



## December Newsletter

### Update from the Chairman

#### Councillors

Since the last newsletter, Ros Eaton has resigned as a councillor. Thanks were expressed for her input into the Parish Council over several years. Happily, Iain Hatfield has been appointed as a Parish councillor and Angus Eaton has also been co-opted as a Parish councillor. David Garrett has been slowly recovering from a severe illness and unfortunately, he is unable to re-engage in the Parish council.

#### Victoria Field

It has been very pleasing to see how many children are now using the trim trail in Victoria Field and also to see adults using the new seating over the last few months. Recently 600 daffodil bulbs have been planted near the fruit trees.

Further money is available to spend and ideas on how to spend it for the benefit of the parish would be gratefully received. The money must be spent (over the next 12 months or so). A small committee is gathering ideas and following a forthcoming meeting, a paper will be presented to the full parish council. If you have any ideas on how to spend the money please contact the clerk: [nactonpc@gmail.com](mailto:nactonpc@gmail.com)

#### Elections

Parish council elections will be held in May 2023. There are currently two vacancies on the council and therefore new councillors will be required next year. Please contact the clerk if you think that this is something that might interest you.

Potential councillors can be co-opted at the January 11th Parish

Council meeting, therefore giving an opportunity for them to see what the role entails before making a decision about the May elections.

It is vital that the parish council has a full quota of 9 councillors to enable the council to function as it should and to ensure that the precept raised is wisely spent.

### **RFO**

The parish council recently employed Brian Mansfield as the Responsible Financial Officer. He lives in Nacton and is already becoming involved in council activities and the councillors look forward to working with him. It is important to note that this appointment has had no effect on the budget as the clerk has reduced her hours.

### **Bike racks**

The parish council has recently installed two bikes racks, one at each of the two bus stops at the crossroads, thereby enabling up to 4 bicycles to be safely left at those locations.

### **Priory Court**

At the moment there is no parish councillor who comes from Priory Court. This is clearly not an ideal situation and therefore it is hoped that someone from that part of the parish might put their name forward in the near future.

### **Paupers Wood**

A horse shoe shaped pathway has been created in the wood for anyone to use should they wish to do so. The pathway is clearly marked with wooden boundaries.

### **Looking ahead**

Over the next few weeks, the PC will put up Christmas trees at both the church Christmas tree festival and the village hall and prepare the precept for next year.

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## **Remembrance Day Photographs**



## Litter Pick

A huge thank you to those people that attended and helped with the litter pick in November. An astonishing amount of litter was collected from the church right up to the crossroads and beyond. The footpaths are now wider and mud free (for the time being!)



## The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Grant



bench to his memory.

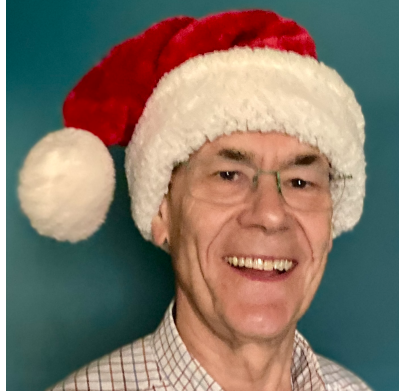
When Geoffrey Grant and his wife Wendy arrived from London as vicar of Nacton in 1964 they intended to stay only four years. But they loved it so much that they remained for 50 years, immersing themselves in village life and becoming a greatly-loved part of the community.

Following his death on April 23rd, 2022, his family decided to dedicate a

The bench has recently been installed on Victoria Field, facing the primary school where he was a Governor for many years.

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## Meet The Councillor – Dr Jos Leeder



Imagine standing in your kitchen early in the morning and seeing someone walking their dog down the side passage of your house and out onto the sports field. That was our introduction to our new house in Sawmill Lane. Apparently, the house had remained empty for some time and residents became accustomed to using the garden as a shortcut onto the field. Fortunately, everyone soon realised that the house was occupied and dog visits became a thing of the past. Dog visits were replaced by visits from residents with gifts of home-grown vegetables and we were made to feel very welcome. My family and I moved to Sawmill Lane in 1991 and we knew that this would probably be our forever home. Our two boys were eleven and ten years old and they very soon made friends with young people of their own age in the village. My wife, Helen, was a teacher at Amberfield – where she remained until her retirement – and so living in Nacton made a lot of sense. The village tennis court abuts our house and we made good use of it. Soon I was approached by my neighbour, Evan Davies, who asked if I would like to become a member of the Community Council with responsibility for looking after the tennis court. From this position I became the secretary of the Community Council and eventually the chairman. I have remained chair now for over twenty-five years; my longevity only being surpassed by Paula Warner who has been treasurer since she was born. My career as an educator began as a teacher at Tower Ramparts Secondary Modern School in Ipswich which I thankfully survived. I then transferred to Westbourne High school before joining Suffolk County Council as an adviser and inspector. I was a tutor for Anglia Ruskin University and then a lecturer at The University of Suffolk. I retired in 2015 whereupon I looked for new challenges and I was fortunate enough to become a parish councillor. I feel very strongly in making a positive contribution to my local community and I have thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in village life.

