

**Hoxne Garden and Social Club report  
for Annual Parish Meeting  
Thursday 14 March 2019**

The Garden and Social Club have had an active year with 8 excellent speakers. Some were very useful and entertaining, but one was, how can I put it, unusual – From Bed and Breakfast to Bed and Bondage was the title of her talk!

As we did not have our usual day outing we substituted it for a self guided Treasure Trail around Harleston one evening in August, the participants found many oddities and learnt some history of the town too.

Our usual Garden Party, thanks to Mr and Mrs Coop for the use of their garden on a lovely summers evening, was one of the most attended in recent history.

Our Christmas meeting took a slightly different formula with a Hog Roast followed by Perennial Mr Potter telling us of his time as a Victorian Gardener.

As I speak the future of the club is in doubt, finding committee members is proving difficult. Our AGM is next Thursday so we will have wait to see the outcome.

The Flower, Craft and Produce Show in early Autumn is proving to more popular than ever, with many new faces entering this last year. There is hope that this will still continue even if the Club folds.

# Hoxne Playing Field

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

### Maintenance of the Pavilion and playing field.

The children's play area continues to be well received. The equipment is inspected monthly by the committee and is annually inspected by R.O.S.P.A.

The new kitchen was completed in the last year. The lounge has been redecorated in the last few months (all by volunteers). New locks/security. The playing field is cut regularly and at appropriate times.

Clean up sessions to the Pavilion and the outside areas are planned.

Targets improved: Lighting and heating.

Fund raising events include:-

The Hoxne clay shoot (1st Sunday in September)  
Christmas tree sales (Andrew Bankam, Carol Smith and volunteers)

Plant sales: Perennials Sat 30<sup>th</sup> March 10.00 am.

Annuals. May.

Summer café, social events, (eg children's parties)

Mid-summer's Day social event. (families)

Activities. Hoxne Bowls Club remains successful, with

increased membership, improved players. 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Border League winners.

Hoxne AFC folded but will be replaced by VETS (and 2 other applications for next season.)

Very successful Waveney Valley Schools sports day  
New hiring policy introduced.

AGM. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm. All welcome. New volunteers particularly welcome.

THE MAYNARD TRUST REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
Charity Number 310412  
14th March 2019

The Maynard Trust is a registered charity whose committee is made up of 5 voluntary trustees who represent The Parish Council, the Church and the Governing Body of the School as well as a volunteer secretary. The trustees meet once a quarter to consider applications from any Hoxne resident applying for financial assistance towards educational purposes. In the last calendar year the trust made seven awards and these included support of participation in The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, a contribution towards a laptop, educational visits and books for a higher educational course. The Trust also makes an annual award to St Edmund's Primary School by sponsorship of a Literary Award.

The trustees would be pleased to receive applications from anyone in our parish for educational purposes regardless of age!

*Information if requested*

*i The Trust has a healthy bank balance and also has investments from which returns are paid*

*ii The Trust does not award more than 50% of the total cost incurred*

*iii Contact details:*

[secretarymaynardtrusthoxne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:secretarymaynardtrusthoxne@hotmail.co.uk)

St Peter & St Paul Hoxne is part of a Benefice which includes Denham and five other neighbouring parishes. We are served as a Stipendiary priest the Reverend Michael Womack and the Reverend Eleanor Goodison as a non Stipendiary priest.

Obviously with 7 parishes in the Benefice our Ordained Priests can not conduct services in our churches every Sunday and so we also have suitably qualified lay members leading our services.

In Hoxne Church services are conducted most Sundays.  
In addition Hoxne church members support Open the Book at our primary school and Messy Church at Syleham Village Hall. We also have regular Benefice Services at other churches in the Benefice.

We have managed to establish Hoxne Church as the venue for Annual Lamas Day Evensong Service to celebrate the Farmer's Charity- The Addington Fund. This is supported by the Diocese and attracts supporters to the Service from all over the Diocese and the Region.

During the year Hoxne Branch of the Mothers Union was active holding regular meetings, supporting the Diocese and sending delegates to attend the Annual National Conference in Swansea.

To keep the Hoxne Church open is a constant challenge for the PCC. In this endeavour we are grateful for the Support of The Friends of Hoxne Church. This Charity by its grants to the Church enables the Church to be kept in good order and improved.

At the moment the PCC is concerned about stones being worked loose from the Tower and falling to the ground. Warning signs have been posted but we have been advised that injury risks are low. However, a contractor has been engaged to make the necessary repairs.

