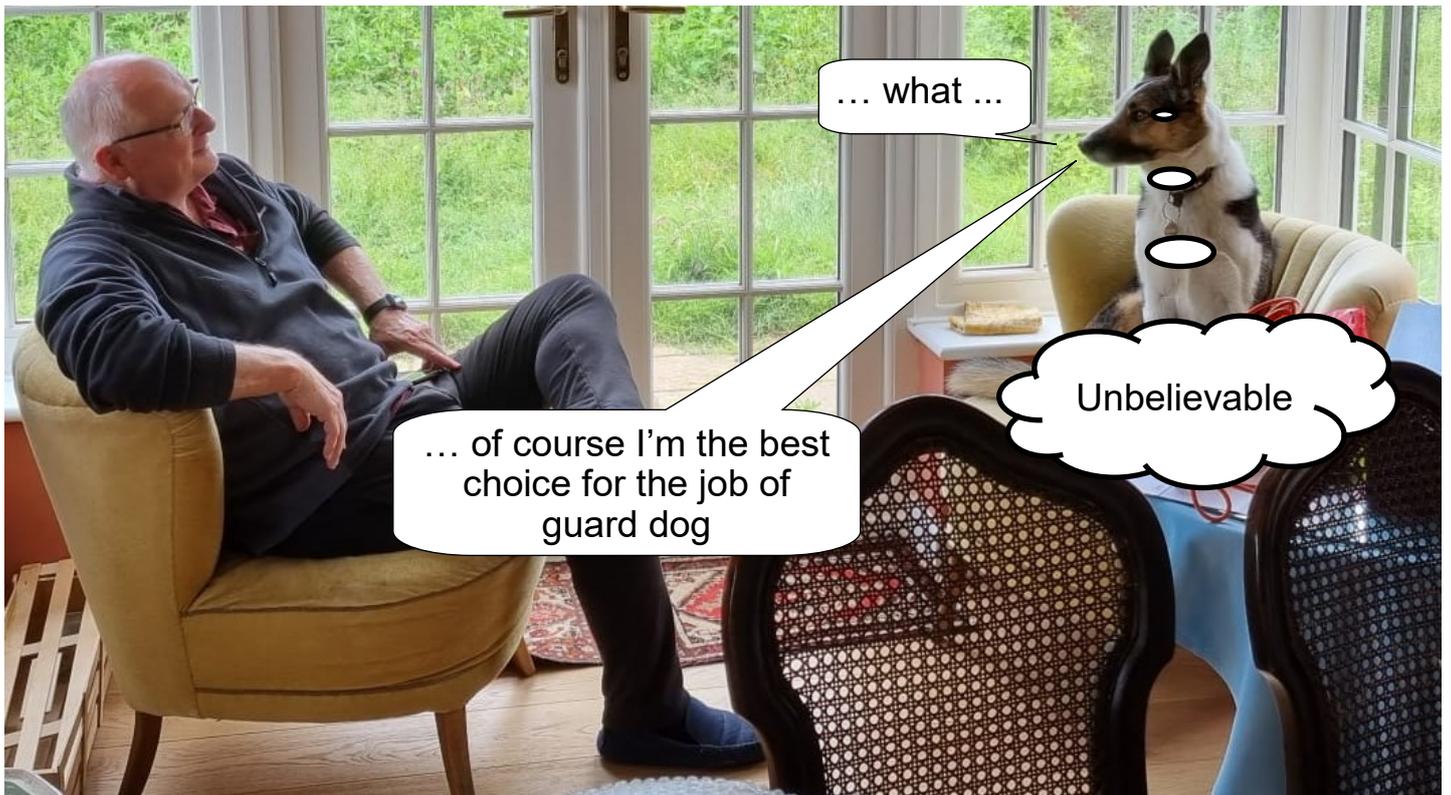
Place Farm, Church Road,
Tostock IP30 9PG

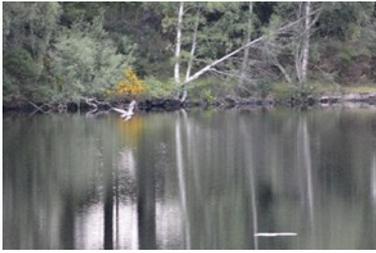
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It's a dog's life

The Job Interview





The two photographs on the left are of the Osprey taking out a fish from the loch at 4.50 am in the morning. As I left the loch it occurred to me that this could be undoubtedly the mornings conversation with Sir John. Sure enough a few hours later it was (I tried to pass the credit onto Sir John, thanking him for the opportunity) but he was not going to have any of it, that's how modest and passionate he is. The photo on the right is of Sir John's private lodge down at the loch where he does most of his writing. I should imagine this is where he sat and wrote his book "On The Waters Edge" The second hide



called the Campbell hide named after photographer Laurie Campbell, the hide is designed with careful consideration for those wishing to photograph pine martens and red squirrels. Hide three is a tree top hide an elevated viewing platform overlooking the moorland above the loch, it is an ideal place for early risers to sit and watch passing red and roe deer, ravens and even a rapture or two, buzzards and red kites. Hide four the quarry hide is located in an ideal wooded spot, close by some well - established badger sets. With visits to this hide accompanied by an Aigas ranger, guests regularly spot pine martens, badgers, tawny and barn owls as well as roe deer, on odd occasions the Golden Eagle. Here are some of my photos taken from the various hides.



