



Spring 2021 ISSUE 1

The Oulton Messenger

The magazine from your Oulton Parish Council

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our first edition of The Oulton Messenger, a new magazine for you, the residents of Oulton Parish. This is where the Parish Council can keep residents informed to events that are, or will be happening within our Parish and give an insight into the history of where we live. We also hope to garner support from local businesses who wish to advertise within the magazine. In later issues we hope to include additional pages, especially a page relating to the latest Scams to protect you from falling victim to fraud and also a Children's page.

All councillors of the Parish would like to wish you a Happy Easter, and a very healthy rest of the year.

The last year has been a testing time for us all during lockdown, hopefully as a Council we can resume our public meetings in the Community Centre again instead of online 'Zoom' meetings.

Special thanks go to our District & County Councillors who have supported us throughout the year morally & financially, without their Locality funding many projects would not have taken place.

A big thank you to

Cllr. Keith Robinson, Cllr. James Reeder, Cllr. Eddie Back & Cllr. Andree Gee.

Future Planning Within Oulton

East Suffolk Council are currently in the process of creating a Residential Development Brief for one of the sites allocated for development in Oulton in the Waveney Local Plan. The site in question is WLP2.14, Land north of Union Lane, Oulton 5.70 hectares as identified on the Policies Map is allocated for a residential development of approximately 150 dwellings which will be developed at a density of approximately 30 dwellings per hectare. If you have any concerns related to this development please email Oulton Parish Council clerkoulttonparishsuffolk@hotmail.co.uk so that we can raise them anonymously with East Suffolk Council on **19th March**.

ORIGIN OF OULTON

On the Suffolk map, dated 1575, Oulton is spelt Olton. On the Norfolk map (date not indicated but assumed to be of a similar date, as they were both drawn by the same person) it is spelt Oldton.

It is thought that the area occupied by the present village was at one time more associated with the nearby Flixton parish. Subsequent changes in the ownership of lands over the years then created the association of St. Michael's church to only the lands around Oulton and thenceforth into the parish and village that we now know.

The actual village of Oulton has just gradually evolved over the last two hundred years or so. Prior to that there were very few buildings. What few villagers there were, if they could be termed as such, were mostly engaged in agriculture. The terraced houses on the eastern side of Oulton Street and in Oulton Road (North) were built in the mid to late 1800s and the early 1900s and must have increased the population of the village quite considerably. The population of the total 'parish' of Oulton in a census taken in 1821 totalled 704 persons. (The total population in that year for the Hundred of Lothingland was 10,607 of which Lowestoft had 3,675 (1,711 males and 1,964 females), Gorleston had 1,928 persons, Southtown had 1,039 persons and the remainder lived in the villages/parishes of the Hundred).

It has been noted that the first edition of the 'one-inch to the mile' Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales printed in 1880 the name of Oulton is placed where St. Michael's Church and Camps Heath are located. This may be an error but it has been said that Oulton was often referred to as Upper Oulton and Camps Heath as Lower Oulton! However, this map was probably only showing the fact that St. Michael's was the parish church of Oulton. It also suggests that it was the area in general that was named Oulton and the name was not applied to 'the village' until it had grown into a much larger gathering of dwellings.

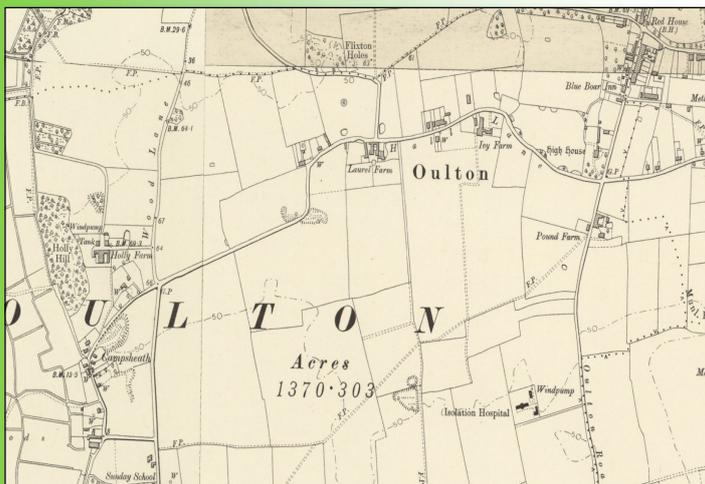
NOTE: Camps Heath was formerly known as Kemps Heath



