**Great Bradley Annual Village Meeting held at the Village Hall on 26th April 2017**

The Chairman Simon Kiddy welcomed 28 people attending the meeting.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of last year’s meeting 13th April 2016 were approved

**Suffolk County Council:**

County Councillor Mary Evans said that speeding on the roads was still a problem. There is a new speed enforcement team now in place. Inspector Denny Cooper is happy to have the Vehicular Activated Sign data.

Education was poor in the County in the past but there have been significant improvements in the last 2 years. Funding from central government is still difficult despite the new formula moving some monies from the cities.

With Highways there has been some progress. The lighting team is now better and there are now drainage specialists in place.

After the elections local government may well be back on the agenda with the possibility that we may return to West and East Suffolk.

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**

Borough Councillor Jane Midwood said good evening to everyone in Great Bradley and thank you for inviting me to your Annual Parish Meeting.   
I have been looking back at my Annual Reports from last year and I see that few things have changed.  
The £40 brown bin system is now into its second year and I am told that take up is as expected – that is a small increase on the first year. I hope residents will report any problems they may have to me with any of the waste bins or collections. Unfortunately I can see no change at all in the awful state of our roadside verges with litter strewn everywhere and fly tipping too. Village litter picks, supported by the loan of equipment by St Edmundsbury do a fine job in their annual or twice yearly collections but it is not really the answer to the culture that seems to think it is OK to eat and drink in the car and then throw the remains out of the window.  
Last year I spoke to you about the proposed West Suffolk Waste Hub. Planning permission was granted and the project is now going ahead.   
The Community Governance Review last year recommended that Great and Little Thurlow became one Parish and that a large area of Withersfield was moved to Haverhill. I am pleased to say that I was able to defend the wishes of the majority of Withersfield residents and the parish boundaries have remained the same - until the next time the Boundary Commission decides to interfere with historic local village areas.  
I look forward to hearing about your Locality Budget spending and applications for next year’s budget too.  
When I became your Borough Councillor in 2015 I had no idea how contentious Planning (or Development Control) could be. I still have a lot to learn, especially on the consultation process. Please be assured that I will listen to residents’ concerns and take up issues with planning officers.  
If there are any problems regarding vehicles using Elms Road for the new Wedding venue then please let Jane know.

With regard to problems at Parklands (aka The Cottage) Jane has taken this up with the Conservation officer but there appears little can be done.   
On April 25th, before the St Edmundsbury Full Council meeting, Tim Passmore, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, will give a presentation. I will inform your Parish Council if there are matters relating to our rural area that he addresses.  
Please email me or telephone if there are Borough matters you wish to discuss and I send all good wishes to everyone in the local community.

Jane said that Simon Kiddy had raised with her the question of the 'musak' at the swimming pool in Haverhill which was not to his taste. Jane asked the meeting what they thought and of those who went some felt if the music was of their 'era' it was ok.

Jane said that she thought the new street nameplate for Clarendale was good and much less confusing.

**Suffolk Police:**

P. C. Darren Marshall had apologised but no-one was available to come to the meeting tonight. He sent a report:

This report covers the period from 01/04/2016 through to and inclusive of 22/04/2017. During this period there have been **7** reported crimes within the village.

As shared this time last year, all Safer Neighbourhood Teams have now moved over to producing a generic “Area” Newsletter which are provided monthly and are published on our “all new” external website. Suffolk Constabulary has recently carried a review of its local Policing. Following both a reduction in funding and a change in the nature of crime, we have had to reassess what our priorities will be. It was decided that our focus should be on protecting vulnerable people from crimes against them including on-line offences, drugs, offences against children, domestic violence and serious sexual offences. This has meant less time to focus on some of the traditional complaints which is often led by parking matters.

Final figures in these fields for the parish of Great Bradley are as follows…..

**BURGLARY DWELLING – 0**

**ROBBERY – 0**

**VIOLENCE WITH INJURY – 0**

**SERIOUS SEXUAL ASSAULT – 0**

**DRUG TRAFFICKING - 0**

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – 0**

However a summary of the other reported matters are as follows….

