

## **Report from The Parish Council:**

**This year the P.C. has, in common with many other council's, had planning and housing development at the top of its' agenda. Since March 2018 we have considered applications for a total of 32 new houses. This prompts the questions - does the village need that number of houses? If so, what sort of houses should they be and where should they be sited? To help with answers to these questions the P.C. has commissioned a HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY which each household will receive later this year, and which will inform our approach to housing development to meet real need in the village.**

### **Village Sign**

**A village sign has been ordered by the P.C. and will be erected on Low Street Green. The final design details were agreed earlier this evening by members of the working group, and it is hoped that the sign will be in place by St Edmund's Day this November.**

### **Anniversary of the martyrdom of St Edmund**

**Would the village like to mark St Edmund's day in some way, if so please let us know after the meeting or get in touch with Sarah. It is the 1,160 anniversary and the P.C. intend to provide a sign or plaque.**

### **Retiring Councillors**

**This is election year for local councils and some of our councillors will be retiring. I would like to thank all those who have served with the P.C. this term whose knowledge and experience has been invaluable. Hoxne Parish Council has a complement of 11 councillors and any parishioner wishing to apply to join the Parish Council should see Sarah after the meeting as applications must be lodged by tomorrow Friday 15th March. I would like to remind the parish that our meetings are open to members of the public and we would be delighted to see any or all of you at our meetings which are held on the first Thursday of the month.**

**I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth (Gibson-Harries) who will not be standing for re-election to M.S.D.C. She has been supportive and helpful in all our dealings and I wish her all the best for the future.**

### **Highways**

**The P.C. has not been impressed by the efforts of the highways department (although a number of potholes have recently been repaired) we have complained about the poor quality of some resurfacing carried out within the village, and have asked that the contractor be made to carry out the work again to a satisfactory standard. I should mention that we were pleased to find a new street caretaker who does such a good job.**

**One last thing, we have underspent our grant awarding budget for the year and will consider support of local organisations or causes.**

## County Councillor's Report Hoxne & Eye Division

The continued reduction in Central Government Grant combined with:

Increase in the cost of services;

Increase in demand for Vital Services in Adult Social Services and for vulnerable Children

the difficulty in raising the Council Tax demand

Continues to make the adequate provision of Revenue to support services increasingly challenging.

For next year SCC will increase its demand by 4% of which 1% is allocated to the Adult Social Care Budget.

This now means that 75% of the Revenue is devoted to Vital Services leaving 25% to provide for:

Highways & Transport,

Libraries & Heritage

Public Protection & Fire & Public Protection,

Strategic Planning & Flood Protection.

In addition it should be noted that Council Tax payers pay the biggest % to their Police Service provision in the country, and Central Government's Budget for secondary schools is below the English Average and below Norfolk's.

Locally the poor condition of our roads is a matter of concern. I have supported the Parish Council's complaints and things are a little bit better.

A new Library has opened in Eye (next to the Cross Street Car Park). I do urge you to join and use this wonderful new facility.

Work is proceeding on the new roundabouts on the A140.

Both Primary and Secondary Schools in the Division continue to provide education for our children at the highest standards. All involved are to be congratulated.

I have attended most of the PC meetings in the year and I express my thanks to the members for the courteous way I have been received.

Guy McGregor  
Hoxne & Eye Division  
Mar-19

## Hoxne Music 2018

In 2018 we ran a couple of fund raising quizzes that are always very well attended and great success. Over the late May Spring Bank Holiday we ran a series of 3 events over successive days. A themed music and film night on the Friday night, a folk/rock concert on the Saturday night (both in the village hall) and a choir concert in the church on the Sunday afternoon.

The first was a themed film and music night based around the classic movie "Casablanca", entitled "An Evening at Rick's Cafe". The evening involved a screening of the film as background, music of the period by the Max Middleton Band and an evening meal produced by Gail Jackson and her team. The village hall was decorated and we had supporting entertainment in the form of an amateur Belly dancing Troop and a Magician. The evening was a huge success with around 90 guests who had a wonderful time with much clamour for an encore event. Financially the event made a loss but was deemed to be a huge success.

On the Saturday we held a folk/rock concert with a singer song writer warm up act Paul McClure followed by an East Anglian band The Vagabond. Due to a number of issues relating to other clashing events and local concerts attendance was appalling and although the acts did an amazing job playing to a very unclouded hall the results were very disappointing. We made a significant loss and now believe that although there were several mitigating circumstances on the day events of this type are currently not likely to be very successful.

On the Sunday afternoon we held a very well attended Choral event in Hoxne Church performed by the Halesworth Community Choir. Many of the audience were family and friend of the choir and the event made a profit.

