

Thank you for asking me to report from the Parish Church and I am sorry that I cannot be with you

We had a good year thanks to the hard work of many people and the support of even more.

The completion of the rainwater goods, stonework and window project means that the building is in better shape than it has been for years and the same is true of the Churchyard.

Money is ring fenced for the installation of the Loo and Kitchenette and ~~as at 31st December~~ we ^{have} had Diocesan permission for it to go ahead. Grant applications ~~are outstanding~~. We have been fortunate that several people have kindly given freely of their time and skill to install the water and septic tank in readiness.

The church congregation continues to gently grow as is evidenced by 14 Baptisms last year, the most since records began.

The monthly coffee mornings for the community ~~in the Chestnut Horse~~ are increasingly well supported and raise money for charities and the church as well as providing a meeting place. We ^{have been} are grateful to the Landlords of the 'Chestnut' for allowing this community event. The other events the church organises such ^{as} Autumn Supper, Men's Breakfast, ^{Race Nights} outings and Lent Lunches ^{which} are ~~usually~~ well attended and encourage community in a broad sense.

We continue to work with the Primary school whose children attend church at least termly in addition to our weekly clergy lead acts of collective worship in the school. I am a Governor as is Neil Watts.

We are grateful for the work of our curate Rachel Cornish and Elders Tony and Irene Bugg as well as Nigel Brown. I thank you all for your support and work.

We continue to pray for the parish, its people and future as well as to seek ways to help it to continue to be a welcoming inclusive social and caring community for all people.

With all good wishes

Rev C Childs 9th May 2016⁷

Handwritten notes:
The project was successful and the work will go ahead starting in July/August this year.
MURRAY!

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

(Registered charity no. 246643)

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PETTIWARD HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 8 MAY 2017

The five Trustees of the charity are Lesley Cass, David Preece, Mary Preece – who is the Parish Council nominee -, Delia Prior and Norman Vendittelli. The Committee has met six times since the last Parish Meeting and continues the programme of refurbishments and improvements to the hall, as well as the day-to-day management of the charity and running of the hall itself.

Last summer we were able to purchase 72 new upholstered chairs for the main hall, funded by a grant from Cllr John Matthissen's Locality Budget, a further sum from Mid Suffolk District Council and the proceeds of fundraising efforts including the "Little Ernie" lottery. We had previously identified refurbishment of the upstairs toilet and storage area, new heaters in the meeting room and the installation of a stair lift as the next priorities. After obtaining quotes for the work we applied to Mid Suffolk District Council for Section 106 developer contributions of £1,165.89 which related to the development at "Hilmic" in the High Road. This grant was confirmed in November 2016. We then applied to the National Lottery for £10,000 from their Awards for All scheme. Shortly before Christmas we were delighted to receive an offer of the full amount requested. We also applied to the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation for a contribution and received a pledge of £3,000 in March. Having already agreed to contribute some of our own funds towards the project, we are now able to proceed with the work which will, hopefully, be completed by the end of this year. Last year we also received donations of £250 and £200 from the Garden Club and the Co-op Community Token Scheme respectively for our Hall Improvement Fund, for which we are very grateful.

Several minor jobs and repairs have been carried out during the year and I would like to thank Norman for his practical help and expertise in this respect.

In order to obtain grants we have to demonstrate that we are actively attempting to raise funds from our own efforts. We continue to run the "Little Ernie" lottery and the 2016-17 scheme which ended in March was the most successful yet, raising £235. In June we held our first Pop-up Tea Room, which is now a monthly event. We started these, not only to raise funds, but also to provide a meeting place for residents. We hoped to attract those that might not attend other village events and we are very pleased that some of the residents of Finborough Court have enjoyed their outings to the hall. Thanks are due to Pat Turner for arranging this. In

February we also welcomed a group from the Leading Lives Community Hub in Stowmarket. We have now purchased a new wheelchair ramp which greatly improves access for these visitors. We are very grateful to Pat, Marion and Steff for making cakes and to the Co-op for providing free tea bags.