On both 14/07/16 and 20/02/17 at differing addresses in the village low level, non-injury assaultive acts were reported to us concerning parties known to one another. These were both private matters and such nothing further will be shared on these sensitive matters

On 28/08/16 following a tip-off from a partner agency, a male was arrested from an address in the parish who’s presence thereat was in Breach of a Restraining Order.

During 06/11/16 an insecure garden shed was entered and a quantity of fireworks were stolen from within.

Overnight between 03/01/17 and 04/01/17 a private garage was forced partially open and a pressure washer system was stolen from within.

On 05/03/17 Police received a complaint of Threats to cause Criminal Damage between neighbours. With no independent witnesses were traced and no admissions of guilt were obtained. This matter remains undetected however collaborative work and monitoring is ongoing between Police and the housing providers relevant to this matter.

And finally…..

On the 14/04/17 workers from Great Bradley Farms intercepted 4 x males on 2 x scrambler bikes and 2 x quad bikes disturbing areas of crop. This has been reported as a damage and to date one of the males (from Balsham, Cambs) has been formally dealt with to the victims satisfaction….given the date of occurrence, this is an ongoing matter.

**CURRENT CRIME TRENDS**

West Suffolk has recently suffered an increase in Dwelling Burglaries. The trademark M.O. tends to be framework forced via jemmy use at the rear of properties. Thorough “tidy” searches area made lulling returning homeowners to not initially realising that they’ve been targeted. Gloves are always worn and a pillow case is typically taken to transport jewellery and cash. Some burglaries have involved high value vehicles stolen from driveways too.

The group suspected of being involved are certainly cross border criminals thought to be active in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambs. In recent weeks we’ve had properties targeted in Cavendish, Hundon, Hargrave and Hawstead and more further afield.

Should any parishioner see what they believe to be furtive activity on their or neighbouring addresses, this is a definite 999 call and **we will** promptly attend.

We make no apologies for recommending again that all home owners remain vigilant and regularly review their home security. Great advice can always be sought from our newly revised Suffolk Constabulary Web Site.

Secondly

Since early March’17, the Sudbury and Haverhill areas have suffered x 17 Theft From Motor Vehicles. In the main, Ford Transits and Connect style vans are tending to be targeted, invariably via an entry method that leaves no damage. As usual, the proceeds of these crimes are almost always high value branded power tools but cash and some hand tools have also been removed at some scenes.

We always advise that valuables are removed from work vans when unattended and certainly overnight. Please consider installing additional alarms even a classic shed style alarm or sensor padlock. As ever, should you see anything of a suspicious nature close to home or whilst on your travels please call it in as matter of urgency and I can assure you that we’ll check it out quick-time.

Thanks for your continued support……

Pc 270 Marshall and all on your Safer Neighbourhood Team

**Parish Council:**

Simon Kiddy, Chairman of the Parish Council, said that the Parish Council had had a busy year again with such items as grasscutting of the Recreation Area and church. Also contributions to major repairs at the Village Hall with the new steps, Bell housing, cooker, hob, new defibrillator and new emergency light and other wiring. In addition the Parish Council had organised the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations on the Recreation Area, the Bonfire Night and not least a new No Through Road sign at the Evergreen Lane junction with the B1061. This will hopefully help to prevent a recurrence of the problems when an HGV got completely lost via its GPS and went up into Clarendale by mistake damaging a tree and the street nameplate. Also if there are any further road closures on The Street it should also help to prevent motorists attempting to circumvent the closure by trying to go up Evergreen Lane to get round.

**Village Hall:**

Bob Bennett said that thanks must go the old Committee for their years of service. There was now a new Committee of 5 members. Thanks also go to the garden team, maintenance team and especially Pete Smith for all the work he does especially on the shed at present. Also the events Committee that is doing a really good job. Thanks go also to all the groups that meet in the hall and help to keep it going. Slimming World has had to close but there is hope it may return.

Paul McCloskey summarised the finances. The loss making trend has changed and they are now notionally self-sustaining. Thanks go to the Parish Council for their expenditure last year of £3,600 on items that had to be done but the Village Hall couldn't have managed. If the events level can be sustained then they should break even by the end of this year.