Overall in financial terms in 2018 the fund raised through additional events went some way to subsidising the performances and we remain with funds in the bank to support further activity.

In 2019 we have already held a successful quiz night and we have our second themed film and music event on Saturday May 18th in Hoxne Village Hall. The film is the classic "Some Like it Hot", contemporary club/jazz music will be provided by Max Middleton again with an extended band to include some brass!. A suitable sit down evening meal will again be provided and there should be in keeping with the theme.

Structurally we have really struggled to find and keep committee members and only a few of us remain active (Anthony Benton as Chair, Helen McDonnogh as Treasurer, Stuart Jarrold (as adviser) and Gail Jackson). It seems inevitable that if others are not forthcoming in getting involved then the Society will wither on the vine and get wound up. Please then do get in touch if you would like to be involved, without help we cannot continue.

Because we simply do not have capacity to run multi events like the past we have decided to drop the word "Festival" from our title as we feel this is now misleading and constrictive.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event on May 18th 2019. Places are limited and so please book your table of 10 asap by contacting us.

## **Annual Report for Hoxne Village from the Village Recorder.2018**

### **The Church of St. Peter & St. Paul**

The church remains a fairly active focus of village activities especially when special services are held . Children from St.Edmund's Primary school engaged with the church through participation in the Harvest Festival, where their contributions went into the foodbank and they also had their own Christmas carol service separate from the village carol service.The church was full for the service on November 11<sup>th</sup> which commemorated the end of WW1.In addition there was a display by Graham Thornett on behalf of the Heritage Group in which each of the Hoxne fallen had a portfolio about their life.

Improvements continue on the fabric of the building, with the toilet and kitchen unit ready for installation.

2019 is the 1150th anniversary of the martyrdom of St.Edmund and there are ambitious plans to celebrate this, mainly the re-erection of the beautiful Victorian carved screen which depicts St.Edmund's story. This will be erected in the North Aisle to establish a small chapel to St. Edmund.

Other plans include the restoration of the church bells , the oldest being from 1420,which will reach out to the whole village community. However, one of the priority areas is attention to falling masonry from the tower.

### **St.Edmund's Primary School (Consortium Multi-Academy Trust)**

The school has had another successful year under the auspices of CMAT, which implemented a 'team around the school' to ensure delivery of good education when various staffing issues occurred.The current academy head is Neil Baldwin , who is covering from Miss Collin's maternity leave, and very ably assisted by James Vink as Head of School.

The schoolchildren engage well with the village community by visiting the Depperhaugh Nursing Home and St.Edmund's House to sing carols, carol singing around the Christmas tree on the Green and participating in special services in the church.

### **St.Edmund's Village Hall**

The village hall remains a vibrant hub of the community with almost full regular bookings from a wide variety of village organisations and clubs. Monthly meetings of the Phoenix Club and Garden and Social Club are well-attended , as are the monthly film nights and Artisan Market. Other weekly activities such as salsa dancing, Hoxon Hundred, badminton,Tai-chi also add to the repertoire. Other ad hoc activities including fund-raising quizzes, dances and amateur dramatic performances are very well-attended.

### **The Swan Public House**

After a few weeks of consternation in April following the landlord's replacement, the Swan is thriving once again. The restaurant has been refurbished and the pub is gaining a reputation for good food and a lovely atmosphere.

**The Old Butcher's shop** has re-opened as a reflexology/ wellbeing studio.

**The Post Office** has been taken over by Joan and David Rogers. In the few months of their ownership they have refurbished the entire building to provide a post office and shop, a delicatessen and a

tearoom. Plans are also underway to provide B&B in due course. To date the tearoom, only opened on Dec.1<sup>st</sup>, has been a huge success in the village, attracting locals and visitors alike.

There is a real uplifting feeling that the success of these village businesses is breathing new life into Hoxne.

### **General Village Life**

Planning decisions and submissions have caused further controversy in Hoxne. The development on Oak Hill has not materialised yet and is in the hands of the ombudsman. One significant development is the monument to St. Edmund at the heart of the controversy has been Grade II listed.

As feared, this planning application has opened the flood gates for others on Oak Hill and an application has been made for 20 houses and 58 car parking spaces on the other side of the road. The greatest fear is that the character of the village will be spoilt and Hoxne will become a holiday-let village and dormitory of Norwich and Ipswich.

### **Traditions**

The traditions in the village have continued this year –the Father Christmas sleigh delivery on Christmas morning terminating on the village green with the lighted trees and the decorated Christmas tree, being welcomed by the fairground organ, is in its' 45<sup>th</sup> year.