The PCC is keen to see the Church used for non religious functions as well a religious. To this end we are installing a Tea Point in the North Aisle and have approved Plans for the building of a WC facility in a new building leading from the current north door. There have been delays in executing Plans but thanks to The Friends a considerable amount of money is available but the PCC will require support from relevant Grant Charities to complete the work.

As this year is a significant anniversary of the martyrdom of King Edmund the PCC intends to commemorate this in November with Special Services and Concerts. In addition we hope to push forward with improvements in the North Aisle in front of the Maynard Memorial.

The PCC organised two Fund Raising Events during the year. The Summer Fete and the Christmas Bazaar. The total from theses events amounted to £5,852 for General Church Funds. This sum was a part of the Total Incoming Receipts of £40,810 (2017: £36,707). However, the Total Resources used was £54,596 (2017: £4,284). Obviously this level of deficit can not continue and the PCC is aware of this.

I repeat again, on behalf of the PCC, thanks to all those people who support the Church in many ways:  
the Cleaners, the Flower Arrangers, those who help with the maintenance and the upkeep of the Churchyard.

The visitors, Book contain many complementary comments about our fine Church.

Finally, I advise you that PCC is Renewing the Electoral Roll. This is done every six years. I do urge that any one who feels the Church is worthy support apply to be included. Catherine McGregor, as the Officer for this, has the necessary forms.

Guy McGregor  
Hoxne Church Warden  
March 2019

## ANNUAL REPORT OF HOXNE PHOENIX GROUP FOR THE YEAR 2018

The Phoenix Group has had an interesting year becoming involved and helping with 2 Village Events, as well as our regular monthly meetings. Firstly, the Garden Club Horticultural Show when we were able to promote our monthly meetings by showing examples of the diverse speakers we had heard during the year. Secondly, the 'Christmas Tree display in Church' when all groups and societies in the village were asked if they would like to take part in this new venture. The Committee were rather circumspect about this as we try to be non Political or Sectarian, however one of our members took it upon herself to invite any member interested to her home to make handmade Christmas tree decorations. The result was wonderful, so many decorations were made, that even some pillars had tiny Christmas Stockings put around them.

We've had 2 outings this year, in May we visited Fairhaven woodland and water garden, South Walsham, luckily we had chosen the first sunny and warm Spring day of the year and everything looked fresh and green. We even had a boat trip around the Broad. Our second trip was to Ely Christmas craft fair in late November, again the weather was good and made for a busy day when we could walk around the City as well as the Cathedral to do our Christmas shopping.

In July we had a Strawberry Tea held in the garden of 'Cedar Lodge', which helped swell our funds, and in September we held a Spanish evening in the Village Hall open to everyone, for our chosen Charity 'Headway Suffolk, brainy dog project' which helps people with brain injuries. The committee, with much help, served Paella with crusty bread, followed by fresh fruit, all accompanied with Sangria. We then had a demonstration by a young Labrador dog 'Hope' who was able to do many helpful tasks when asked by her handler. The result of this very happy evening was £400. 00 being sent to 'Headway Suffolk'.

During our monthly meetings, we've had speakers ranging from how to protect ourselves from scams and frauds, to trying on beautiful wedding hats picked for each one of us ,by the milliner.

We now look forward to another busy and interesting year, we've already had a talk on Lingerie and Swimwear, in July we shall have 'The perennial Mr. Potter' talking about gardening, and in October a talk on the ghostly and macabre.

We are always ready to welcome new members, so if you know of anyone who has just moved into the village, we meet every second Tuesday in the Village Hall at 7.30pm we ask for just £2 for a visitor, and it is still only £15 for the annual subscription.

Vivienne Bradford, Chairman. 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Hoxne village Hall

### **Report to Annual Parish Meeting**

The hall remains in high demand and we already have six weddings booked for this year and having to turn away some events. There are limits to our manpower and we cannot always provide a bar. So for example we will have a dry film in July, because it is impractical to put on a bar due to other demands on the resources.

This not a complaint - This is of course good news!

Our accounting year runs to 28<sup>th</sup> of February. We ran a deficit of about £7500 last year but expect to get back a grant for improvements of about £4500, so the actual deficit is about £3000. This is broadly planned because we maintain a reserve of about £30,000 for emergencies and aim to broadly balance our books as far as current expenditure is concerned. Essentially our bookings income covers our expenses and we use the surplus from the bar to make improvements. Our operating account has roughly £9000 fluctuating during the year but aim is to keep it broadly stable.

Most of our users are regular, by which I mean the clubs and classes. So of the 353 bookings last year 297 were regular bookings with 56 one-off events. Regular bookings have tailed off in the last couple of years (particularly from a high point in 2017), but as you can see they are by far the majority and the number is currently stable.