**Great Bradley Farms Co:**

Charles Ryder had given his apologies but sent a report:

*I am very sorry not to be with you tonight but John has very kindly agreed to express a few points which I would have made. However, if anyone at the Meeting would like to raise any issues with me, please call me on my mobile (07831 318019) or send me an email (charles@gbfco.com).*

***Points***

1. ***Electricity – Backup Supply for Great Bradley***

* *Great Bradley is at the end of the electricity network coming from Wratting/Haverhill. We are therefore particularly vulnerable to power cuts such as the two long ones caused in the last four months by fallen trees in Thurlow*
* *UKPN therefore propose linking Great Bradley to the Carlton network, fed from Linton, as a backup. This will entail undergrounding cable from the bottom of Bradley Hill to Carlton*
* *I have asked whether the overhead lines running down to Water Lane and to the bottom of Bradley Hill can be undergrounded as part of the scheme. Even if this is not possible in the short term, I am confident that it will happen in the longer term.*

1. ***Allotments***

* *The Allotments are completed – water, hut etc.*
* *There are some spare Allotments so please apply to John or Sioux Fisher in the office: spread the word!*

1. ***Footpaths – General***

* *Footpath notices (both Public and Permissive Footpaths) are being renewed as necessary*
* *Cutting of the footpaths has been started*
* *The footpath bridge next to Horse Pastures has been renewed*

1. ***Trees***

* *Roadside - Necessary work on roadside trees and branches - for safety - has been largely carried out. Some additional work is planned for late summer/early autumn*

1. ***The River***

* *The work carried out with the Environment Agency has proved a great success in terms of River habitat and morphology*
* *During the winter, we planted an additional 109 trees along the River and Kirtling Brook as well as a variety of native shrubs*

1. ***Weather Warning to Gardens and Farms!***

* *The first four months of the year have been very dry – only 134.1mm (5.27ins) so far. There are clear parallels to the hot, dry and sunny years of 1976 and 2003.*

*Be warned!*

1. ***Conservation Strategy – Countryside Stewardship***

* *This is now almost completely in place. Walkers will see more Winter Wildbird Seed mixes, Autumn Bumblebird mixes and Floristic Grass mixes. These should add significantly to wildlife habitat*

1. ***Joyriders***

* *Please be alert to joyriders, possibly on quad bikes and scrambler bikes, as well as illegal hare coursers. Please very kindly report any suspicions directly to me*

***Dates to note:***

***Bluebell Walk*** *– This Saturday 29th April at 10.00am*

***Farm and Woodland Tour*** *– Saturday 3rd June at 4.00pm*

***Broxted Tours*** *– All welcome on:*

*Saturday 6th May at 10.00am*

*Saturday 8th July at 3.30pm*

*Saturday 9th September at 3.30pm*

*Please contact me to reserve a place. I hope to see many of you on one of the Tours.*

**The Bradley Bugle:**

Stuart Wilson said that thanks must go to the collators and distributors and to the printer.

**Village website and Facebook page:**

Mike Brophy had given his apologies but sent a report:

***Website***

1. *The easy-to-remember name is* [*www.greatbradley.org.uk*](http://www.greatbradley.org.uk)
2. *For the first time since this version of the website was developed in 2011 the use of the website has decreased.*
3. *The number of*
   * ***sessions*** *decreased* ***6%*** *(from 5,858 to 5,519)*
   * ***users*** *decreased* ***4%*** *(from 4,292 to 4,141)*
   * ***Page views*** *decreased* ***15%*** *(from 13,643 to 11,546)*
   * ***New Visitors*** *decreased from* ***28% to 26%***

*I haven’t been able to research why this is so, but it could be that*

* *whilst we are using the Internet more, we are using the (world wide) web less. ie we making more use of ‘app’s (eg Facebook) rather than full blown websites.*
* *It could be that a place that is as small as Great Bradley only has a limited number of people that will want to find out about it.*
* *we have had a website since 2002 (thanks to Rowan) and that those who would want to look us up have now all acquired the technology (computer, laptop, tablet, phone) to do so.*

