

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT  
TO CAMPSEA ASHE, MELTON, PETTISTREE, RENDLESHAM;  
UFFORD, AND WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCILS  
DECEMBER 2013

PLUS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTES  
(FOR MELTON, UFFORD, PETTISTREE

A14

SCC has long sought to bring about improvements to the A14, which in part is in a sorry state, having a deleterious effect on our economy. The Council put in one million pounds towards the costs of improvement, really in order to have a place in the financing negotiations. The notion of imposing a toll came as a huge and unwelcome shock, but the Council past a motion condemning the idea, and after months of campaigning and lobbying by Suffolk businesses, residents, media, councillors and MPs, the Government has dropped the toll proposals. Instead. the improvements will be paid from general taxation. Our MPs waded in heavily and met the prime minister personally, which was a jolly good thing.

APPRENTICESHIPS

The Council has announced a three-year plan to increase apprenticeships across Suffolk. £1.5million will be spent to establish a local apprenticeship service, which will aim to cut youth unemployment, develop local skills and work with businesses to help them create new jobs.

CROSS-BORDER WORKING

The leaders of Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils have said that the two counties will seek ways of working more closely together in order to save money.

FUNDING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR  
DEMENTIA PATIENTS

People with dementia in Suffolk are being helped to live more independently, thanks to £960,000 of government funding. SCC will seek to improve the environments where people with dementia

live - in their own homes, as well as in residential care and nursing homes.

### BELL RINGING BOOKS

Lots of people contact me with personal matters, which of course do not normally find their way into these reports, but a few days ago I was visited by a lady from the Midlands, who told me that her mother had been in service to a former vicar of Ufford, and that her family had been active bell-ringers there. This lady brought me two very splendid books on bell-ringing, one written by John James Raven DD of Emmanuel College Cambridge and Vicar of Fressingfield, published in 1890, the Church Bells of Suffolk, and one written by H B Walters MA, Church Bells, published in 1908. My visitor told me she wished that the books could return to Ufford.

The Rector, The Rev Michael Hatchett, is helping me get these books placed with the Church of St Mary of the Assumption so that the bell ringers of today can look after them.

Michael Bond