

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12 MARCH 2020

In May 2019 local council elections were held and all 11 seats on the council were filled. Since then Steve Rich has resigned and Colin Ablitt was elected to take his place. The Chairmanship continued with Edward O'Connor, with Iain Gibson as Vice Chairman and our Clerk Sarah Foote has just completed her 12th year in the role. Our other member of staff Rob Williams serves the village well with his work to keep public areas clean and tidy.

The Parish Council continues to find that most of its work is centred around development in the village, whether it be for new housing, renovation of agricultural buildings to dwellings or increased HGV movements to serve the growing poultry industry locally. The Parish Council has taken a major step forward by designating the entire village boundary for a Neighbourhood Development Plan and at this meeting you can find out much more about what is involved with this, what it will achieve and how you can be involved.

The Parish Council has provided financial support to the Playingfield Association, Fressingfield Scout Group and Eye Volunteer Centre. Disappointing the local bus service has been disbanded and the Parish Council is keen to support community transport initiatives as these develop.

On St Edmund's Day back on 20 November we unveiled the new village sign. This was the result of lots of work from the group charged with bringing the ideas to life and we are grateful to them all for their contributions. The day itself was well attended with pupils from the primary school sharing their stories of St Edmund and much press coverage was achieved. A moment for all of the village to be proud.



## **Report to Hoxne PC Annual Meeting 12 March 2020.**

As a first tier local authority Suffolk CC is responsible for delivering such critical Services as Adult Social Care and Special Needs Children. The provision of these services take up 75% of SCC's Revenue Budget. This leaves 25% to cover Highway Maintenance, Libraries & Archives, Strategic Planning, Flood Protection and much more. The reduction of Central Government Revenue Support and the difficulty in replacing this funding presents SCC with significant challenges. It is a credit to the general competence of SCC that it, usually, meets the challenge. It is important to remember that local authorities have to produce a Balanced Budget and it is spending "real money".

It is disappointing that SCC has ended the Revenue Support for the only stage bus service that served the parish. We still have the Friday Service into Diss and the Border Hopper but it is not the same.

There remains the constant struggle to get timely repairs for the road surfaces and replace street furniture. We have had some significant repair work on the roads in the parish but there are still problems.

The new Library in Eye has proved very popular and the Childrens' Centre in Eye has an important outreach responsibility.

The underutilisation at Hartismere Hospital has been a scandal for many years and the closure of the Maternity Unit is to be regretted. However, I have been working with SCC officers to bring into operation a "Social Prescribing" facility. This is a new concept which recognises for many GP patients the underlying cause of illness is often stress for which traditional treatments are not the answer. Relationship with the NHS is often difficult and for many of our young people mental illness is a serious problem. The pathway for treatment and cure is difficult and this is not helped by the Norfolk & Suffolk Mental Health Trust goes in and out of Special Measures.

It is not all gloom and doom. SCC Children Services have been rated as "Outstanding" by OFSTED and HM Inspectorate has rated SCC's Fire & Rescue Service as providing "Good Value for Money"

I have, over the year, been able to attend Hoxne Parish Council meetings and I express my thanks for the pleasant way I have been received.

Finally the proposed Chicken Plant by Cranswick on the outskirts of Eye will increase the number of HGVs in the Parish. It is a pity that MSDC excused the Company from the Requirement of a Site Specific Environmental Impact Assessment.

However both the County and the District are setting up working parties to look into the impact of the increasing HGV traffic.

It is privilege to serve as a County Councillor and I am proud to be the representative for Hoxne & Eye.

Guy McGregor

SCC Councillor, Hoxne & Eye Division

12-Mar-20

## **REPORT to the Parish Council**

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

1st Fressingfield Scout Group membership increased slightly from the previous year, at the census at the end of February we had membership of 141, this is a slight increase from 139 last year there are also 27 leaders and the Executive committee of 14 parents and supporters. Around 12% are either from Hoxne or have links to Hoxne.

For much of 2018 and 2019 1st Fressingfield Scout Group has been sponsoring a new venture to deliver Scouting to a whole primary school as part of the school timetable. Our new Yoxford and Peasenhall School Scouting sections were trialled over the summer term and after a review by our Group Executive and school leaders have become a permanent part of the school weekly timetable. Consequently 50 young people from Yoxford and Peasenhall Primary School Scouting Section have been welcomed into the Group. This is a national trial monitored by The Scout Association and the Department for Education.