1. *After the home page the most popular pages were (in order): Farming in WWII (I have no idea why!) – Local Geology – The Bugle – Local News – Houses for Sale – Famous Residents – Village Hall – Village Archive*
2. *The website is visited from (in order) England, USA, Brazil, Russia, Australia, Canada, Germany, France & Italy. Brazil & Russia could be less to do with their interest in the village and more to do with somewhat nefarious activities*
3. *65% of users used a Windows Computer*
4. *83% of visitors use a desktop/ lap top computer; 15% used a tablet and 2% used a mobile (Indicative of an older demographic perhaps?)*
5. *95% of mobile visits were via Apple products. Blackberry use went from 1.3% to 0.2%*
6. *The most popular browsers were (in order) Chrome – Explorer- Safari – Firefox*
7. *Mike Brophy is always happy to receive information, pictures and updates for the website. Drop him a line at* [*mike@brophys.co.uk*](mailto:mike@brophys.co.uk)

***Facebook Group***

1. *The Facebook Group is 2 years old this week! Thanks for the support!*
2. *At the end of Year 1 there were 180 members; there are now 260*
3. *There are, on average, 2 posts a day (that’s over 600 in a year!)*
4. *The most commented-on post was when the electricity was cut off in January 2017*
5. *Most posts are seen by over 100 people in Day 1 and 150 in Day 2. Within 5 days the number of views alters little unless someone new joins the group and they scroll through all the back-posts*
6. *Three people have been blocked from the site – for repeat placing of their adverts (all from outside the village)*
7. *Just one thread had to be moderated - it was getting a bit personal*
8. *Don’t forget to use the search function if you think someone might have posted on a topic before you (eg if looking for a plumber)*
9. *It’s great to see other people using the event listing. If you run an event or club then I would encourage you to take responsibility for promoting it on the Facebook Group*
10. *Mike Brophy always happy to receive seasonal pictures of village scenes for use as them as the banner photo at the top of the page. Drop him a line at* [*mike@brophys.co.uk*](mailto:mike@brophys.co.uk)

**Road flooding at Spring Barns:**

Mary Evans said that she was pleased to be able to report that work to resolve this would be done in June/July. The fact that the Police had had to close the road at one point because of the flooding helped to give the repairs greater priority.

**Litter pick:**

Geoffrey Vollam had given his apologies but sent a report:

*This year’s clear-up took place on Saturday 1 April, in fair weather in spite of a forecast of rain. It was great that some 17 villagers turned out to help, and valiantly cleared the village of litter along the main road from Spring Barns to Bradley Hill, from East Green to Matthews Lane and from Clarendale and Ever Green and we are grateful to you all.*

*There was perhaps marginally less rubbish than last year but we still managed to fill a fair number of litter sacks for the Borough Council to collect later, mainly plastic bottles, drink cans and coffee cups and such detritus, but also some more exotic items, a gas cylinder for example.*

*Thanks are due to all who helped, including Anne Smith for the delicious refreshments at the Village Hall afterwards and especially to John Barnett for organising all the equipment for us and also the collection of the litter sacks afterward.*

*We hope to have another litter pick again next year but if you are tempted to get rid of any litter you might see around our village in the meantime, please be assured you have our full support!*

**Neighbourhood Watch:**

Caroline Greatbach said that NW is the UK's largest voluntary movement. She said she sends information on crimes committed in the area to Facebook but the moderator has asked her to only send information from Great Bradley, Thurlow and Cowlinge. She said she felt that it was important to keep everyone up-to-date with what crimes were being committed in the area not just 'next door'. The meeting agreed that a larger area of information could be beneficial.

**Bonfire Night:**

John Barnett said that he felt it had been a very successful event and that was agreed by the meeting. As usual there was no entrance fee so he thanked those stalwarts on the gate who helped to empty the pockets of those who came to the tune of £575 in donations. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fireworks

As last year the event ran at a small profit (£72) after many years running at a loss. Thanks should also go to all those who helped to build the bonfire.

John said he hoped that the fall in the value of sterling would not adversely affect the purchase of fireworks this year.

**Community Speedwatch and Vehicular Activated Sign:**  
**Speedwatch**

John Barnett said we combine speedwatches with Cowlinge to give us a bigger team. Great Bradley has 4 speedwatch volunteers and Cowlinge 2. We go out every 3 or 4 weeks for a couple of hours usually at the evening rush period from April to when the clocks go back in October. We have recently purchased a 3rd speedgun and this has been fully grant-aided.