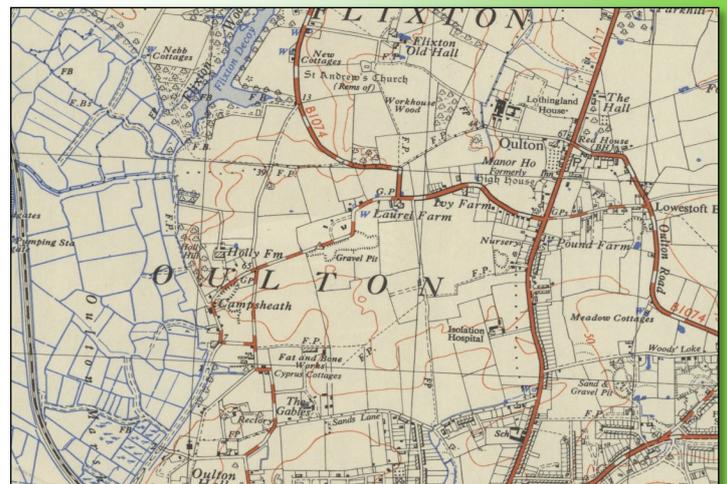
ABOVE: Oulton 1575



ABOVE: Oulton 1899



BELOW: Oulton 1906



BELOW: Oulton 1956

The Manor House, Oulton

The property sits on the corner of Hall Lane & Oulton Street and is highly regarded by all in the Parish. The first occupants were the Bacon family and can be traced back to 1288. The House has had over 20 owners since then and many additions to the building itself, mostly 16th century to the rear of the building with a Victorian frontage. The property was listed in 1949 by English Heritage as a Grade II listed building. Building like this comes with a few 'ghosts', the prominent being a story from late 17th early 18th century. A Squire, returning from a hunt came across his wife 'flirting' with an army officer. The squire struck the Officer, who in turn ran his sword through him, resulting in his death.

The wife and officer ran away but left the daughter behind. Many years later on the eve of the daughter's wedding, so the story goes, a group of black clad men in a horse drawn carriage drew up to the Manors front door, snatched the daughter and took her back to her mother (who reportedly poisoned her) & killed the groom. So the outcome of this is a ghostly spectre of a huntsman with a pack of dogs sweeping through the grounds at midnight plus a woman in white who wanders around at will with a chalice of poison. There were rumours of a horse drawn carriage that thunders through the village at midnight near Christmas, but who knows.....



St. Michael's Church, Oulton

St. Michael's Church is the Parish Church of Oulton and is somewhat distant from the village of Oulton. The main reason is no doubt due to the principal manor house being established at High House during the Hobart ownership and the subsequent growth of the village evolving around it.

It is believed that the church of St. Michael's stands on the site of a church founded by St. Felix, circa 650 AD. (from whom Flixton is derived). It is also thought to have been the site of a Roman Temple. The church stands on high ground (in common with nearly all churches named St. Michael's) overlooking marshlands to the west. The view from which offers some spectacular sunsets. The main fabric of the building is 13th century but the base of the central tower is most certainly 10th/11th century Saxon. Other features indicate an 11th/12th century Norman influence. The tower is an 18th century replacement and the porch is 14th century. The church originally had five bells, these were made in Norwich in the 1600s. Bells 2, 3 and 4 are dated 1618, Bell 1 is dated 1676 and Bell 5 is dated 1677. A sixth 'treble' bell was added in 1990.



St. Michael's is a medieval church from the 1300's with a faithful and friendly congregation. Its members are faithful in prayer and worship. There is a sound biblical ministry which welcomes strangers and those seeking to know more about Christianity. St Michael's is part of a joint benefice with St Mark's, Oulton Broad and St. Luke's, Whitton. The Rev. Helen Jary is the team Rector.

With the ongoing vagaries of COVID-19, it is trying times for all churches including our St. Michael's, but with faith and as we recover we will come out better.

