

Great Bradley Annual Village Meeting held at the Village Hall on 24th April 2019

John Barnett welcomed 23 people attending the meeting.

Minutes:

The minutes of last year's meeting 25th April 2018 were approved

Suffolk County Council:

County Councillor Mary Evans full report stated that the two topics I usually talk to you about at your annual meetings are schools and roads. Generally, Suffolk's schools have done well again over the past year. Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths. However, when I tell you that 64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities, I expect we all appreciate there is still much work to be done to ensure that our young people gain both the competencies and qualifications to take them on in the world whether to higher educational, vocational training or work. GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally. This figure puts Suffolk top within our statistical neighbour group. Progress 8 measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Suffolk is in the top half of authorities for this figure, ranked 42nd out of 151.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

A Level

The validated A Level results confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades remaining above the national average figures. The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally.

SEND PLACES

In January Suffolk County Council's Cabinet decided we needed over 850 more specialist education places in Suffolk. This to cope with the expected 18% increase in demand and to educate children in-county Suffolk will need between 300 to 400 places for children with additional needs between now and 2020.

The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine, and the increasing complexity of specialist needs. The recommendations include three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools. This is likely to cost £45.6m and next week Cabinet is being asked to approve a project to borrow an initial tranche of £24.1m to create new special school places ready for September 2020.

Suffolk County Council 2019/20 budget approved

On 14 February 2019, Suffolk County Council we set our budget and this year we will be spending £10m a week. Since 2011-12 Council has made over £260 million of savings. Recognising the unrelenting rise in demand and the complexity of support required by vulnerable children and adults in Suffolk, the Council are significantly increasing spending in these two top priority areas. The net budget for Adult and Community Services (ACS) will rise to £243m and the net budget for Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services (HWCS) will rise to £147m. This is an increase of just over £14 million for ACS and HWCS. ACS and HWCS will account for 75% of the total spend in 2019/2020 – three in every four pounds the Council spends. The fourth pound covers everything else that we do - Fire and rescue, emergency planning, archaeology, archives and records, roads and transport.

As you are probably aware there was a change of leadership at SCC last May and I was appointed deputy leader and cabinet member for highways, transport and rural affairs.

There are many challenges - we have 4,000 miles of roads to maintain and around 3,000 miles of footpaths and frankly not enough money to do all we would like to do. Vehicle Excise duty and fuel levy – charges raised by Government on all motorists raise £35b a year – how much do you think comes back

to highways authorities - £1bn. It is shared between councils and Highways England. To qualify for increased DfT grant we have to show evidence for what we do so we have HMOP. My view was and is that it is too complicated there are times when it seems that we are more concerned with meeting the HMOP than dealing with a problem.

We have been running a successful pilot project out of the Ipswich depot to simplify the criteria for filling potholes so we do more in one area together and we tackle the smaller 200mm potholes. I am awaiting the formal results but they sound positive and I am sure we will adopt this across the county.

Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

January 2019 saw Suffolk Highways celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology. The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface. Over the month of January, Suffolk Highways deployed three thermal road repair machines which repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide. The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure. The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration. Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March 2019.

Suffolk wins £4.4 million for "smart" streetlighting

A highlight of January was the announcement that Suffolk has won a grant of £4.4 million from the Government for a pioneering project to develop "smart" streetlighting. The project will see streetlights adapted in a range of innovative ways, including being equipped with wind vanes and solar panels to generate rather than consume energy. Highways' electricity bill is currently £2.3 million a year and set to rise, so anything that reduces the bill is very welcome. The street lights will be equipped with sensors to undertake a range of tasks such as measuring traffic speed and volume; measuring road temperatures – so gritting runs can be better targeted; and indicating whether nearby grit bins need filling or gullies need emptying. The street lights can also be adapted to act as Wi-Fi and 5G transmitters.