**Vehicular Activated Sign**The research on these signs show that they work best when not in the same place the whole time. This is the reasoning behind sharing the sign with other villages. There are a total of 5 villages that share 2 of these signs (Great Bradley, Cowlinge, Gt Thurlow, Lt Thurlow and Gt Wratting). It means that on average each village gets the sign for a month (to move between poles) at roughly 2 or 3 month intervals.

The data collector in the sign gives us valuable information on vehicle speeds in the village which we can share with the Police.

**Allotments:**

Bob Bennett said that it's going well. There are 9 allotments in use out of 16. The shed needs another coat of paint and some of the allotment holders will organise a painting party. The paint and brushes are already available. Bob said it would be good to get the allotments not being used to be cut or covered.

**Reports from other village groups/organisations:**

**Parochial Church Council:**   
Sue Ireland said that they had paid the Diocese their contribution quota of around £5,000 in full again. They are in a Benefice of 8 Parishes and they have managed to maintain the pattern of one service per month. At the Christmas Carol Service it was lovely to see so many people there. The cost of insurance is now easier to cover as it is now paid monthly. Thanks go to Geoffrey Vollam for continuing to do the church accounts and to John Barnett for doing an internal audit. Also thanks go to the Parish Council for organising the cutting of the churchyard and the cleaning and flower arranging teams. This year they have the Quinquennial check so they are hoping nothing major is found. The church is quite unusual in that it is always permanently open and this has always been something people remark upon and find most helpful. The fete raised £2,500 and thanks go to the Ryder family for the use of their house and gardens. Thanks also to all those many helpers. Any offers of help for this year always welcomed and of course any ideas.

**W.E.A:**

Geoffrey Vollam was unable to attend but Pete Smith read the report:

*Our WEA meets in the Autumn and Winter Terms on Wednesday mornings in the Village Hall and last September we were treated to a visit by Ian McLachlan whose subject was the ‘Battle Skies of East Anglia’, describing the effects of the German attacks on this region in the 1939/1945 war and the actions by the RAF fighters and bombers in response. The course lasted 7 weeks instead of our usual 10 but in that time Ian managed to paint a vivid picture of life under this threat. We learned of the development and use of radar in plotting enemy attacks, of the contribution from women of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, of the development of Air Sea Rescue of aircrew whose planes had ditched in our coastal waters and of the disruptive effect of the war on civilian lives and casualties. The course was well-illustrated and full of interest, as we have come to expect from Ian McLachlan.*

*In January we started a 7 week course, once more with a return visitor, Laurence Staig, who spoke about ‘Films and Film Music’, exploring the role of music in film, and such key composers as Ennio Morricone, Bernard Herrmann and John Barry, and others. As well as examining their work we also looked at the skills used in integrating music and drama to create film texts. The course was delivered by Laurence in his totally absorbing but somewhat laid-back manner and was much appreciated by all those who attended.*

*May I just emphasise that Great Bradley WEA is open to* ***all*** *in Great Bradley, and of course beyond our borders, so everyone is welcome. Our next course will run for 10 weeks, starting in September, when we shall study two of Charles Dickens books along with aspects of his life and career in journalism. Next January we hope to offer for 10 weeks, a course on the 20th century English Musical Renaissance, from 1899 -1934, so again two contrasting subjects.*

*Peter Smith will be letting you have further information about both courses in good time before they commence. I think course fees will be £55 for each term but we offer a free taster to both courses if you wish to come along to try them out. And tea/coffee and biscuits are still free at our halfway break!*

*Thanks are again due to Peter as our secretary and chairman, and to Gill Brown and her team for looking after the refreshments, and Alan Bampton our treasurer. If you come along in September they will be very pleased to welcome you.*

**Afternoon drop-in:** Anne Smith said that there has been a good increase in the numbers attending with 12 - 16 now every month with the highest number being 22 and people now come from surrounding villages. They usually meet on the second Thursday of the month. There's tea and cake and a lot of chat and we recently had a chap from Barnardiston who brought a number of his wooden models which had been hand-made painstakingly over months and sometimes up to a year. This was really interesting. All welcome.