It is hoped that once the COVID-19 virus is defeated and our magazine is established we can ask the Reverend Helen Jary or the Churchwarden Debbie Allsop to contribute a regular article.



News Around Oulton

Defibrillator installed at Oulton Community Centre

Oulton Parish Council has, with the help of generous donations, installed a 24/7 Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD) outside Oulton Community Centre. The Parish Council would like to thank The Otium Centre, Oulton Community Centre & user groups and the Suffolk County Council. Thanks also to Jayne Biggs of Heart 2 Heart Norfolk for supplying the defibrillator.

It is proven that effective use of an Automatic External Defibrillator to cardiac arrest patients in the first few minutes, can increase the chance of survival to 90% making it so important to have local access.

The CPAD is installed in a locked security cabinet. The code to access the unit is released by the ambulance service when they receive a 999 call and the control room operator identifies a patient is having a cardiac event. No prior training is needed to operate a CPAD as it delivers instructions on where to place the pads on the patient and clear spoken prompts.



Jenkins Green Pond

Some of the residents from Jenkins Green came together in setting up a Community Group to insist in clearing the overgrowth surrounding the village pond after noticing that wildlife had dwindled over the years as a result of being neglected for over 10 years.

Residents have enjoyed doing the work and have bulbs planted already. Bird nesting boxes have been installed to attract the wildlife back. They worked by social distancing from each other adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines.

Other residents have thanked them for clearing the eyesore, now it can be appreciated by all, especially the children who can see the ducks and the other wildlife returning around the pond.



Camps Heath K6 Telephone Box



The residents of Camps Heath were consulted by the Parish Council to decide whether the iconic K6 telephone box should stay in Camps Heath or move to Oulton Community Centre as it had fallen into disrepair.

The K6 was designed to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V. Consequently sometimes it was known as the "Jubilee" kiosk. It went into production in 1936.

The consultation replies were interesting, offers of help with the maintenance, installation of CCTV and some funding assistance. Suggestions for its future use were book exchange, defibrillator, tourist information, seed bank, bench inside and a notice board with emergency numbers & map of local houses.

It was agreed that it should remain in Camps Heath for the residents to restore as a community project, fitting a defibrillator inside was agreed. The Neighbourhood Plan working group have ordered a bench for next to the phone box.

So looking forward to seeing the finished product.

Woods Meadow Country Park

Thanks to Chris Ryde and Woods Meadow volunteers, 1,200 trees have recently been planted on the Country Park

Also, a new bench has been installed by the pond. Weary walkers now have a place to rest and more will be going in soon.

An Interpretation panel of the Park showing how it will develop and to show how different user groups such as dog walkers and horse riders, can help each other by keeping to suggested paths, has been produced and is waiting to go up at the Parks entrances, just as soon as the entrance gates have been installed. As time passes more detailed and accurate interpretation will be needed to show changes to the Park such as access points into the Park from the phase 2 and 3 Persimmon development.

If you would like to join the group of volunteers please get in contact with Chris Ryde at 'Chris.Ryde@ncsgrp.co.uk', you would be most welcome.



Oulton Neighbourhood Plan

What is a neighbourhood plan you may ask. At Parish level, this is where we can as a community come together and put in place policy's to protect those areas where we live for future generations to enjoy as we do now. Areas of natural beauty, and Oulton has its fair share... open spaces, nature reserves, historical buildings, places of interest. A neighbourhood plan is where we can all have input into any developments that are deposited at East Suffolk Council for our area.

How do we go about this? Over the last 3 years our Parish council has consulted with the residents to identify certain needs. It has been a lot of hard work, but we are now beginning to reap the benefits. Our Neighbourhood Plan working group proposed to install extra bench's in Camps Heath. Two in the meadow on Holly Hill, one by the Phone box on Angles way. The Phone box will be restored to its proper Grade II listed structure and will have a defibrillator installed inside it. These were all agreed by the Parish Council and have been ordered. A new Village notice board will be placed there to keep all residents up to date, whilst another noticeboard will be situated in Lime Avenue. New dog bins have been ordered for Lime Avenue, the results of consulting with the residents and identifying the needs. We enlisted the assistance of Community planning consultants and a Design code consultant (all funded by Government grants) to present our Neighbourhood Plan to East Suffolk Council when all work on it is finalised. At present we are on track and you can follow the progress on the Oulton Parish Council website, www.oultonpcsuffolk@info This will set the bar for any future development in our village and will have to be in the design which is commonplace in our village. The type of housing will be presented to East Suffolk Council as per the results of our survey with you, the residents. We are hoping to have a consultation with you in the Community Centre as soon as we are allowed. Until then, the Parish Council meet the first Tuesday of each month online by Zoom, if you would like to come along, a very warm welcome will be offered to you. Agendas can also be found on the Oulton Parish Council website.

Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidelines & Codes

AECOM were commissioned to provide design support to Oulton Parish Council. The Oulton Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidelines and Codes report provides advice to address the Parish Council's views and concerns on design related matters that are needed to be addressed in future developments in the area. The main objective of the report is to develop design guidelines and codes for the Neighbourhood Plan, and to inform the design of future planning applications and residential developments in Oulton. In particular, it elaborates on strategic guidelines, as well as specific design codes that were agreed with the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group at the outset of the project. These are very interesting and available to view on the Oulton Parish Council website in our Neighbourhood Plan section, www.oultonpcsuffolk.info/neighbourhood-plan

Oulton Speed Watch

Oulton Parish Council are extremely concerned about the speed of vehicles that travel through the village. Oulton Street is one of our prime concerns but the problem lies with Suffolk Constabulary as they do not recommend 20mph zones, therefore we are considering increasing Oulton Street back to a 30mph zone then with some much appreciated assistance our police can help manage the road speeds before any further accidents occur. Oulton Street was made a 20mph zone when the Post Office was situated in the street but sadly no longer.

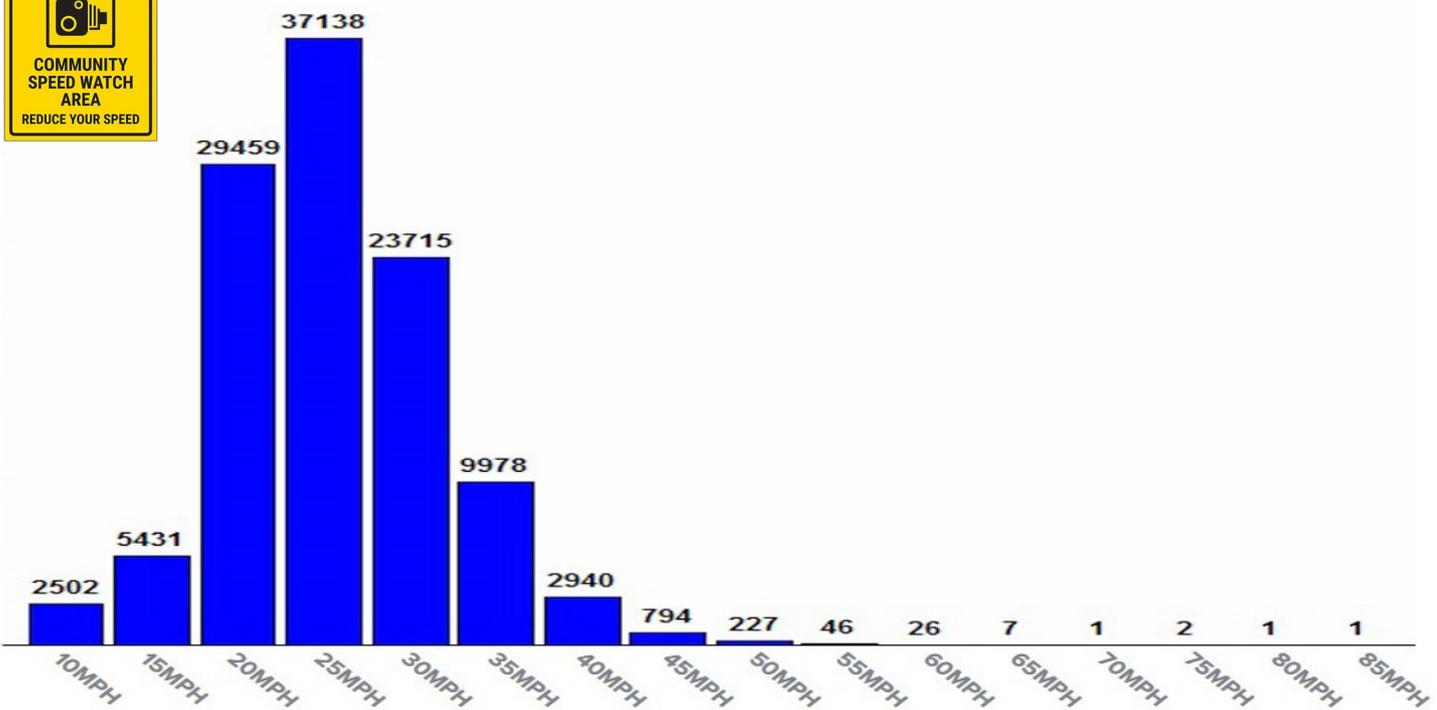
The graph below shows 112,268 vehicles travelled into the village from Parkhill within a month. A staggering 74,876 vehicles were over the speed limit so unless we act now these figures will not decrease. The information gathered has enabled us to attract the attention of Suffolk County Council & Suffolk Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood Team to help guide, support and resolve the problem. We have asked Suffolk Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood Team to meet with us and the residents once Covid-19 is clear.