Thank you to everyone that has saved empty crisp packets for us, we have recently found that it is possible to buy a kayak made from recycled plastic retrieved from the sea, and we plan to raise the funding for this from the empty crisp packet collections. We have 30% of target. Please continue to keep them for us, you just need to simply save the bags and then hand them to one of our members or leave them with me at Daganya Farm, Nuttery Vale or with Gill O'Connor.

Our current headquarters is rented from the Goodwin Hall Trust, the is a wooden building behind the Fressingfield Methodist Chapel. This building is around 100 years old with structural problems, in fact it is slowly slipping into the ditch. There is no



plumbing in the building and the only toilet and tap are in the chapel.

For several years we have been striving to get our own premises and 3 years ago we were gifted .8 acre in Fressingfield with planning permission for a new headquarters. We have raised many thousands of pounds to fund the planning applications, legal fees and initial work to secure the site.

We have launched our 'Building on Community Foundations' campaign and invite organisations and individuals to support us. Put simply this is our take on the "buy a brick" style of fund raising. We are looking for sponsors for each metre square of the foundations. Hoxne Parish Council have been kind enough to grant us funds towards this project, and some Hoxne residents have "bought a brick". If anyone would like to support us I have the necessary paper work with me tonight.

We have identified a secondhand sectional building that will be ideal, unfortunately grants for capital expenditure of this size are extremely hard to obtain and it seems we may need to review our plans.

Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery an assault course is now in use at our new HQ site. This is an exciting development and our young members are getting lots of use from it already.

The highlight of our year was at Easter last year, when 11 members of the Explorer Unit headed off to Kenya to work with our partners and friends at Mothers' Mercy Home. The orphanage offers shelter, support and education to over a hundred young people many rescued from the streets of Kenya.

The Explorers immersed in African culture for over two weeks, If you asked each member how they would describe the trip, you'd get responses of "amazing", "beautiful scenery" or most likely "hot". These responses would be describing the "touristy"





activities they did. However, phrases like "life changing and a real eye opener" are also in the mix. These opinions come from all the things they did and experienced outside of what you would do on a family holiday to Kenya.

For most of the Young People visiting the Kibera slums was a life changing experience, and staying at an orphanage and interacting with the children made the trip fulfilling.

The views at Lake Naivasha were breathtaking but working on the farm with no machinery, pulling a loaded cart six kilometers in 30°C, is what changed so many of their views on how lucky we are to live the lives we do here back in England.

It truly was an experience that everyone involved will remember for the rest of their lives.

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.

We have recently extended our youth provision by having a Network based at Fressingfield, these are young adults aged between 18 and 25 years of age. They run their own programme, as far as I can tell most activities end in a pub, infact a few start in a pub as well.

As ever I am immensely proud of the sterling work that the young people and all the volunteer adults do to make your Scout Group the best by far in the area. I trust that the community shares my passion to deliver effective, safe and exciting youth provision for our young people.

We have lots of information on our website including a 3minute video showing our recent activities, and a short film about the new headquarters project.

Michael Knights  
Assistant Group Scout Leader



**The Values of Scouting** As Scouts we are guided by these values;

- **Integrity:** we act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal
- **Respect:** we have self-respect and respect for others
- **Care:** we support others and take care of the world in which we live
- **Belief:** we explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes
- **Cooperation:** we make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends

**Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and;**

- **enjoy what they are doing and have fun;**
- **take part in activities indoors and outdoors;**
- **learn by doing;**
- **share in spiritual reflection;**
- **take responsibility and make choices;**
- **undertake new and challenging activities; and**
- **make and live by their Promise.**

The five principles of spiritual development are;

- Develop an inner discipline and training.
- Be involved in corporate (group) activities.
- Understand the natural world around you.
- Help to create a more tolerant and caring society.
- To discover the need for spiritual reflection.

Make every effort to progress in the understanding and observance of the Promise to do their best to do their duty to God or to uphold Scouting's values as appropriate;

- Explore their faiths, beliefs and attitudes;
- Consider belonging to some faith or religious body;
- Carry into daily practice what they profess.



## Parish Meeting 2020 12 March 7:30

### Hoxne Bell Ringers Report

During the last year we have had regular bell ringing practises at Oakley on Friday nights and at Bacton on Wednesday nights. Various ringers from our band have been ringing at other towers as well. Our thanks go to all those who have allowed us to ring their bells and to those who have tutored us and supported our band.