**Art Group:**Pat Spires read the report from and Anne Pigden and herself:

The Great Bradley Art Group continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons in our lovely Village Hall. For those of you who may wonder what we do we are a group of amateur artists who paint for pleasure   
Our tutor is professional artist Jan Couling. Jan is happy for us to work with any media from pastels to watercolour and continues to patiently support and encourage us whether we are novices or more experienced amateur’s. You can find out more about Jan by visiting her web site.   
In the past year the number of participants has fluctuated slightly but we have managed to keep going without a dramatic increase in fees. New members are always welcome and if you are interested you can find out who to contact for more info by going onto the village web site or by looking in the Bugle. I should add that you do not have to live in the village to join us.   
The biggest change this year is that we are now displaying our work in the Village Hall. This has not only given us the opportunity to show what we can do but we hope enhances the hail and gives visitors something to look at. The current display is the second we have shown and it Is planned to mount approximately three or four displays a year with a theme when possible. The feedback from our first display was excellent and we are grateful to everyone for such positive comments.   
As usual we will be exhibiting the work we have produced this year at the Village Fete in July. These paintings will be moved to the Village Hall later in the year to form our third display.   
Our thanks go to the Village Hall Committee for actively encouraging us to show our artistic efforts and being so supportive throughout the year. Thank you.  
**Scottish Country Dancing Class**:   
Helen Smith read the report from Ella Hollins:

*Scottish Country Dancing classes have continued to run during this past year and have been very well supported. The numbers fluctuate but generally there are between 8 and 12 participants.*

*We have our Summer Dance in Thurlow in May and this is always a well supported event with dancers coming from Haverhill, Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. We have a ‘live’ band which is always better than recorded music.*

*We have been asked to demonstrate Scottish Country Dancing later in the year in Clare, something we haven’t done for quite some time now so that should be good fun.*

*It was very disappointing that the Ceilidh planned as a fundraiser for our Village Hall was very poorly supported and in fact had to be cancelled. A great shame, as some years ago this was a very well supported event and everyone had a wonderful time as well as making money for the Village Hall. Still, things change and obviously it’s not what the village want at the moment.*  
**Flexible Friends:**Gil Dunn said that the flexible friends has been running for 8 years but has had to be suspended for the time being due to the very low numbers and with illness sometimes unable to make enough numbers to cover the cost of the Village Hall and unable to give the Village Hall sufficient notice to cancel. It is hoped they may be able to restart at some point.   
**Pilates:**  
Helen Smith read the report:

*Pilates Tuesdays*[*7.30pm*](x-apple-data-detectors://4)*. The class has now been running successfully since May 2012. Over the last 12 months we have had between 8 and 11 people signed up to each six week block. We currently have people coming from Bradley, Kedington, Haverhill and the surrounding villages.  
We have not encountered any problems with the hall, the heating system is still working really well for us and all has been going smoothly (touch wood!!). I am very grateful to the village hall committee for making sure the hall is always up and running. Overall, I am very happy with how the class is going, it is lovely to have such a nice bunch of people to teach.*

***Book Club****:*

*Annette Sugg said that this is a new club and only started a month ago. They had their first meeting with their first book this week. It is to be held monthly.*

Simon Kiddy thanked the organisations for their presence tonight and the information they provided.

**Traffic calming on B1061:**

Richard Sugg said that the 30mph village sign at the top of the hill had one leg rotted off and that some repeaters were also obscured by vegetation. Also the SLOW on the road now read LOW. Mary Evans said that she would get together with John Barnett to look at these items and see what needed doing.

Prior to the meeting there had been a call for traffic calming humps similar to those recently deployed in Brinkley to be put on the B1061 in Great Bradley. It was said that the humps in Brinkley were on a much more minor road whereas the B1061 was a through route with more traffic. The noise of vehicles going over the humps can be very loud especially farm vehicles early in the morning with empty lorries also extremely noisy. Mary Evans said a lot of speed humps had been taken out though noise problems. A chicane was suggested but others said this would cause queues in busy periods. An extended speed reduction area of 40mph beginning at the Barns at the bottom of the hill was suggested (similar to Dullingham). 'Gates' at the entrances was also suggested. John Barnett said that when the Parish Council last looked at gates they were rejected because of the high cost at that time. Coloured road surfacing was also suggested.

The Parish Council are to liaise with Mary Evans and Highways to find out what the alternatives are in this situation.