The Committee has quite a lot of work on the hall in the last year. We replaced the noticeboards outside, have sought to improve the sound system with outside support and have been working to enhance the bar facilities. With the aid of the grant, already mentioned, we have installed or will install new hand dryers and more effective LED lighting in the hall. We had a bit of a scare a few months ago when we thought we might have dry rot in the roof, which fortunately turned out to be fault alarm. Nevertheless, we did get the roof cleaned and took the opportunity of replacing the asbestos guttering with PVC. Very recently, we had some painting done to touch-up the hall.

As I have mentioned before, we have big heating problem. The hall can be very cold in the depths of winter because so much heat is lost out of the roof. Unfortunately, it remains the position that we do not have a satisfactory solution because any decent installation would require significantly changing the character of the hall. So I think for the time being we are planning to remain stylish but in winter coats for January and February!

We are working on improving the garden behind the hall. So at the very least will be putting in some fencing up in the near future.

We have course continue to operate the film night and we also sponsor the harvest breakfast.

We continue to develop our policies, so for example we have recently adopted a new safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults.

Finally I would like to say I think we are very lucky to have a pretty dedicated and enthusiastic committee which certainly helps to keep the hall ticking over in the way that it does.

Anyway, are there any questions?

## BOOK EXCHANGE

For your information the telephone box library appears to be working well thanks to the community donations.

We have over 100 titles on the shelves and 40 in reserve at this time. I am also planning to give the kiosk a wash and polish later in the year, to maintain its appearance.



# **Hoxne Annual Parish Meeting 14th March 2019**

**Village Voices 2018 14th March 2019 7.30 Village Hall**

**VV have had another exciting and successful year our numbers stand at 44 members from 18 villages and 1 city.**

**Early Jan. 2018**

We started the year with our Annual General Meeting at the Swan with the majority of members attending.

March 2018 we hosted a very successful singing workshop with Sian Croose from Norwich and Brendan Taaffe from The USA.

July we took part in the Diss Fest. We all enjoyed the event.

Many members requested we attend again another year.

**Late July we have our end of year garden party hosted at Janet's home. We had a good evening of song, good food, and good company.**

October: This year we ventured out to the wilds of North Norfolk for an adventure weekend in Brancaster Staith.

A very successful weekend of walking, singing, dancing, story telling and enjoyable company. Finishing off with a fish and chip supper Saturday evening.

December: We performed for the Eye Lights switch on. We had a lovely time walking around Eye and singing for the audience in The Bank. Members again expressed a wish to sing again for this event.

Back round to our AGM January 2019 again very well attended at The Swan.

**This February 2019 we had another workshop and concert this time with Northern Harmony from Vermont USA – it was very well supported with 90 attending the workshop and over 100 attending the evening concert. We had a wonderful response from singers and NH would very much like to come back to Hoxne.**

**Future plans<sup>for</sup> a charitable event in London for Water Aid and VV 10th Anniversary during 2020, exciting times ahead.**

## Village Voice report for Annual Parish Meetings 2019

The Village Voice is a bi-monthly magazine covering the four parishes of Denham, Hoxne, Syleham and Wingfield.

### Looking Back

Thanks to all the advertisers and contributors throughout the year, without whom there wouldn't be a magazine. The magazine format has remained broadly unchanged from the previous year when colour was introduced. Crossword entries have been steadily increasing, so perhaps more people are reading for longer, or maybe it's just getting easier!

### Finances

The Village Voice is primarily funded through advertising revenue. Dawn Lodge handles the adverts and there are over 50 regular advertisers covering a wide range of local services. There is generally a waiting list as we balance advertising space vs general content. Printing costs increased slightly at the end of 2018, but as we have funds in-hand, there are no immediate plans to revise advertising rates, though it's something to consider in the coming year.

### Distribution

Many thanks to Sally Dudley for organising the distribution and to all the local distributors who deliver their share of the 900 copies each issue, as well as any extra copies to further pick-up points when there is a printer overrun. Thanks are also due to Joan and David at Hoxne Post Office Shop and Deli for continuing to act as a drop-off and distribution point.

### Going Forward

The *In the Kitchen* and *In the Garden* features have now come to an end. Many thanks to Gill and Claire for their contributions over the last two years. Claire is continuing with a new plant page and the *Lunch Bunch & Village Walks* pages are also set to remain in the coming issues. Anyone who holds regular or one-off events or who offer community facilities that are not already featured are encouraged to get in touch.