

EARL SOHAM NEWSLETTER

TRAFFIC CALMING

A Speed Indicator Device (SID) is to be installed in the village as part of a traffic calming initiative. The SID will alert motorists to their speed. A moveable device to service several locations is recommended as more effective than one static placement. Residents living close to the planned locations of the SID are being consulted.

NEW DOG POO BIN

Location: Church Lane on the first High Road bend near Dial Lane. Please do use this if you are walking your dog along this way.

VILLAGE WHATSAPP

In response to Storm Babet, ES Parish Council has created an **Earl Soham Community WhatsApp group** for alerts, immediate response and help within our own community to local emergencies / vulnerable neighbours/ reports of crime or suspicious activity/ lost dogs / lost possessions etc.

TO JOIN: download WhatsApp, then scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera and click the link. Existing members can also request to add others. **NOTE:** Earl Soham residents only please. Keep messages brief and **ONLY** report village-related matters / emergencies (this is not for chat or it will lose effectiveness.)



STORM BABET: Friday 20th October 2023

A 'Major Incident' described as a '1 in 100 year' storm was declared across Suffolk and Earl Soham was badly impacted. Roads were impassible, many properties flooded and vehicles stranded. The village was cut off, with many people taking refuge in the Village Hall and The Victoria public house. However, emergencies often bring out the best in people; the community responded to support neighbours in distress. Farmers came to the rescue using tractors to evacuate the school and transport people through the flood waters. Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council have worked closely with the Environment Agency to determine the causes of flooding and identify ways to increase storm resilience in the future. Watercourses were reported as generally quite clear before the storm, but the intensity of rainfall from the slow-moving storm falling on saturated soil resulted in run-off from fields overwhelming watercourses. For those whose property was significantly damaged: a 'Flood Relief Grant' can be accessed via Suffolk Highways:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk

THE VILLAGE GREEN

Many thanks to the 1st Deben Valley Scouts and Cubs for planting 500 Narcissi around the benches. Hopefully people will enjoy their hard work in the coming spring. (Bulbs generously donated by East Suffolk Council.)

Three native *Silver Birch* are to be planted to replace the mature Ash tree fatally damaged in the spring storms. Plans are in place to underplant with bulbs next winter.

The parish council has also successfully pursued an insurance claim and is in the process of having the water pump repaired that was damaged by a speeding vehicle earlier in the year.

THE VILLAGE HALL AT 90 !

1934-2024: Our lovely vintage Village Hall celebrates 90 years of hosting community events during the tenure of 20 Prime Ministers and the reign of 5 monarchs... most recently celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II and the Coronation of Charles III. **Moving into a Centenary decade** with Wi-Fi, Broadband and a new website we enter the modern world. The original building has renovation underway and fund-raising plans in place for an extension with a fully accessible toilet/kitchen block and an eco-friendly heating system. Applying for grants and seeking donations is the task ahead !

Events Programme 2024:
www.earlsohamvillagehall

**COMMUNITY EVENT:
PRESERVING OUR PATHS****SUNDAY JANUARY 28th**

Kick-start 2024 and get your boots on this New Year to walk the footpaths, tracks and bridleways of Earl Soham.

Gather for a cup of coffee at The Village Hall before setting out.

We will take note of the condition of paths and bridges, missing signposts etc., whilst also enjoying the January landscape, wildlife and fresh air.

Mud guaranteed !

A simple but hearty lunch will be served in the Village Hall.

This is a free community event.

Routes of different lengths to suit all ages. Please get in touch if you would like to take part:

earlsohamvillagehall@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION:

- The Parish Council meets bi-monthly on first Thursday evening at 7.30pm (next meeting 4th January 2024). Everyone is welcome to attend the Public Gallery to observe and/or raise local issues.
- A vacancy exists for a new councillor. If you are interested please contact the Parish Council Clerk: clerk@earlsoham.org
- David Gross is retiring from the Parish Council. We are all extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication shown by David over the years, both as a Councillor and ESPC Chair, and wish him well in his future endeavours.

GET TO KNOW YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS:**Thomas Johnson, Chair, Earl Soham Parish Council.**

"Although I have only lived in Earl Soham for 4 years, my connections to the village go back much further. I was born in Cretingham and attended Earl Soham primary school. I joined the Bowls Club aged 13 and remain a member. The floods caused by Storm Babet reminded me how lucky we are to live in such a close-knit community where we can all help one another. I believe a well-run Parish Council can do tremendous good for a community, and that's why I have been proud to be a member and am now delighted to be taking on the role of Chairperson. I will endeavour to help however I can to make our community and our village as good as it can be, and to ensure the parish Council continues to be a service and a voice for the village. You will often see me walking or running around the village (I am currently in training for a half marathon next March), so please do say 'Hi' if you see me out and about".

My email is thomas.johnson@earlsoham.org.