October 2016 was the 80th anniversary of the hall becoming our village hall. To mark the occasion we held a very successful Afternoon Tea Party, featuring a performance of songs from the 1930's. We also staged a display about the history of the hall. In the Autumn we launched the second Great Finborough Calendar. This didn't prove as popular as the first one, two years ago, but generated over £90 for our funds nonetheless.

Hall bookings have been healthy over the past year with regular hirings by Tadpole Tunes, Brownies, Toddler Group, Parish Council, Garden Club and Affinity Trust. There were also bookings from the PCC, Men's Breakfast and 13 private functions. A new hirer is a Scrapbooking Group which meets upstairs once a month from January to October. We were sorry to lose Tadpole Tunes at Easter. We are hoping to offer a daytime yoga class at the hall soon and there will also be a twice-weekly High Intensity Interval Training fitness class starting in June. Due to increasing electricity costs, in September we raised the hourly rate for the main hall by 50p and extended the higher charge period for the main hall and meeting room by one month.

Two new policies were adopted during the year, following advice from the Charity Commission and the local council. Our Reserves Policy sets out the reason for keeping funds in reserve and the sum agreed upon, which is currently £3,000. The purpose of our Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy is to make sure that the actions of any adult in the context of the work carried out by the committee are transparent and safeguard and promote the welfare of all young people and vulnerable adults. All our policies are reviewed once a year.

Our cleaner, Alice, left us in February. We thank her for her hard work over the past two and three-quarter years and are pleased to welcome our new cleaner, Tammy.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their support in the last twelve months. Our aim remains to provide a welcoming, safe and sustainable building that continues to be a valuable asset at the heart of our community for many years to come.

*D Preece
Chairman
May 2017*

Great Finborough and District Garden Club

2016/17 Report for Parish Meeting

The Garden Club continues to flourish with 43 household memberships in the village, and others who attend meetings on an occasional basis.

The club held 6 indoor meetings at the Pettiward Hall over the winter season at which gardening professionals and others gave presentations on a variety of subjects. These meetings were well attended so that on occasion the room has proven to be too small. There was also a well supported excursion to Anglesey Abbey to view the winter gardens with others planned for later in the year.

Over the course of the last year the club planted trees to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM the Queen and the Diamond weddings of two couples who are members of the club.

The two annual social functions held by the Club, the summer BBQ and the Christmas Quiz were both a great success.

The club donated a total of £3547.62 to various charities and projects around the village. This was broken down as follows:

<u>Proceeds of 2016 Open Gardens for St Andrews Church</u>	£1480.00
<u>Other Donations</u>	
Parish Council: For projects	£890.00
St. Andrews: Brown Bins	£142.50
Pettiward Hall	£200.00
Flowering Cherry trees and stakes	£166.15
Allotments	£500.00
Woodpecker Hill	£ 77.97
Open Gardens National Directory	£ 10.00
MidSuffolk VOF(Gazebos)	£ 25.00
Buxhall Bellringers	£ 50.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>£3547.62</u>

The coming year has a full programme of visits and meetings and on July 2nd the Club will again host the village Open Gardens. The proceeds this year will be donated 50/50 to The Pettiward Hall and EACH.

The club will, as always be happy to consider supporting other appropriate village functions.

Judith Cameron
Secretary
May 2017

Great Finborough CEVC Primary School

Report for Gt Finborough Parish Council

The roll is 141 and the attendance as of the end of April was on average 98%.

Ofsted Inspection November 2016

On Wednesday 30th November the School underwent its first Ofsted inspection since the School Organisational Review – from 3 to 2 tier schooling. The previous inspection awarded the School with a Good though this was some 5-years prior and since then the Ofsted framework has changed twice. Under the new more rigorous framework I am pleased to inform you that we were awarded a Good with Outstanding features.

‘A strength of the school is the extent to which leaders work collaboratively to establish a shared understanding of pupils’ learning and progress. This results in well-focused actions which support and challenge pupils to ensure that they make good progress from the time they start school’.

The full report is available to view through the excellent School website.

SIAMS Inspections January 2017

The Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodist Schools report is carried out by the diocese every 5-years. Again we were awarded with a grade of Good.

‘The school’s ethos is significantly enhanced by the embedding of Christian values. These serve as a framework of support and guidance for all members of the community, shaping the building of character and the striving to always be the best that you can be’.

Both reports highly commended the behaviour of the children throughout the school.

Notable achievements throughout 2016 were 16x 10-11 year olds completing the coast 2 coast cycle ride at the end of May. A total of 145 miles were cycled over the 5 days from Whitehaven on the West coast to Tynemouth on the East. A fantastic achievement and one that Mr Dodd is repeating this year with 14 more children.

The first cohort of Year-6 children left the school in July last year and took up places at Stowmarket, Stowupland and Thurston High Schools. In the various trial days that the pupils attended at all 3 schools the report back to Mr Dodd was the excellent behaviour and high level of academic ability.

Again through the excellent training and support given by Mr Dodd, the Governors and the school another member of staff has moved on to take up a Headship. Tessa Sait is the 2nd NQT to take up the responsibility of Head this time at Mendlesham Primary.

Sport within the school is excellent with teams regularly reaching area and county finals in basketball, hockey, cross country and football.

The wider school activities are simply second to none at the School. From year 3 the children have a school residential starting with a one night camp and finishes in year 6 with a 5 day out bound trip to the outer Hebrides including climbing, kayaking, rafting, surfing, horse riding, cliff jumping and more!

We are extremely lucky to have such a vibrant, well led, passionate school within our village and one we must all support at all times.

Woodpecker Hill - parish council meeting

1 message

Rhodri Gardner <Rhodri.Gardner@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk>
To: "pc@great-finborough.suffolk.gov.uk" <pc@great-finborough.suffolk.gov.uk>

5 May 2017 at 10:56

Hello Paula,

Very sorry for taking so long to reply to your invite to report at next Monday's meeting (8th May). I have been awaiting confirmation of a work appointment for the following day (Tuesday 9th).

This has now been confirmed and will require significant preparation beforehand, so regrettably I will be unable to attend Monday's meeting.

Hopefully a quick written summary of the past years activities will be of assistance. In short:

- Maintenance works have been well supported by the volunteers, with efforts to keep paths clear and accessible ongoing.
- A new pathway has been installed (with invaluable help from the Garden Club) utilising membrane a membrane base and bark surfacing. This will hopefully allay some of the concerns about the wet conditions in that part of the wood. This will require periodic maintenance and renewal of the bark surfacing from time to time, which has been taken into consideration by the Woodpecker Hill Group.
- The poor drainage and wet conditions are also to be addressed via a new drainage ditch to be excavated shortly from the rear of Pink Cottage to the north along the adjacent hedge toward The Chestnuts. Rob Nurton can hopefully describe in further detail on Monday.
- Ash dieback is endemic throughout the wood. The East of England is the most heavily affected part of the UK and we haven't escaped it. Official advice does not suggest wholesale clearance or specific management measures. Where deadwood could pose a risk to safety limited management and removal should be undertaken in a way that prioritises public safety but does not result in unnecessary felling. We are fortunate in that most of the affected trees are very young and do not pose a significant threat in terms of falling deadwood. Management of this will be an ongoing task for work parties. Suffolk is widely affected, but if travelling to other parts of the country immediately after walking in the wood it would be advisable to take sensible biosecurity measures (cleaning footwear etc) to help prevent the disease reaching less heavily affected areas.
- The wood has its challenges in terms of drainage – two of the points above relate to this. The group is concerned that this isn't made worse by the proposed development on adjacent land. The treatment of surface water is a planning matter and we would like to put forward our opinion that this will need to be of a higher standard than normally required if the new development is to avoid having a detrimental affect on this village amenity as well as the community in general.

Kind Regards,

Rhod

Dr Rhodri Gardner McIFA

Managing Director

Great Finborough Allotment Association

May 2017

This is our 6th year and the site is looking really good. The hedges surrounding the site have undergone serious work so that they are now manageable, and has exposed the wonderful view across the valley – this must be one of the best views from an allotment site. Thanks to all who have worked so hard and put in many hours to improve the hedgerows, and to the Garden Club and Parish Council.