We are working to be innovative and to harness new technology across the country

On 6 February, EO Charging, one of the UK's leading electric vehicle (EV) charging manufacturers, launched 'Plug In Suffolk' in partnership with Suffolk County Council and renewable energy provider Bulb. It allows EV drivers to make a contactless payment with no need to register with networks or become members of organisations. 'Plug In Suffolk' will see the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (up to 400 individual sockets) across the county at 100 key locations and business addresses. Once completed the charging network will be available for all plug-in vehicle drivers with each charging location listed on www.pluginsuffolk.org or searchable via Zap Map and Google Maps. The 'Plug In Suffolk' charging network forms part of Suffolk County Council's ambition of Creating the Greenest County in the UK.

Plan for £6million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres

We are going to invest £6million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres. The plan has earmarked £1m for Haverhill for "urgent improvements". Currently at Haverhill the site has to be closed when containers are emptied because of space. The funding aims to double the size of the site and prevent such closures. The opening hours for recycling centres in Suffolk changed from the beginning of April. All 11 of Suffolk County Council's centres will be open from 9am to 5pm every day from Monday 1 April to September – bar Wednesdays. The new times will give residents an extra hour to recycle their waste during the summer months. On Thursdays from May to August, all sites will be open until 7pm - a good opportunity for residents to recycle on their way home from work. On Sundays and bank holidays, the recycling centres will also be open from 9am to 5pm from April to September. The Haverhill-recycling centre is having a £1m upgrade.

With regard to the consultation on the 40mph buffer Mary said that they had received many positive replies from the community but recently one had been received that was vociferously against it. A vote was asked from all those present who supported the 40mph buffer and every hand was raised in support.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council:

Borough Councillor Jane Midwood said this is the last report from your St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor — following the elections on May 2nd, the Bradleys and the Thurlows will be under the jurisdiction of the new West Suffolk Council. I do not expect you will notice any change to services as many have been managed jointly by Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council for some time.

The decision whether to have Borough status or not will be made by the new council. There have been many arguments put forward for the creation of a new Mayor of the Borough of West Suffolk. Many people favour the return of the mayoralty to Bury St Edmunds Town Council.

I have enjoyed being able to help various Great Bradley projects with grants from my Locality Budget.
2015 — 2016

£200 for a village lunch for the Queen's 90th Birthday

2016 — 2017

£250 for an outdoor table tennis table

2017 - 2018

£350 for a Celebration to mark the Royal Wedding

2018 - 2019

£500 for adult outdoor gym equipment

All these projects will enhance village life in their diverse ways and contribute to the sense of community. We finally succeeded in getting a new street nameplate for Clarendale. Hopefully this has helped lessen the confusion for deliveries to residents.

The four years that I have been on the Borough has seen great change throughout the country and I wish Great Bradley residents all the best for the future.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Borough Councillor and I look back on more than 12 years of representing the Bradleys and the Thurlows with great affection. I will miss you all.

Suffolk Police:

P. C. Jon Gerrish sent his apologies but emailed the following:

Thank you for the invitation to your Annual Parish Meeting. Following a review of neighbourhood policing that took place in 2018, the role of 'community engagement officer' (CEO) was launched within Suffolk. As the CEO for your locality, I am responsible for approximately 70 parishes and so, as you will appreciate, it is not possible for me to attend or prepare reports for each one as a matter of course. If required, crime statistics are available for each area via the website www.police.uk all year round and anyone with internet access can see this information. If there is a particular issue in your parish and you feel it would be beneficial for police to attend, please contact me on this email address and it may be possible for me to attend in person or prepare a report to address the problem. This can be at any time of year as it is important that we are available at the time an issue has come to light.

I did attend the multi parish meeting (Police Forum) and would look to continue to attend these.