Our skills are improving and, although, we are still a learner band, we would like to start teaching some more new ringers this summer.

Meanwhile, a lot of information and quotations have been gathered about our bell restoration in the Hoxne tower. The tower has been surveyed and is strong enough to take ringing bells again. We have had a generous offer of a donation of two bells to make our five bells up to a ring of six with an hour bell. The possibility of an additional bell would give us a ring of eight.

Some features of the restoration have become clear, for example, the restoration and conservation work required for our existing bells and the requirement for installing of a new steel bell frame capable of holding eight bells. The installation will be equipped as a bell ringing teaching facility.

Our progress is hampered by difficulties with a factuality which needs to be resolved before the bell restoration can proceed.

There is further work to do to decide a complete restoration plan and have a fully costed proposal in place.

Any questions?

Andrew Castleden 01379 668 458. [fal@castleden.co.uk](mailto:fal@castleden.co.uk)



## **Hoxne Bowls Club's Annual Report to the Parish Meeting**

Another successful year for the club saw us win the Norfolk & Suffolk Border League for the fourth successive season. We were also runners up in the Mid-Suffolk League and reached the final of the Upper Waveney League Cup.

Our Centenary year was celebrated in style when we hosted a team from The Suffolk Vice-Presidents. The sun shone, the bowls rolled and a hotly contested game ensued. A heat break was recorded on camera with the rare sight of Hoxne Bowls Players downing pints of squash.

The match was followed by a convivial meal and amusing speeches, in which the Vice-Presidents captain heaped praise on our hospitality and facilities – something the village can be proud of.

Although this was a great team effort by club members, we have to give thanks for the whole-hearted support from the playing fields committee, and to Richard Whiting for the excellent coverage in the Village Voice.

We won the match – of course.

The summer also saw the erection of our centenary building: a viewing shelter, come changing room.

Also, I have produced a scrapbook, available for viewing in the clubhouse, charting the club's history from 1919 until 1952. The newspaper archives dry up after 1955, so the next chapter will rely on people's memories. Which unfortunately, as far as dates are concerned, are not what they use to be, apparently.

Finally, weather and viruses permitting we will open the green on Sunday 19th April, when all are welcome to attend and roll a few woods – flat soled shoes, please.





**Maynard's Educational Foundation Registered Charity Number 310412**  
(Also known as The Maynard Trust)

The Maynard Trust was established in 1922 by the Foundation of Charles Lord Maynard (itself founded in 1761) to provide grants for educational and training purposes to individual residents of Hoxne Parish and to also provide an annual grant, to be called the Maynard Award, to be given to St Edmunds Primary School, Hoxne.

The Trust makes grants to both primary and secondary school students as well as to higher education students, including mature students, by awarding sums of money towards the cost of school trips, short educational courses (i.e. not university tuition fees), books and learning equipment.

The only criteria are that a recipient is resident within the Parish of Hoxne and studying on a recognised educational course. There is no age limit and grants are not means tested.

The five current trustees are John Lawrie, Polly Potter, Gill O'Connor, Amanda Jones and Michel Henri, who are all resident in the Parish. They represent the Vicar of Hoxne (1), the Parish Council (2) and the Governing Body of St Edmunds Primary School (2). The Trustees meet 2-4 times a year to consider applications and their next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The Trust made 16 grants in 2019 including the annual grant to St Edmunds Primary School. These ranged from £30 to £300 and totalled £1,653.

The Trust is funded from investments and donations. If anyone would like to support the Trust, we would be very pleased to hear from them. As a charity any donations could be Gift Aided and/or eligible for tax relief.

Grant applications should be made to Gill O'Connor (Hon. Secretary & Trustee) of Old Thatch, Goldbrook, Hoxne IP21 5AN (Email: gillocon@btinternet) from whom any further information about the Trust can also be obtained.



## ANNUAL REPORT FOR HOXNE PHOENIX GROUP 2019.

The most important decision taken by the Group this year was to increase our Annual Subscription to £20 as from February, 2020. Since the Group started 12 years ago the subscription had remained at £15 but as Speaker's expenses had gone up regularly, plus their travelling expenses, this was agreed by most members.