The Annual Clay Shoot held in September raised over £2000 for village charities.

The Harvest Breakfast, also running for over 40 years, was a resounding success again and raised funds for the village hall and playing fields.

The Music Festival is biennial and will be held in 2019.

It was great that an old tradition, the Tug 'o War between Low Street and Cross Street was resurrected on Boxing Day, after many years. The last event was in 1974. The event took place over the river at the Swan with the main aim to drag the losers into the river. It was a really exciting competition and well supported by the villagers. Honours went to Cross Street men this year and there is almost certainly going to be a return challenge next year.

Margaret Sillis. Hoxne Village Recorder 12.2018

## ***Hoxne Heritage Group – Chairman's Report 2018***

2018 was another busy and successful year for the HHG. Progress was made with some of the ongoing projects and work commenced on others.

A number of guest speakers were engaged and gave interesting and informative presentations, including one of our own. These were generally well attended.

Key activities included the groups hosting of a visit by the SHBG in July. This was extremely well received and served to further enhance the Group's reputation. Equally well appreciated was the commemorative work on World War 1 exhibited at Worlingworth and now on display in the Church.

As in previous years individual members have continued to conduct research work and attend presentations from other Heritage Groups. Feedback from these events was shared with the group at our regular meetings and where appropriate research findings added to the website.

### ***Some of the Highlights of 2018***

#### **January:-**

Phillip Aitkens gave a presentation on the subject of wallpaper/coverings. Phillip supported his talk with a comprehensive portfolio of materials. It was well attended and well received despite having to compete with the strains of "Strictly Come Dancing" in the main hall.

#### **February:-**

Following the earlier Geophys survey four markers were placed on the Lodge Hill site in readiness for the planned digs later in the year.

#### **March:-**

Kevin Knights prepared and delivered a presentation on his great, great Grandfather George Rayner who was a local resident and sometime miller. This was very well received by a sizeable audience and our thanks go out once again to Kevin for an informative and interesting evening.

#### **April:-**

The Chairman and Secretary met the outgoing Churchwarden Brian Chester to discuss the Groups future role in taking on custodianship of some of the displays in the north aisle. This remains as work in progress.

**July:-**

On the second weekend in July the HHG hosted a visit by thirty plus members of the SHBG. Excellent presentations from Julie Craven and Chris Parkin and group tours of local properties formed the main elements of the day. Feedback from the visitors was very positive and subsequently a request was received from the SLHC for us to host a "focus on Hoxne day."

**August:-**

Organised by Chris Parkin a number of members enjoyed a Group summer social event at the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket. A very enjoyable day aided by good company and excellent summer weather.

**September:-**

Despite the loss of the markers during harvesting, with the help of John Craven we were able commence the dig on the Lodge Hill Site. As a result of inclement weather and very hard top soil only one pit was excavated. The results were encouraging, definite archaeology differences were noted in one corner of the pit. A sizeable piece of medieval pottery was also found. Further digs will take place in the coming year.

**October:-**

An extraordinary meeting was held at Abbey Farm to enable Wilf White to update the Group on future plans for the Church and the results of his research work at Abbey Farm. This was a very convivial and interesting evening.

**November:-**

John Rainer gave an excellent presentation on the Geophys survey of the Lodge Hill site providing further and more definitive information than previously available. Attendance was reasonably good enabling us to make a donation to the SAF.

**December:-**

The annual Christmas social event featuring the Harbour Lights Group was well received and much appreciated by all who attended.

### **Hoxne Bell Ringers report March 2019 for Village Voice and Parish Council**

The Hoxne bell ringing band now numbers nearly a dozen. We have 2 regular ringers and one who has rung previously. The others are all learners who have started this year.

Starting to ring takes one to one teaching so we have divided the band into two groups. The Wednesday evening group go to Bacton where we have tied up 4 clappers to prevent the bells sounding and upsetting the neighbours. We have had great support from the Stowmarket band both by allowing us to use Bacton Bells and by them providing us with teachers.

Thornham Magna on Saturday mornings accommodates the other group. We are taught by Sylvie the tower captain and Zoe who also comes to Bacton, so special thanks to her. We are really beholden to the Thornham ringers and cannot thank them enough for the time they give us and the patience they show while teaching us.

We have had two demonstrations at Wickham Skeith of bells being rung and nine teaching sessions so far and good progress is being made by everyone. The enthusiasm of the band is excellent.