Parish Council:

John Barnett, Clerk to the Parish Council, said that the year had gone as follows:

April/May 2018

- Discussion with the Vestey Estate management to ascertain how things will operate after the change of ownership. The Permissive Paths can continue with the Parish Council responsible for the cost of maintenance. The allotments can continue and the cost of water will be shared 50/50 with the Parish Council and Estate.
- The Permissive Path at the top of Clarendale requires a new bridge for the ditch. Parish Council organises this.
- The Permissive Path across the field requires immediate action to cut back and make safe for walkers. A party of volunteers is organised and hot refreshments kindly brought out by Anne Smith.

- One planning application is considered
- Successful Royal wedding celebrations organised and run thanks to Councillors and helpers
- The Glade pathways have new bark chips organised and applied
- First discussions with a local fitness expert on possible items for a new Outdoor Gym on the Recreation Area

June

- First signs that a 40mph buffer for the Bradley hill has been accepted by Highways
- The new bridge to the Permissive Path at the top of Clarendale is installed
- The Permissive Path across the field has already grown strongly with the wet weather and a professional is employed to cut it again.
- The Glade area trees are examined by the expert who put them in and he is pleased with their progress but recommends the huge Willows be taken right back to allow the smaller trees to flourish. This is accepted and work commissioned in the Autumn for the first half of the Glade.
- 2 Planning applications are considered

July/Aug/Sept

- Latest Police speeding statistics show 97 speeding prosecutions in Great Bradley in 8 months which represents almost 20% of the total number of prosecutions over the 32 Towns and Parishes in their area. A physical barrier such as a chicane is now felt to be the only way that traffic can be slowed up. County Councillor Mary Evans agrees to the principle.
- One planning application is considered.
- Planning for the WW1 armistice and archives digitisation exhibition continues apace. Display boards are ordered. Alice Ryder's grandfather is discovered to be one of only 3 key British representatives at the railway carriage in Compiegne where the actual Armistice was signed and will figure highly on the displays.
- Councillors go to the firework suppliers display evening near Chelmsford to see which are the best fireworks to order for our budget.

Oct/Nov

- 2 planning applications are considered
- The Village Hall Management Committee kindly offer to take over the refreshments at the Bonfire Night
- Proposal received that the village should have a dedicated outdoor War Memorial and discussions ensue as to where that might be best located
- Very successful Bonfire Night with record numbers and donations received
- The combined WW1 and Archives exhibition is a great success. The digitising of the archives was also completed on time and within budget and the Heritage Lottery grant of £4,700 was fully spent.
- Further grants are applied for for the Outdoor Gym Equipment
- The Glade trees work is done to the Eastern half and the result is that the whole area is much lighter and the smaller trees were also lifted to allow understorey development. The Western half of the Glade will be done next year.

Dec/Jan 2019

- Final grants for the Outdoor Gym equipment are approved and the equipment ordered.
- Next year's budget approved

Feb/Mar 2019

- One planning application considered.
- Two Councillors and the Clerk attend a Police Forum
- A new pole for the Vehicular Activated Sign is to be applied for on the approach from Burrough Green direction as none is currently available
- The Permissive Path across the field has been cut by the Vestey Estate for us

- The Permissive Path from the Recreation Area to Matthews Lane is difficult to negotiate over the ditch onto the road. The Parish Council is considering a second bridge across as per the one from Clarendale
- Outdoor Gym Equipment installed with a successful opening ceremony. Many good reports of the equipment.
- Another successful litter pick with record numbers of volunteers and a large volume of litter of all sorts collected.

Plans for the coming year

- Community event is to be organised on the Recreation Area on 19th May as per the previous successful events
- A village business is expanding rapidly and is taking more office space at Great Bradley Hall offices to the extent that the village archives that have benefitted from free 'board and lodging' from Charles Ryder for many years now have to find a new home. The only and obvious place is the Village Hall. The most likely home there is the old 'bar' area but this would entail removing the existing cupboard and the contents to go outside. The Parish Council has budgeted for £1000 to contribute towards a Village Hall larger shed to house these items. The 'bar' area would need to be temperature controlled for the paper archives (as in the Great Bradley Hall offices) and the Parish Council would need to pay for that to be installed and offering to pay a sum each year towards the running costs.
- Another picnic table has been budgeted for the Recreation Area and has been installed in time for the Community event in May
- A new electronic screen for the Village Hall has been budgeted to help display planning applications as West Suffolk is no longer going to provide paper copies for Parish Councils. This could also help other groups that use the hall and, not least, the Annual Village Meeting itself.
- Following an earlier proposal a new Outdoor War Memorial is budgeted for and the VHMC has kindly agreed it should go on the front of the Village Hall.