I have read two of Sir John's books. Once you pick up one of his books, I can re-assure you, you won't want to put it down in a hurry so this is where I'm testing you all to see if you are of the same opinion, so now is an excerpt of a couple of pages from his book "Gods of the Morning" Spike the Pine Marten. I turn up the old avenue of limes and horse chestnuts picking my way through the prickly shells of fallen conkers on the path. I crossed the burn on the little bridge where the water from the high moor, brandy-wine brown, gossips a private conspiracy between mossy stones, hurrying down to join the river. It is difficult to pass over and I stand on the bridge for a moment or two, smiling inwardly. Just then I get that overpowering sense that I am not alone. Like a line from a cheap thriller, I feel someone's eyes drilling into the back of my head. I turn slowly. At first I can't see anything and think I must be mistaken, but then, as pure and shocking as finding a stranger in your kitchen, our eyes meet. At my eye level and only 10ft away, a pine marten, the size of a small cat, is perched upright in the central fork of a rowan tree beside the burn. His black front paws rest on a diagonal stem and his long elegant tails floats below. He is staring straight at me.

Cont..

I am rooted. How long has he been watching me? Why hasn't he run away? Why has he let me get so close? What is going on inside that tight little torpedo of a skull? He is magnificent. His head is angular and pert, a sharp little face reflecting a sharper intelligence within. The ears are small and rounded. His wet nose gleams in the morning light. The velvet suiting of dark chocolate, a V-shaped bib runs down his chest and between his forelegs, as orange as the filling of a cream egg. A single coco spike-shaped smudge at the bottom of his bib gives him away. He is Spike, a full grown dog marten who visits the hides and has been around for a couple of years. Unblinking, his eyes are as bright and beady as polished jet. He doesn't move. A pine marten's life is simple, driven by need and fear. Need for food and a mate, fear of man the dreaded predator, the exterminator. Occasionally a Golden Eagle swooping from above will catch a marten out in the open, but man is by far the greatest threat. Trapped for their glowing fur, shot for stealing hens, poisoned for taking game, not so long ago we drove them to the very edge of doom. So here we are. The man and the marten. The seconds ticking by. My eyes are locked onto his, his onto mine. My brain has emptied down, nothing to offer. For as long as it will last, time has stopped. He is glaring at me like an angry drunk at the other end of the bar, daring me to look away.

Very slowly I withdraw my wits from his demonic, levelled gaze. I know why he is there. It is a rowan tree. It is his time for gorging on rowan berries and he does not like to be disturbed. He has been to the top of the tree and bitten off several weighty bunches of fruit. They lie scattered on the ground between us. He was on his way down to get the berries, caught in the middle. His dilemma is twofold: to come down for the spoils, or let discretion win, and leap away through the trees as fleet as a squirrel. If he ventures down to the fallen berries he must come closer to me. If he flees he could be gone in a flash of chocolate fur. He wants his berries. Indecision and indignation have clashed in his marten brain. Stale mate. Not in a million years would I have predicted what happened next. I had only foreseen one option: his nerve would eventually fail and he would turn and vanish. After all these years of seeing and thinking I knew pine martens, I would have put good money on it. Oh! We are so smug. Its all good interesting stuff, this is wildlife, but we humans are the superior beings, the smart-arses who boast about wildness as though it is a commodity, something we have invented for our own pleasure and can dabble with as we please. We think we know the pine marten. The smugness of our own imprinting was wrapping me round like a fog. I fooled myself into thinking my superior brain was back in control. It was just a matter of waiting – yes, a game of who will blink first, and I was in charge. But that wasn't how Spike saw things this morning. It was as though he had sussed that I wasn't going to give in – had weighed it all up and carefully considered his options. Without slightest hint of panic or hurry he turned away and disappeared down the far side of the trunk of the rowan. Ha I thought, I won. I was wrong. Oh god ! I was wrong, wrong, wrong. He appeared again at the foot of the tree and in three quick bounds he came straight towards me. From only five feet away a chattering yell of abuse broke from his throat, hurled at me with all the venom he could muster. Then he snatched up a bunch of berries – his berries – threw me a disdainful glance and vanished back into the undergrowth. *The end.*

That was just a couple of pages. You can just imagine what the whole book would read like, I hope you will all agree – you literally get hooked and can't put the book down. Thank you Sir John this is country life at its very best.

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Litter Picker	Oliver Holland

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Village Map

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

TostockPC Website

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

www.tostockpc.org.uk

Community Services

Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance 999

Utilities

Energy power failures & Emergencies	08007 838866
Anglian water	08457 145145

Health

Woolpit Health Centre	01359 240298
Out of Hours	111
West Suffolk Hospital	01284 713000
BMI Hospital	01284 701371
St Nicholas Hospice	01284 766133

Advice

Relate	01284 767305
Samaritans (free call)	116 123
Drugs Hotline	0800 253 253
Citizens Advice Bureau	01284 753675

Police

Non-emergency	101
Crime Stoppers	555

Councils

Suffolk County Council	03456 066067
Mid Suffolk District Council	0300 1234000

Education

Thurston Community College	01359230885
Norton Pre-school	01359 232736

Pub

The Gardeners Arms	
Martin & Claire Page	01473 354 758

Leisure

Cineworld	0330 3334444
Theatre Royal	01284 769505
Apex	01284 758000
Picture House	01284 754477

Travel

Bus Timetable	www.suffolkonboard.com
Rail	0845 7484950
Dial a Ride	01440 712048

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The Coffee Morning



Tea and Talk on Tuesday



Cheerful Chat and Coffee

Join us every second Tuesday of the month for an hour of chat and friendly conversation with your neighbours in the Village Hall for an hour from 10:30 am. Coffee, tea, cakes, sausage rolls are available free.



You can make a voluntary donation.

All proceeds go to St Andrew's Church.



All welcome

A great way to meet your neighbours