Oulton Parish Council have two other sites available for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) both in Sands Lane as this is a notorious speeding zone. We recently have secured funding for another SID sign and posts to make more roads safer before someone is seriously hurt.

Speed graphs will soon be available to download from the Oulton Parish Council Website.



Oulton Street 22/11/20 - 20/12/20



Advertise your business with us

We would like to offer you an advertising space in our magazine which is intended to cover Oulton village and of course "word of mouth" at a cost of Size 1 at £10.00, Size 2 at £18.00 and Size 3 at £32.00 per issue, we hope to publish 4 times annually with a winter edition being a Christmas Special.

Contact us - newsdesk.opcsuffolk@gmail.com

SIGN UP TODAY
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A True Story

This took place in Charlotte North Carolina. A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, insuring them against, among other things, fire.

Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company.

In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires' ... The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.

The lawyer sued and WON! (*NOW Stay with me!*)

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART...

After the lawyer cashed the cheque, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of Arson.

With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

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Home, But Not Alone

Supporting vulnerable people in Suffolk

The Home, But Not Alone free phonenumber is for people who need **urgent** help and support during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is only for people who do not have support available from friends, family or neighbours and are struggling for food, medicines or other essential supplies.

Coronavirus Emergency Phonenumber

 **0800 876 6926**

9am-5pm every day

For all other enquiries please visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/homebutnotalone

Other useful contacts

- National domestic violence 24-hour helpline:

0808 200 0247

- Mental health helpline, called First Response, run by the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust:

0808 196 3494

- For any police matters please visit:

www.suffolk.police.uk

Has the impact of
**Coronavirus left you
worrying about your bills,
your job or your home?**

There are people that can help.
Call us free on **0800 068 3131**



The Suffolk Advice and Support
Line is open from 9am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday.



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Useful Telephone Numbers

Oulton Parish Council 01502 730166 clerkoultonparishsuffolk@hotmail.co.uk

Oulton Community Centre Bookings 01502 730166 oultoncommunitycentre@gmail.com

The Oulton Messenger News Desk - newsdesk.opcsuffolk@gmail.com

County Councillors

Keith Robinson 07917 452820 keith.robinson@suffolk.gov.uk

James Reeder 07907 979521 james.reeder@suffolk.gov.uk

District Councillors

Keith Robinson 07917 452820 keith.robinson@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Andree Gee 01502 568495 andree.gee@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Edward Back 07970 068285 edward.back@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council 0345 606 6067 customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk

East Suffolk Council 0333 016 2000 customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Constabulary Lowestoft 01473 613500 / Emergency 999 / Non Emergency 101

MP For Waveney, Peter Aldous 01502 586568 peter.aldous.mp@parliament.uk

Citizens Advise 01502 518510 / 01502 717715

Disability Advice North East Suffolk 01502 511333 info@danesonline.co.uk

Oulton Pools Trust 01502 512459