The Hoxne church tower is to be inspected in late March to assess its ability to take full circle ringing. This is a precursor for a restoration which we are planning to do in the next few years. When we get a satisfactory structural report the process of fund raising and applications for grants from the lottery fund and many others organisations can begin in earnest.

Andrew Castleden 01379 668 458





# 1st Fressingfield Scout Group

## REPORT to the Parish Councils 2018-2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the great work of the 1<sup>st</sup> Fressingfield Scout Group.

Those who review our annual reports will notice a change of logo for our Scout Group, as the national Scout Association launched its rebranding, we concluded ours locally and our new Group logo, incorporates the pilgrim from the Fressingfield village sign and a traditional fleur de lys. We are proud of both our history and local roots.

1st Fressingfield Scout Group membership increased from the previous year, at the census in April we had membership of 159, including leaders and the Executive committee, up from 136.

Over the financial year 2018/2019 the 1st Fressingfield Scout Group have continued to generate significant amounts of income, our general fund that supports our day to day operational costs continues to have a healthy balance – largely due to membership subscriptions. Our Explorer Unit has raised almost £20,000 to fund our international programme, with 11 members of the Group heading out to Kenya in a few weeks time for a 16 day expedition.

Finally our development fund, has both generated and largely spent £50,000 on developments at our new Priory Road site, where we have been working really hard to develop facilities that support our scouting programme. This includes a recently installed obstacle course paid for by a £10,000 National Lottery grant, environmental works with a £450 grant from the Adhams Trust, nearly 500 saplings planted donated by the Woodland Trust and engineering works kindly supported by Cowhams Car and Commercial.

The Scout Group continues to provide exceptional opportunities to our young people from five year old Beavers to 17 year old Explorers and to our growing team of volunteer adult leaders, to whom I pay a sincere vote of thanks to. We have launched three new sections this year, including Tiger Cubs on a Monday and we now provide scouting opportunities at our new Yoxford and Peasenhall School Scout section, an innovative method of getting scouting into the school curriculum.

There has been so much happening at 1st Fressingfield Scout Group this year I would like to present to you 1st Fressingfield Scout Group 2018 in music and pictures.

[Click here for a short film on our 2018 adventure](#)

Yours in Scouting

Andrew

Report prepared by ~~Andrew Alders-Dunthorns~~, Group Scout Leader,  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Annual Parish Meeting

### Friends of St Peter & St Paul, Hoxne

It has been a reasonably good year for fund raising by the Friends, the purpose of the Friends formed all those years ago, the preservation of the fabric of our church and its surrounds obviously becomes more and more important as the years go by, as we all know from our own houses time has a habit of affecting walls, windows ,doors etc and year by year the cost of repairs is ever increasing.

We have raised money by monthly coffee mornings, summer lunch, harvest lunch, a band concert and a quiz, thanks to the hard work by the committee these have raised in the region of £2250.

However on the other side we have given to the PCC <sup>11,038</sup> ~~£10558~~ towards the kitchen and other works.

So you can see that we need more events to raise enough money to help in our aim to maintain the church.

This is where we now have a problem, the committee are not getting any younger and like several other organisations in the village are finding it hard to carry on with the small number of committee members and would welcome the offer of help, it does not have to be as a committee member but perhaps to help in a practical way in the running of events.

Anyone wishing to help see me or any committee member.  
Thank you

John Brawn Chairman

## **Hoxne Bowls Club Report 2019**

for Annual Parish Meeting

The 2018 season was the the most successful in the clubs history in many ways.

First and foremost because of the numbers of villagers who've taken up the sport. Something that hasn't changed over the last hundred years. In the last two years fourteen new members have joined the club, not only maintaining a friendly atmosphere but adapting to the game quickly and well. Thanks in part to some dedicated coaching from several of the club's stalwarts.

This influx has not only transformed the club in numbers, but also in quality on the green.

Last year we Won the Border League & Cup double for the first time.

We were beaten finalists in the Waveney Cup & runners up in the Waveney League second division, gaining promotion to the top flight for the first time.

We re-entered the Mid-Suffolk League, <sup>last year</sup> Where it all started 100 years ago, and were runners up in the league and Semi- finalists in the cup.

Representing the club:

Alan Garnham won The Champion of Champions trophy in the Waveney League competitions,

Maurice Hurry was runner up in the Men's singles of both the Border League and the Waveney League competitions.

and Maurice Hurry, George Large & Roger Knight won the annual Fressingfield Tournament.

In this, our Centenary Year, we have: a commemorative game against a Suffolk Vice-Presidents team; a new Centenary building for viewing and changing area; and hopefully, a memorabilia evening, which is still in the planning stage but hopefully will be open to the whole village.