We had a very varied programme again this year, ranging from an illustrated talk reminding us of the rules of the Highway Code, and how to stay safer by concentrating, observing, and anticipating other drivers behaviour. The history of Gold Work embroidery, and how silk was transported from China to the Middle East and beyond. A wonderful talk by a local resident about living and working in Saudi Arabia giving a fascinating insight into the lives of women living in a very different world to us. Another interesting but slightly chilling talk, given by someone living quite locally, was all about her life as a Police Pathologist, ie Silent Witness. Some of our speakers come from as far away as Cavendish, or north of Norwich, which is how we manage to have such entertaining speakers.

This year the Group decided they would hold a Pudding Evening in September, to raise funds for 'The Dove Dementia Café' held monthly in Diss which offers company and musical entertainment for members and their carers, and we were absolutely delighted to be able to give them £605, which will enable them to pay for a trained music teacher each month for a whole year.

Phoenix supported the decorated Christmas Trees in Church again this year and judging from the number of trees on show was very successful and may prove to be an Annual Event.

We have lost some members during the year through illness or moving away, but we continue to welcome new members from the village and also from surrounding villages maintaining our membership between 35/40.



Vivienne Bradford,

Chairman.

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020



## **Report of Hoxne PCC to Hoxne PC Annual Meeting on 12 March 2020**

The last twelve months have been eventful.

On St Edmund's Day in November 2019 we welcomed the Bishop of Dunwich to conduct a service of Evensong and to rededicate the Church to "St Peter & St Paul with St Edmund". This is in recognition of the historic connection with England's First Patron Saint, who many believe was martyred in our village. As part of a week of celebration we welcomed Radio 4's Zeb Soanes who narrated a stunning performance of the Vigil of St Edmund by Opus Anglicanum.

It has now become a tradition that the Annual Church Service for the Farming Charity, the Addington Fund, together with a hog roast is held at the church and this took place in the summer on Lammas Day. (An invitation has been sent out for 2020.)

The Rev Michael Womack gave notice that he intended to give up the post of Rector of Hoxne in April 2020. Michael has been a wonderful priest for us for seven years and, of course, he has also had responsibility for six other neighbouring parishes.

Thanks to the assistance of Revd. Eleanor Goodison, Revd. Richard Court, the Revd John McCracken and John Swann a service for almost every Sunday has been maintained along with Services for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms.

The Remembrance Service in November was well attended and the collection from this Service goes directly to the Royal British Legion while that from the Carol Service goes to The Children's Society.

I cannot hide from you the challenge we face financially but I am able to Report that the PCC met the Quota Request of £22,872 to the Diocese in full and was able to start fabric improvements. The "Serving" has been completed, two fine Candelabra restored and re-erected in front of the altar, and the fine St. Edmund Screen restored and repaired and temporarily located in the North Aisle pending formal approval from the church authorities.

The PCC is currently working on a "Vision Statement" for the future of the layout of the Church. Details are yet to be finalised and will be shared with the Community. However, work is in hand to

- complete the installation of the Lavatory,
- bring back into use the church bells,



- complete the Chapel of St Edmund,
- find a better location for our fine church organ.

All this will provide facilities to enable the church to be used for events as much as possible.

I hope that we will be able to provide this parish with a church and community facilities of which we can all be proud.

Our thanks go to The Friends of Hoxne Church, a charity whose purpose is to support the fabric of the Church for which we are most grateful and to the wider community who have so magnificently supported our Fund-Raising Events. (The Annual Summer Fete will be at The Abbey on 13 June 2020).

The PCC supports "Open the Book". This is an outreach programme supporting the Christian message in our Primary School through the enactment of 'well known' Bible stories.

In addition, there is an active Mother's Union in the Parish.

The PCC has also been involved in the appointment of a Priest in Charge (as the replacement for Michael). This is a complicated process as so many parties must be involved but the advertisement in the Church Times is about to be published and we look forward to an appointment within a couple of months.

Like many organisations the PCC faces many challenges but we believe that our PCC and clergy are up to the task.

Guy McGregor, 12 March 2020

Time House

Church Walk

19-21 Low Street.

Hoxne IP21 5AR

01379 668434





**Hoxne Annual Parish Meeting  
Thursday 12 th March 2020**

**Village Voices Report**

**Village Voices Community Choir continues to go from strength to strength. We now have a membership of 47 active singers**

Jan 2019 started as usual with our AGM at the Swan attended by 27 choir members  
We re-started rehearsals on 21 st January 2019.