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## Suffolk supports the cost of living

The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme helps those experiencing financial hardship, including access to items like household furniture and white goods, fuel vouchers for electricity and gas top-ups, supermarket vouchers, and contributions towards increasing costs during the winter months. Local organisations across Suffolk can submit an application for support, on behalf of an individual or family. These organisations include Citizens Advice Bureau, district and borough councils, health services and voluntary organisations. A list of these organisations, who will assess circumstances and submit applications, is available [here](#).

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## Warm Homes Suffolk

Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm, can contact a new project which offers funding and free advice. Click [HERE](#) for further information.

Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk. The team are on hand to offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm.

For eligible residents, the scheme can offer a range of home upgrades, including cavity, loft and external insulation, installation of solar photovoltaic systems and switching central heating to more efficient low carbon heat pumps. The scheme is available to homeowners, those renting, and landlords. There are some conditions to meet before being able to access funding, which is aimed at residents who are:

- earning under £30,000 per annum
- and/or currently receiving benefits (or think you may be eligible)
- living in homes with a low energy rating

Further information can be found on the [Warm Homes Suffolk website](#), or by calling [03456 037 686](tel:03456 037 686). Lines are open Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

If you know someone who might benefit from this scheme, please share this information with them.

In addition, if the loft needs clearing before being insulated, and the resident can't carry out the clearance themselves, help is available from Lofty Heights CIC who provide a dignified service. They can be contacted to arrange for an estimate on [01473 345301](tel:01473 345301) or visit their website for more information: <https://www.lofty-heights.org/>

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# Nacton Parish Speed Indicator

Please be aware the speed indicator only activates if you are going 26mph and above.

The speed indicator **has recorded vehicles going past it at 60mph**. Please be mindful of your speed going through the village.

If you notice that the speed indicator is not working at any point please contact Councillor Emma Wilson [councillor.wilson.nactonpc@gmail.com](mailto:councillor.wilson.nactonpc@gmail.com)

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## Priory Court



As we approach the end of 2022, we are reflecting on what has been another year of close community featuring mutual support for one another's welfare, combined with a plethora of social activities which residents can dip in and out of according to what suits them. The monthly "Meet and Mingle" coffee mornings are one of our main stays providing that contact with residents that are not close neighbours. We are looking forward to including guest speakers as we go into the new year. Our away trips included a group going to London and enjoying "The Lion King", a visit to Ely where the cathedral was much appreciated by everyone, and a coach trip holiday to Torquay in Devon for a week, which was a great success. Locally there were fish and chip lunches in Shotley and Felixstowe, afternoon tea in Brightwell, two trips on the Allen Gardiner on the River Orwell with lunch, and a visit to explore a local church. Our litter pick on the Orwell foreshore was, as usual, well supported by our residents. The late Queens platinum jubilee was embraced by our residents with several gatherings around the Court sharing memories, drinks, good food, and good company. The annual MacMillan Coffee Morning was held in the

clubhouse supported by many of the Priory Court residents raising the sum of £1570. This was thanks to the generosity not only of our residents but also others in Priory Park. The provision of the Chat Bench and a replacement Parish Council notice board funded by Nacton Parish Council are welcome assets complementing that sense of community which is very much a feature of life in Priory Court.

Lincoln Pratt

## Upcoming Events



### Coffee Morning at The Village Hall

Saturday 3rd of December

10 - 12



The Nacton Arms Christmas pop-up pub is the event that is eagerly awaited and takes place on Saturday 17th December. The village hall will be transformed into a winter wonderland – with mulled wine, festive nibbles, and the usual array of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

‘Gingerbread Street’ will be created from YOUR gingerbread house creations. Bring them along on the night and help make a street!  
It all starts at 7.00 pm so come along and enjoy a festive night to remember.

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## Nacton WI

The Nacton WI meets in the village hall on the third Wednesday of every month. There are various activities and speakers – all are welcome.

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### Dates for 2023

The first coffee morning of 2023 will be held:

At the Village Hall

On Saturday 7th January

Between 10-12





**Parish Council Meetings are planned as follows:**

11th January

29th March

24th May (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting)

12th July

27th September

29th November

Parishioners are welcome. All meetings start at 7 pm in the village hall



**Are you on Facebook? Nacton Parish Council is.**

If you are on Facebook, why not follow Nacton Parish Council to find out about local news and events?

If you have anything that you would like to be added to the Facebook Page, Website or the noticeboards please contact the clerk

[nactonpc@gmail.com](mailto:nactonpc@gmail.com)

Facebook Page

**We need your help**

Do you know of anybody who has recently moved into the parish?  
Or of somebody who is not currently receiving these newsletters?

If so please put them in touch with the clerk so that they can hear all about what is going on in the parish.

[nactonpc@gmail.com](mailto:nactonpc@gmail.com)

# Wishing you a wonderful festive season from Nacton Parish Council



**Nacton Parish Council**

nactonpc@gmail.com

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