We now have a water bowser to make it easier to carry water from the allotment tap to our plots – thank you so much to the Garden Club for their contribution. Thank you too to John and Chris Davey for all their support in any project we undertake.

Some members have had to give up their plots during the year and we had new members taking the vacated plots. Currently all the plots are occupied and in good cultivation, and we don't have anyone on the waiting list.

The produce stall raised £31.50 from donations for vegetables from the general public passing on their walks.

The Association has a healthy surplus of ~~£350~~⁵⁰⁰ which is being held to pay for annual insurance and any repairs and equipment needed on the site.

A huge thank you everyone for their help and support, particularly The Parish Council and the generosity of the Garden Club.

Newsletter Annual Report 2016/17

During 2016/17 we produced 10 editions of the newsletter which were delivered to every household within the village boundaries and are also displayed on the village website. Norman continues to organise the collection and delivery of the printed newsletters and the a big thank you to him and his volunteer delivery team for their work in all weathers. Also, a big thanks to Sally who continues to provide a conduit for news articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Peter and I continue to act as temporary editors and we are still hopeful of recruiting a new editor to take over the reins. The newsletter continues to report on village activities and inform readers of social events in the locality. The consultation on behalf of the Parish Council on the way forward with the village sports field had a poor response so plans to canvass residents on the desire for a production of an electronic version of the newsletter to run alongside the hard copy have been put on hold.

The editorial team are always grateful for new subject matter for inclusion in the newsletter and we would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support.

Simon Tarabella
Temporary Editor

Newsletter Aims and Ethos

The Newsletter will continue to report events of general interest taking place in the village including individual items of particular interest. The aim of the Newsletter is to support individuals and groups by publicising activities and initiatives that assist them. In event of a dispute or conflict over items submitted for inclusion in the Newsletter the production team will refer such items to the Parish Council which will, at all times, act as the final arbiter.

Great Finborough Parish Council

SPEEDWATCH ANNUAL REPORT

Great Finborough speed watch group was set up in May 2016 alongside Bildeston and Hitcham villages with whom we share the Speed Gun and safety road signs. After having the gun recalibrated we commenced speed watch sessions in July. We have three positions to carry out speed watch within the village which have been assessed as safe by the police. These are opposite the chestnut horse pub, at Pear Tree Place and at the last bungalow along the High Road. We started with 3 volunteer members and I am pleased to report that we now have 8 active members of the village approved by the police to carry out speed watch activities. Since its inception last July, we have carried out approx 15 sessions over the 3 sites recording some 168 vehicles traveling through the village at 35mph plus. The highest recorded speed was 61 mph. Letters are sent to all recorded vehicle owners that have been checked through the police vehicle registration data base as correctly identified. Over 55 mph, police will visit the offender if within the Suffolk boundary and advise on the consequences of speeding. We are always looking for more volunteers so if you or anybody you know would like to volunteer please contact me or any member of the PC.

Simon Tarabella
Great Finborough Speed watch Coordinator

Great Finborough and Buxhall Under 5's Report

Our preschool at the moment is fully booked with us even having to sadly turn some children away. We will however be losing quite a few children to school in September so our numbers will reduce and we hope to welcome some new children in the new term.

Over the summer holidays we will be having our floor repaired as we had a leak a few years back which resulted in us having quite a lump in our floor, once this is done we will be having new flooring though out.

We held an Easter Hunt on Saturday 8th April, we had 80 children attend and great fun was had by all, made very good use of woodpecker hill and raised £415.65 in the process.

For the last two years, the primary school has lent us their sports field for our sports day and leavers cream tea, and are doing so again this year, this has proved very popular and thank you to the school for letting us use their facilities for this. This event last year raised over £1000

Being so busy has meant we have been able to afford to buy some new equipment for the preschool, including new ICT equipment for staff and children, new furniture and toys for outside and of course new flooring. To enable us to make the most of our ICT equipment and to bring us up to date with technology we have set up a website and a face book profile, we have also had WI FI fitted within the preschool, and this also reaches other parts of the hall so enables us to offer it to other users.

We have had fantastic support and comments from our parents and a lot of our children come from recommendations which is fantastic.

All in all, a very good year.