**During February we hosted Northern Harmony from Vermont USA. A group of 16 young singers who flew in on Friday 22nd February, were whisked off by choir members for an evening meal, a quick chat and off to sleep and recuperate from their exhausting journey. They were up again the next morning for a rehearsal, lunch, and afternoon workshop, followed by a short rest interval and then back on stage to give the village a wonderful concert attended by a packed audience. The entertainment did not stop there, they and a few of the tired organisers enjoyed a much needed pint at the Swan with an impromptu singing session. Sunday 24th, and we said a sad good bye as we waved them off on their whistle stop tour of the UK ~ they enjoyed Hoxne so much they asked if we would invite them back again this year, which we have. Watch out for a possible concert at the end of the year.**

13th July ~ Village Voices and Crossing the Border continued to rehearse our repertoire for Sing for Water which culminated with our concert at the church where we raised £1550 ~ more on this later...

We enjoyed our annual garden party at the end of July and re-started choir again early in September.

**September 14th & 15th saw many off us zipping off to London for Water Aid and Sing for Water. The culmination of all this singing for water raised an astonishing £1940 TOTAL by VV & CTB and over £4,000 combined for Janet's 4 choirs. A few days later the heavens opened and it did not seem to stop raining for months. However it is gratifying to see positive results of all this singing, a total of over £30,000 was raised by all the choirs singing in London to the benefit of people in Malawi.**

We did not stop there however...

During October and November the Village Voices Tree People started to plan our interpretation of one of our favorite songs commissioned by the choir "Cradle Song" written by Hugh Lupton and Chris Wood.

Much fun ensued as most of the choir members made a "Peg" doll of themselves which gave us all a smile.

We received many positive comments.

November 20th saw us singing at the St. Edmunds Day and Church re-dedication service, singing a very special piece of music written especially for our choir by Jonathan Baker and Kevin Crossley-Holland. A Prayer to Saint Edmund.

**The evening of 17th December the choir supported the carols at the church carol concert.**

Village Voices year ended with our AGM on 13th January 2020

2020 we are now celebrating our tenth anniversary, we have already hosted a highly successful Dr. Kathy Bullock workshop ~ a singing leader and composer from Kentucky and we will be hosting another smaller workshop on 16th March with Brendan Taaffe a singing leader and composer from Vermont USA.

**We also have other celebrations planned for later in the year, watch out for a possible concert by Northern Harmony later in the year or come back to the Parish Meeting again next year to find out more.**



## Village Voice report for Annual Parish Meetings 2020

The Village Voice is a bi-monthly magazine covering Denham, Hoxne, Syleham & Wingfield and is primarily funded by advertising revenue.

### Looking Back

The format has remained unchanged throughout the year and we have provided reports and events from local clubs, organisations and Churches, as well as articles of interest. Thanks to all the advertisers and contributors without whom there wouldn't be a magazine. Special thanks to my wife Claire for transcribing numerous pieces and also to the mystery compiler of the ever-popular crossword.

### Finances

Dawn Lodge handles the trade adverts and there are over 50 regular advertisers covering a wide range of local services. There is currently a waiting list for space as we balance advertising space vs general content. Our long-term printers increased their prices significantly during the summer and this was on top of a previous rise six months earlier making costs unviable with the current advertising rates. As such, we changed printer for the Oct-Nov issue and although the cost is more than we had been paying, it's a fair saving on what we were looking at. The advertising rates were last changed some years ago and we've taken the opportunity to revise the prices to keep in step with actual print costs.

### 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. Thanks are also due to Joan and David at Hoxne Post Office & Shop for continuing to act as a drop-off point.

**Denham** - 110 copies; **Hoxne** (including Church, Post Office Stores and Swan Inn) - 520 copies; **Syleham** - 105 copies; **Wingfield** (including Church, De La Pole Arms & GWC Café) - 160 copies; Copies are also dropped off in Eye at the Library, Bank, Queens Head and Hartismere Place. Any overrun copies have been delivered to Harleston Library and Info Plus, Stradbroke Library and the antique/coffee shop.

### Going Forward

The *Village Walks* feature has now come to an end and thanks are due to Roger and Jenny Knight for their many contributions over the last three years. If anyone wishes to submit an article either as a one off or a series, do get in touch. Equally anyone who holds regular or one-off events or who offer community facilities not already featured are welcome to do so too. This is now my fourth year as Editor and fair warning that this is probably my last, so if you're interested in helping out, I'd be happy to provide further information - please form an orderly queue!