**Recreation Area**

Simon Kiddy said:

1. The new dog bag dispenser bin appears to be working with much less dog fouling with a high use of the free bags.
2. Glade Area wooden edging is to be replaced with metal. There was a query as to the safety of this and it was stressed that the edges were rounded and it is used extensively by public bodies such as the National Trust.
3. There is to be a new outdoor table tennis table which is the first piece of equipment not targeted specifically at youngsters and this should appeal to all ages. The Parish Council is hoping to be able to secure 50% grant aid for this.
4. Thanks should go to all those who regularly check the play equipment to ensure the safety of our youngsters.

**Big Lunch celebration in June:**

John Barnett said there will be a community lunch in the style of the successful 'Big Lunch' we did last year. The good news is we have been successful in getting some money towards it so we are having the Hog Roast van that we last had for the Jubilee celebrations.

The grant will pay for 145 free Hog Roast rolls and after that it will cost £3.30 per person. So we will be offering Great Bradley residents the free tickets on a first come first served basis. There will be a maximum of 6 free tickets to each household. Please only ask for the number you actually need.

The Parish Council will be providing free drinks - wines, beers, soft drinks etc and all the plates, cups, cutlery. All we ask is that everyone brings a dessert or cheeses to share.

There was a question about when the tickets would be available and John Barnett said that had not yet been decided. There will be a lot of publicity about the event once tickets are available.

**Village Archives:**

Pete Smith said that the group of 5 continue to build up a record of Village archives broken down by events and people.   
We try to cross reference people who have been key players in events and organisations ranging from Church, Parish Council, Mothers Union, Fete, Buildings etc.   
We are indebted to Charles who allows us the use of a room and storage cabinets purchased by PC. Charles is also working with us to integrate the Ryder family village related papers to form a wide base for subsequent generations to share the life and times of the village.   
We work closely with Mike Brophy who is electronically making access to the information easier.   
Our recent Exhibition hopefully gave the purpose of our work a wider audience to both newcomers to the village and those who were born here.   
We very much need more documents and names to the faces on the photos.   
As we have said in the Bugle we appreciate some papers are very personal and precious but if we can have a photo copy where appropriate this would be an enormous help.   
The team comprises Pat Spires, Jill Rodwell, Maureen and John Barnett and myself. We meet in the winter months for a couple of hours weekly at the offices at Bradley Hall. We welcome any papers or pieces of village history.   
The experience has proven to be one of the most interesting I have been involved in. I think we have enjoyed on average a Dorito and crisp for every photo and document we have dealt with. John Barnett is dealing with the digitisation side of the archives so I will hand over to him for this part.

John Barnett said the idea is to get all the village archives online so that everyone can see them and access them at anytime from anywhere. Obviously it's a big task to scan the huge amount of material that is there in the archives.

The Parish Council has put in a bid for funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund to assist with this. If we are successful it will pay for a local person to scan everything to file and also pay for a Network Attached Storage device where everything will be put and made available online. Mike Brophy has kindly agreed to handle the Storage Device for us on behalf of the village.

Another advantage is that the storage device will allow others to upload their own archive material (pictures, documents, information) which will expand the archive for everyone else to see.

Another benefit of digitisation is that it becomes a back-up of all the material in the event of catastrophe (e.g. fire).

**Village Garden area:**

John Barnett said that there had been suggestion of increasing the village garden area which currently ends oddly with then a grassed area. The thought was to extend the garden to the field entrance which would include the frontage to the Millennium Oak rest area which would be given a suitable entrance. The meeting agreed this was a good idea.

**Other village events:**

Events notified were:

29th April Bluebell Walk 10am at the covered yard near the church

12th May EAAA presentation at the Village Hall 7pm

14th May 'Blooming Bradley' event including a talk from Richard Beales of Beales Roses at the Village Hall 2pm - 5pm

3rd June Farm Walk 4pm at the covered yard near the church

11th June Big Lunch on the Recreation Area

2nd July Fete in Great Bradley Hall garden

**Any other ideas/problems etc:**

There was a suggestion that something might be done to help prevent the grassed area walk through from Evergreen Lane to the Village Hall steps from becoming so muddy in wet weather. The problem was suggested that mud is then transferred into the Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: Chair date: