**Great Bradley Annual Village Meeting held at the Village Hall on 27 April 2022**

**Welcome**

Chairman, Pat Spires welcomed 19 people attending the meeting.

Our last village meeting was in 2019, little did we know how our lives were about to change as we entered 2020.

It has been challenging at times especially for our new Parish Clerk, Penny Lewis and our outgoing PC John Barnett. I would like to thank John for delaying his retirement to facilitate the handover. However, no one dreamt that the transition period would prove so difficult with lock downs and shielding presenting a host of problems.

Everything that was normally easy became a nightmare at times, for Penny, as contacting people for help or answers to questions became extremely complex as people and organisations shut up shop to work from home. The Parish Council was also reduced to communicating by emails, phone calls and Zoom meetings, not the ideal time to become our new Parish Clerk!

There have been changes to the way we operate, and I think people have or are getting used to those changes.

Our thanks to John for his sterling work over the years and a proper village welcome to Penny even if she has been in situ for 2 years.

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| **Suffolk County Council – report from Cllr Bobby Bennett**  **State-of-the-art vehicles join Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service’s fleet**  In May 2021, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service unveiled three new vehicles, packed with the latest technology, to support firefighters at emergency incidents.  State-of-the-art vehicles join Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service’s fleet  The Command Support Vehicles will typically be used as a hub at large, complex incidents, from which officers can manage operations and work with other emergency services.  **Suffolk County Council launches the new Cassius service**  In early June 2021, it was announced that SCC are partnering with Alcove, Rethink Partners and Provide CIC to deliver their innovative care technology service to people in Suffolk over the next 3 years.  From July 2021, the Cassius service gives our social work practitioners, occupational therapists and other front-line professionals, new ways to support people to live better and independent lives.  **Independent review of aspects of Suffolk’s SEND services to be carried out**  It was announced in June 2021 that A multi-agency team from Lincolnshire will carry out an independent review into SEND provision.  The SEND (special educational needs and disability) review focused on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council. It will not look at specific cases or the provision given to specific children.  **Leaders earmark major investment as part of Suffolk taking its first steps on road to Covid recovery**  It was announced in late June 2021 that a significant investment of £6.238m was approved to support Suffolk’s long-term recovery beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.  Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) approved a significant investment of £6.238m towards a range of strategic, community focussed projects and programmes that support efforts in Suffolk’s long-term recovery beyond the Covid-19 pandemic. This money will be used to increase the offer for young people and families, to improve access to housing, to help local businesses get back on track, to address the climate emergency commitment and to drive future public engagement plans.  Combined with investments previously made last September, this means SPSL has invested a total of £9.788m to support Suffolk’s longer-term recovery from Covid-19 in the key areas of economic growth, supporting communities, community safety, tackling climate change, housing and in listening to local people.  **Suffolk County Council begins procurement process for next Highways Service contract focusing on developing local skills and talent**  In Early July 2021 Suffolk County Council began the process of finding its next long term Highways Services partner.  The council was looking for a partner to deliver key operational projects after the current contract ends on 30 September 2023.  The whole contract development process will take just over two years to complete.  **Suffolk says thanks for going the extra mile**  In July 2021, residents were thanked for their sacrifices during the pandemic.  Voluntary organisations, local councils and others who are part of the Collaborative Communities Board presented the new Suffolk Says Thanks badges to Suffolk residents who have gone above and beyond during the coronavirus pandemic.  **New Suffolk Recycling Centres online booking system improvements to deliver greater customer experience**  It was announced in September 2021 that Suffolk County Council has developed a new, more user-friendly booking system which enables residents to book slots for recycling.  Customer survey results show overwhelming support for the use of a booking system and the Council has gathered feedback from customers and site staff on how the booking system can be further improved, which have shaped the design of this new system. Through the use of bookings the council can avoid the frustration of long queues at peak times and increase the overall throughput and efficiency of the service for residents.  **Suffolk continues to create the greenest county with £150,000 for new trees**  It was announced in October 2021 that a joint bid by a number of Suffolk’s authorities secured funding from the Forestry Commission to plant around 3,000 trees.  Suffolk County Council submitted the bid on behalf of itself, Ipswich Borough Council, Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and West Suffolk District Council. The successful bid will see £149,712.55 come into the county for new trees, from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund.  **Government funding boost for Suffolk community schemes**  In November 2021 two Suffolk schemes received Government funding totalling more than £940,000  Enabling Self-Employment in Suffolk and the Suffolk Road to Net Zero business support programme are among 477 schemes across the country to receive backing from the Community Renewal Fund.  This is a £200 million pot set up by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities aimed at boosting skills training for the unemployed and investing in businesses developing low-carbon technology.  The two Suffolk schemes, which are both being led by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) and which were put forward by Suffolk County Council, receive a total of £945,974.  **Suffolk County Council investing £12.8m to decarbonise its buildings**  It was announced in November 2021 that properties, including fire stations and libraries, will receive investment as the council continues to drive its ambition to be Net Zero by 2030.  Suffolk County Council will be committing £12.8m towards reducing the carbon produced by buildings in its corporate estate.  Cabinet members today (9 November 2021) approved a report to commit to this investment, as well as implementing the SCC Energy Management Strategy, as recommended by the Climate Emergency Policy Development Panel.  **Suffolk County Council approves extra £20m investment in highway drainage and footpaths**  In December 2021, Cabinet members committed an extra £20 million over the next three years into further improving Suffolk’s highway drainage systems and footpaths.  In recognition of the increasing maintenance demand on these areas, councillors approved the use of £10 million to specifically deliver an increasing number of drainage schemes that deal with problems that affect larger numbers of people, and a further £10 million to improve footpath quality and access.  Suffolk Highways will use the drainage investment alongside funding from the Department for Transport to increase the number of highway flooding sites which are resolved, providing a highway network that is more resilient and accessible during heavy rain and severe weather events.  The footpath investment will be focused on urban areas and busy footpaths in rural areas - providing a safer and more accessible network that supports people accessing local bus services, health care services and local shopping precincts.  **Children’s services and adult care at the heart of Suffolk County Council’s new budget plans**  In December 2021, Suffolk County Council outlined how it plans to spend money on public services in 2022/23.   * More money to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) * Extra resources for adults in need of care * Additional funds to prevent flooding and fix footpaths   Under the proposals, the council’s budget for 2022-23 would rise by 4.5% (from £598.2 to £625.4m). This additional money is generated by a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in grants received from the Government.  Alongside this budget the Suffolk County Council published proposals for its first-ever full carbon budget, as it strives to be a Net Zero organisation by 2030.  The Net Zero Carbon Budget will allow the council to measure its carbon emissions, and monitor and evaluate the impact of decisions it makes. This will mean it can report each year on its progress, tracking its ambitions towards Net Zero.  **Warm Homes Suffolk Fund to heat up cold homes this winter**  It was announced in late January 2022 that residents can cut energy costs and reduce their carbon through a new scheme.  Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm, can contact a new project which offers funding and free advice at [**www.warmhomessuffolk.org**](https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/).  The work of Warm Homes Suffolk will also help the county towards its target of Net Zero by 2030, as the project aims to better insulate homes and provide more efficient heating, meaning less carbon is released into the atmosphere.  A successful bid was made to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for £2.7 million pounds of funding to run Warm Homes Suffolk - The Warm Feeling Fund. This is part of the Government’s (Local Authority Delivery phase two) LAD2 Scheme, designed to improve the energy efficiency of Britain’s homes.  The bid was led by Suffolk County Council, on behalf of all councils in the county.  More details and further information about eligibility can be found in the on the Warm Home Suffolk website [**www.warmhomessuffolk.org**](https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/), or by calling **03456 037 686**. Lines are open Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.  **Suffolk cements commitment to keeping its communities safe**  A new strategy was published in February 2022 outlining how Suffolk will address Violence Against Women and Girls has been published today.  The strategy has been prepared collaboratively by the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) – consisting of representatives from Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, the police, Suffolk’s Police & Crime Commissioner, community safety partnerships, health and probation services, the Norfolk & Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.  All board members hold a shared ambition to tackle the incredibly important issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) which includes, but is not limited to, domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, coercive and controlling behaviour, and revenge porn – all of which have a devastating impact on victim-survivors, families, and communities.  **Good news for Suffolk as Government gives the green light to negotiate a County Deal**  Announced at the same time as the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, we heard the news that Suffolk was successfully chosen as one of nine areas across the country to have been given the opportunity of negotiating a new County Deal.  **Equality and communities to get higher profile in Suffolk County Council cabinet changes**  A new cabinet role was established in March 2022.  Equality and support for local communities are to get greater focus among Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet team when a new cabinet member starts on 7 March.  Councillor Bobby Bennett will join Suffolk County Council’s cabinet as cabinet member for equality and communities, where she will take specific responsibility for the authority’s policy decisions on safer and stronger communities, community safety (including domestic abuse, prevent and violence against women and girls), equality, libraries, the voluntary sector, arts and heritage, coroner services, customer services, Citizens Advice, gypsy and traveller services and human resources. |
| **West Suffolk Council – report from Cllr Peter Stevens**  How nice it is to see so many here tonight. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the village for raising a fantastic amount of money for Ukraine through the recent art exhibition.  West Suffolk Council have different responsibilities to Suffolk County Council which include waste management, planning and housing.  The Waste service department are very proud of the service they provide. Suffolk County Council dispose of the waste after West Suffolk collects it from the roadside. Non-recyclable waste is taken to the hub at Great Blakenham where it is incinerated and converted to electricity. Only 1% of collected waste is sent to landfill. Please report missed wheelie bin collections to West Suffolk or directly to me.  You will see an increase in recycling collections, which will include food and glass collections. We are hoping to keep the process as simple as possible.  West Suffolk are in the middle of putting together the Local Plan. The next round of consultations will be at the end of May. There is no large-scale development planned for Great Bradley - perhaps the odd infill property.  Planning have received an application to increase the size of High Point Prison in Stradishall. This will undoubtably increase the traffic arising from staff, visitors, and goods deliveries. Unfortunately, a portion of this traffic will be routed through Great Bradley.  We are trying to deregister the Strategic Highway Route via Highways to lessen the number of heavy-duty vehicles that currently travel through the village.  I am given a small locality budget to support local events and I am delighted to contribute towards Great Bradley’s Jubilee celebrations.  I would like to thank the Parish Council, their Chairman (Pat Spires) and Clerk (Penny Lewis) for doing a fantastic job for the benefit of the village. |
| **Great Bradley Parish Council – annual report from Chairman** |
| **The Past Year**  The PC have considered six planning applications during the course of the year.  **April**  Last year’s AVM didn’t go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions. A written report was available to read via the village website, with a condensed version published in The Bugle.  **May**  At all times official guidelines were followed re meetings and May saw the last meeting to be held virtually via Zoom.  Cllr Mary Evans retires from Suffolk County Council.  Date was set for the first PC public event since the pandemic began - bonfire night (6 November). The Villages first break out event was The Village Fete.  **June**  Previous year’s finances were approved by the financial auditor, SALC. The Parish Council agreed to proceed with the following projects:   * Queen’s Green Canopy * Various maintenance jobs around the village. The PC now pays for these jobs to be done as the volunteer situation has changed considerably in recent years * overhaul of the village garden by a professional company.   **August**  Hog Roast at the Recreation ground. A bit on the cool side weather wise but well attended.  **September**  Approx. 400 donated bulbs planted in the village garden by PC and area mulched.  PC agreed to replace both noticeboards – at the village hall and Clarendale.  Hedge cutting around the Rec glade was agreed. The cost split 50/50 between the PC and Thurlow Estates.  **November**  Bonfire event a huge success with £810 raised.  Remembrance Sunday event also well attended featuring refreshments and an archive exhibition.  Hedge works completed at the recreation ground.  PC welcomes Paul Hart as Speedwatch Coordinator.  Stuart Wilson retires as Bugle Editor after 9 years.  Agreed to allow some areas around the recreation ground to become wildflower areas.  Agreed to plant seven silver birch trees as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy.  Early discussions held re: the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.  **January**  Budget and Precept set ( an increase of 3% in line with inflation).  PC welcomes Niki Dow as the new Editor of The Bugle.  Agreed to replace Jubilee bench since it is rotten.  Received a request to purchase an ANPR Auto Speedwatch sign.  Agreed to digitise The Bugle subject to feedback  **March**  Queen’s Jubilee plans are progressing well with Charles Ryder making an extremely generous offer to host an event on Thursday 2nd June. He has also extended his invitation to his Little Bradley.  Plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Lunch on the 5th June are also progressing well.  Litter pick went ahead with many bags of rubbish collected.  PC considering increasing the grass cuts at the recreation ground to improve the quality of the grass.  **Finally**   * Please do support the various events in the village to celebrate the QPJ it is a once in a lifetime celebration. Spread the word. * It is hoped that we can tidy up the entrance to the Rec from Fox Green and have included the cost of shingle in this year’s budget, but we will need volunteers please. |
| **Village Hall – report from the Village Hall Committee** |
| **easyfundraising.com**  This is a fundraising tool that allows online shoppers to get donations for their chosen charity (in our case the Great Bradley Village Hall), every time they shop at one of thousands of participating websites. It doesn’t cost the shopper anything and shops donate varying percentages of the value of your purchase to the hall. It’s also done without anyone else getting details of what you bought, so your chocolate stash is safe.  So far, the hall has received over £2005.52 in this way over about 5 years,(around £250 since July last year) and currently has 43 kind supporters (up from 36 previous year) So if you are buying anything online, from books to bathrooms, fabric to flights, cat-food to computers, you can help keep the village hall well-funded. You can contact me for more information on how it works  Alison McCloskey  **Great Bradley Village Hall**  **The Committee** – this consists of 8 members from our parish, each of whom represent one or more user groups, East Green and the Parish Council. It’s very important to have a range of people with different ages, ideas and skills and with this full complement of members, we have been able to spread tasks, so that no-one is overloaded. We have members taking control of our Health and Safety commitments and records, our inventory, Bookings, Maintenance issues as well as social events and of course the lottery.  Our Treasurer of 4 years, Neil Piper, retired at the end of this financial year, and contributed greatly with his financial know-how, suggestions and thoughtful ideas. We are pleased that he has passed on a very organised set of records to our new Treasurer, Ros Barber, and she is already getting to grips with the role. A full committee member list is always available via the Bugle.  **Other Volunteers and Staff –** we are also very fortunate to have a number of other people to help us when we have events or clearouts, too many to mention but thanks to them all. In addition, our particular thanks to Kevin Bantick for his excellent work in the grounds and to Emma who keeps the hall clean every week.  **Restarting after Covid** – some clubs and activities have started up again, but this has happened quite slowly. Understandably, people are still getting accustomed to mixing with others, particularly in large groups. This affected attendance at events like Portable Pint night and the Christmas Fair last year, but we are hopeful that people will return, to enjoy what the hall has to offer. You will already have heard tonight from the groups that have restarted and we are pleased to see them all back. A reminder that the hall is available to hire for private parties and new groups at reasonable rates (£8per hour for villagers) and we currently have no plans to increase this.  **Capital Projects** – one of the benefits of being ‘on ice’ was that we have had the opportunity to complete some upgrades at the hall. This includes:   * new radiators and control systems * new lighting system with more flexible features/dimmers etc * new steps to rear of car park * re-gravelling of the car park * sturdy shelving and storage boxes in the shed * additional gazebo for hall and village events   **Financials Summary – 2021/22**  The table below outlines income and expenditure for the year.  **Financials – Summary 2021/22**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Income £** | | **Expenditure £** | | | Hall Hire | 1690 | Regular Exp. | 3967.94 | | Events | 982.66 | Capital Exp.Maint. | 8446.36 | | Lottery | 461 | Sundry | 1311.35 | | Easyfundraising | 133.61 |  |  | | Sundry | 183 |  |  | | Covid Grants | 10667 |  |  | | **Total** | **14798.77** | **Total** | **14366.65** |   Some of you may be aware that we received grants during the pandemic from West Suffolk Council, which supported the hall at a time when no income could be generated. This was very much appreciated as it covered regular commitments such as energy, water, insurance etc. In addition, some much-needed capital expenditure was able to proceed and we could support the resumption of activities with free hire and subsidies.  Going forward, we see substantial risks. We are currently running at a loss of around £400 per month (which will quickly undermine our current financial position) and this current year will see the end of our energy tariff agreement and therefore a substantial increase in costs. We expect other costs to increase significantly, at least in line with inflation.  Therefore, it is vital that we encourage an increase in usage, with new groups and activities, and we will be looking for continued support from the village for our regular fund-raising events which are so important to the financial health of the Village Hall  **St. Mary’s Church – report from church wardens, Sue Ireland and Keith Willington**  We started 2021 in lockdown once again with church gatherings subject to covid restrictions. As the vaccine programme was rolled out however, services gradually resumed across the Benefice, including a covid-compliant wedding in April.  A Benefice service rota has now been established and is working well, with a Communion service in Great Bradley once a month.  The annual Fete had to be postponed by a month because of extended Covid restrictions but eventually took place on July 25th. Despite the threat of heavy rain there was a splendid turnout, with people pleased to be able to socialise again after months of confinement. The final result was a magnificent £3,100. This enabled St Mary’s to pay off in full the annual parochial share to the Diocese.  The Harvest Festival and Christmas Carol service were other highlights of the church year and as a result we sent donations to the Haverhill Food bank and UNICEF.  The re-launch of the Friends of the Church has been re-scheduled for 27th August 2022.  Despite a difficult start to the year, St Mary’s Great Bradley and the Stourhead Benefice continued to thrive under the leadership of Fr Chris and his team in 2021 and we look forward to the future with confidence. |
| **Great Bradley Farms Co. – report from Charles Ryder**  I am sorry not to be able to be with you tonight but hope you have an enjoyable and successful evening! A few points to note:-  **1. Footpaths**  We continue to maintain all the Public Footpaths and also the Permissive Footpaths on our own land. The grass cutting season has now begun! Please let Colin or Sioux or me know if you have concerns or points to raise about Footpaths.  **2. Trees/Branches**  We carry out periodic checks and works on trees/overhanging branches along the Roads neighbouring our land and also along all the Footpaths on our land. This is for everyone's safety. Again if you have any concerns or points to raise please contact Rod Pass or me.  **3. Footpaths/Dog Walkers**  It is wonderful to see the Footpaths so well used. I think that the countryside in the Upper Stour Valley here at Bradley is stunning so it's a great place to walk. Many Walkers have dogs with them and the vast majority are very well controlled for which a million thanks. However, a tiny minority have unruly dogs which stray across the fields and into the Woods. This is very damaging for wildlife and particularly ground nesting birds. Indeed some stray dogs chase deer and hares which is illegal. Please therefore very kindly let Colin or me know if you become aware of any persistent offenders!  **4. Beacon Party**  On Thursday 2nd June there will be Beacons lit across the Country to mark the Platinum Jubilee. We are going to have a very special Beacon Party here at Great Bradley. Everyone in the Village - and in Little Bradley - is invited. Alice and I very much look forward to seeing many of you there! Details will be In the May edition of The Bugle and shortly on the Village Facebook page. |
| **Bugle – report from Editor, Niki Dow**  I took over the reins for the Bugle at the beginning of 2022 following in the footsteps of Stuart Wilson who edited the Bugle for the previous 9 years. I am hugely grateful to Stuart for his dedication over those years and I hope I can live up to his legacy.    Like most people who take up a new role, I of course had to change things a little. The Bugle got a makeover as I'm sure most of you have already discovered and some people have been kind enough to tell me that they like the new look. I have just completed my 4th issue, which will be hitting doorsteps in early June. I am hugely grateful for our eagle-eyed regular contributors who read the content thoroughly and spot the mistakes before we go to press!    The Bugle continues to reach new people, and so far this year we've had two new advertisers bringing our advertising total to 12 companies and individuals.    You may be aware that we've been thinking about our sustainability credentials when producing the Bugle.  We reported in the March issue  that a year’s worth of newsletters uses more than 15,000 sheets of paper, 40 print cartridges, and just under 2000 staples! That’s a lot of trees, chemicals, and metal. I've been asking people through the new 'Letter from the Editor' feature to let us know how they would prefer to receive the newsletter. To be honest, the response rate has been disappointingly low.   * 2 people think we should continue to provide print copies through letterboxes - one response was rather impassioned and mentioned that the newsletter was a critical part of connecting them to the village and a lifeline for those who are experiencing hidden illness or disability.   ·         2 people would be happy to receive it through email.  ·         1 person is happy to read through the website in the absence of a printed copy.  Statistics from the Facebook notification for the April issue showed just 8 clicks to access the Bugle. At least one of those was to test that the upload had worked.    So, where do we go from here?    I am happy to maintain an email distribution list and send out the Bugle. Given that people have consented to give me email addresses, then I believe we are GDPR-compliant. The size of the Bugle at 11MB is a little big and may fill up inboxes over time so I can look at ways to reduce the overall size of the PDF.    We need to think of a strategy to drive people to online sources as I don't believe that simply stopping the print-version will encourage people to consume the newsletter in new ways. I make the assumption that not everyone in the Village is ether familiar with or has access to the technology to consume the Bugle online so the idea of providing printed copies at the Village Hall is a good one.    As a way to ease into going online-only, I suggest that we could do one-month printed copy, one-month online copy. We could trial this approach, gather statistics and assess how successful online access could be. I will take this up with the Parish Council.    Finally, one last thankyou to everyone who contributes content for the newsletter. Many of you are here at this meeting, and I am truly grateful for everything you do to keep the Bugle alive and kicking. |
| **Bonfire Night – report from Pat Spires** |
| Covered in the report above received from the Parish Council.  **Neighbourhood Watch – report from Caroline Greatbatch** |
| We meet twice a year but have not done so for the past 2 years because of Covid. New members are always welcome. Information (a welcome pack containing a village guide) is given to new residents who move to the village. Community collaborates with the Police to ensure areas are a safe place to live. NHW shares information via the village Facebook page which is used to alert resident of suspicious activity.  Please report anything untoward to 101 or urgent matters to 999. One small piece of information can help provide a bigger picture for the Police.  **Community Speedwatch and Vehicle Activated Sign – report from co-ordinator, Paul Hart** |
| A new Speedwatch team has been formed consisting of 6 members. Training was scheduled for March but postponed to May. Once trained, we will be trying to slow traffic. Good visibility is a requirement, and we will only operate at preapproved sites. We need a minimum of six volunteers. Anyone can join, please contact me for more information.  Thurlow have acquired an Auto Speed Watch sign which automatically collects data from speeding vehicles, sending it directly to the Police to follow up. The advantage of this system is that it remains operational during daylight hours. Great Bradley have attempted to acquire one but was rejected by Highways; they will not endorse the equipment due to GDPR law. Police are looking at a similar system which Great Bradley have volunteered to trial.  Thanks go to John Barnett for managing the VAS, who handed the baton over to me. We have 1 VAS sign which we share with 2 other villages, used in four locations throughout Great Bradley. Graphics from collected data are produced and added to the Facebook page.  **Allotments – report from John Barnett**  In 2015, Charles Ryder gave over his field for the use of allotments together with water troughs and a shed. Vestey Estate have since taken over and now maintain the hedges. Current waiting list is 1.  The site has evolved with sheds, a chicken house and beehives. Allotmenteers have bought 9 fruit tress which are progressing well. Summer will see a BBQ organised as a social event for the allotment owners. |
| **Village website, Facebook group and archive group – report from Mike Brophy** |
| Thanks to Rowan Sylvester-Bradley for creating the website over 20 years ago. There’s been 2/3 versions over the past 20/25 years. We use Weebly which is relatively easy to use, hosting 300 pages of content. I have altered the menu this year and made better use of the photos, including aerial shots, which meet improved accessibility inline with government guidelines. Please let me know if you encounter any issues. It is laptop and phone friendly and the Hall of Fame features Jill Rodwell.  Number of users per month = 425 unique visits, 24 per day which is slightly less than last year.  Facebook page is used for rapidly changing news and information. We’ve had 1220 posts over the past year which is 3.5 posts per day. An Average of 240 people view the posts. Top posts are lost cat, parking in Clarendale, Steve’s Sleepout, lost headphones and the Summer Fair (all beating the average views). We have 620 members in the group (up by 46). It is a private group which can only be viewed by members. All new members need approval. The group is well respected and well used. The Crimewatch posts remain local to Haverhill and Newmarket. Most members are local with some international visitors. There are twice as women as men!  **W.E.A – report from Peter Smith** |
| Sadly this will be the last report from WEA Great Bradley as despite the heroic efforts of Alan Bampton we have not been able to attract sufficient numbers to make our group viable.  Alan was able to create a new concept for WEA nationally by having access to our tutor remote in his home with members of the group in the hall viewing the screen.  We were hoping people across the country would join by zoom but sadly this did not happen.  It is ironic that our last course was probably the best course we have had in terms of presentation and content plus the social aspect which the group have always held as a priority.  WEA subsided the cost to enable them to see the hybrid in action for possible roll out elsewhere so hopefully Bradly branch will have left its mark for the future of WEA courses.  We are very grateful for the support of the Village Ha for their part in keeping us going.  **Art Club – report from Pat Spires**  We finally dusted off our brushes and refreshed our paints in September 2021. I don’t think anyone anticipated, early in Spring 2020 that we would be shut down for so long.  We started with a new format deciding to go it alone and trial working without a tutor this would enable us to extend the sessions from 2 to 3 hrs, something some members had previously suggested, without escalating the cost and potentially losing members. Not only that but our terms are longer with less down time.  We have become a self-help group with members sharing their expertise and it is working extremely well. We all have very different styles and work in a variety of mediums so there is a lot of advice to go round and if all else fails Google & YouTube come to the rescue! The opportunity to sit and paint with likeminded people for 3 hours is really working rather well.  Our membership has grown, and we are now at the maximum we can accommodate with a short waiting list, a first since I took over the group 8 years ago. Whilst the majority of members are from GB we also have members from Haverhill and Withersfield.  Last week the group held its first 2-day Exhibition and hope that many of you came and enjoyed it even if you were bribed by the thought of a hot bacon roll! The proceeds from the refreshments will be going to the Ukrainian Appeal and our thanks go to Helen, Anne and Barbara who manned the frying pan and the kettles.  Finally, a huge thank you must go to our tutor of many years Jan Couling, a versatile and talented professional artist from Ashen, who shared her knowledge and skill with extreme patience and kindness. We hope that she will return as a guest artist in the near future. |
| **Archive Group – report from Peter Smith**  Sadly as with other groups I begin our report with the loss of Jill Rodwell who was our font of local knowledge and such good company as we tried to place archive correspondence into its correct folder. She will be sadly missed.  It has been a year of consolidation for us as we work with the VH committee to create storage room for the Archive files and the needs of the hall.  We continue to be indebted to Mike Brophy our technical wizard who updates and provides access to our material. Thanks Mike.  We put on a short exhibition in November linked to a formal blessing of the memorial bench and roll of honour now proudly sited at the hall.  We are continuing to receive archive material and liaise with the VHMC to maintain a record of life as it was over the years in our village.  We look forward to any material you may have. |
| **Book Club – report Annette Sugg**  We meet every 1st Monday of the month in the village hall. Started in February and currently has 9 members. A book is selected which members are invited to read and review at the next meeting. Genres are wide ranging and not always something you may choose for yourself. Come along for a fun evening with lively discussion and tea and biscuits! Cost is £3 per session. |
| **Drop In – report from Anne Smith**  Group has restarted after the pandemic and meet every 1st Thursday of the month in the village hall. We meet, drink tea, eat cake and have lots of chat and laughter. Come sit, have a chat, eat and most importantly laugh! |
| **Camera Club – report from Nikki Stroud**  Group meets every 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm. We currently have 8 members. We usually agree a topic for the month. Photographs are taken by individuals and submitted to Sheldon which are reviewed at the following meeting. |
| **Scottish Country Dancing - report from Ella Hollins.**  Group restarted in September 2021 and has been going for 21 years. Sessions are well attended with approx. a dozen attendees each week. We hope to welcome back some of the original members on 9 May 2022. Everyone welcome, we meet on Monday afternoons at 2pm. Contact Ella Hollins for more details (upcoming dates & contact information can be found on the village website) |
| **Village events – Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, 2 – 5 June -** |

Look out for further details released via the Bugle.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 21.35pm.