Village Hall:

Bob Bennett, Chairman of the VHMC, said that Paul McCloskey was standing down as Treasurer but would present the current financial situation. Paul said that income from hall hire has been maintained at prior year levels. New users include a Book Club, Tai Chi, Fitness with Harvey, Photography Club. Income from Events has been maintained at a similar level to the prior year. However, the mix of events has changed, slightly reducing overall profitability. The lottery continues to provide valuable income to the Village Hall. Participation levels are broadly being maintained.

Increase in sundry income and expense driven primarily by production and sale of 2019 Great Bradley Calendar.

Income from Easyfundraising fell sharply for the year as a whole. However, recent levels of membership/spending have improved. Continued effort required to protect this income. Sharp rise in utility expense due to the Village Hall taking on cost of Broadband provision higher contracted costs and usage. Multi year contracts expected to slow cost growth.

Insurance provided via multi year contract, inflationary increase only.

Increase in maintenance costs primarily due to Village Hall taking on cost of cleaning.

Substantial spend on hall improvements - chairs, small tables, lighting etc.

Positive return on year very encouraging given additional costs and improvement spend.

Overall a successful year with strong and broad participation enabling the Village Hall to operate on a sustainable basis despite higher cost base.

The income and expenditure account is as below with a current balance of around £16,000:

Great Bradley Village Hall

Annual Income and Expenditure, £

Income	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2018/19</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Hall Hire	3186	3148	-39	2800	1
Events	6045	5900	-145	3500	2
Lottery	1380	1258	-122	1400	3
Sundry	32	621	589	100	4
Easy Fund Raising	562	191	-371	350	5
	<u>11205</u>	<u>11117</u>	<u>-88</u>	<u>8150</u>	
Expenditure	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	
Utilities	1317	2603	1286	1850	6
Insurance	705	725	20	750	7
Maintenance	95	822	728	900	8
Events	1072	2064	991	700	2
Lottery	613	696	84	850	3
Sundry	245	471	227	100	4
Hall Improvements	0	2771	2771	3000	9
	<u>4047</u>	<u>10153</u>	<u>6107</u>	<u>8150</u>	
Gain/Loss	£7,158	£964			10
Underlying Gain/Loss	£4,575				

Bob Bennett continued the Village Hall report and said that Neil Piper had kindly agreed to take over as Treasurer from Paul.

I think it's been another successful year in 2018/9 for the village hall and for our fundraising effort. Most importantly we managed to continue some popular events and tried some new ones, which hopefully means we continue to provide something interesting for as many people in and around our village as possible.

We held 6 Portable Pint Nights again during the year, five summer ones and a winter warmer in early February, and were grateful for help from different teams of people to do the catering for these, ranging from BBQ, pasties and pasta, to chilli and bangers and mash. We also put on another Wine Tasting evening in October and the ever-popular Quiz Night with Fish and Chips in November. There was also an Kids Art Morning again this year at the beginning of the school holidays which was well attended, with two of the village art group leading the session.

We included a few new things this year including a Pudding Night in April and we also invited The Black Heart Orchestra to play at the hall the latter sadly made a loss. This year also saw the introduction of more drama to our lives with the establishment of the Great Bradley Village Hall Players who put on not one but two performances during the year. The first was a Murder Mystery with the audience left at the end to sift through the clues and guess who the murderer was. This was attended by local Cambridge novelist, Alison Bruce. The second was a Christmas ghost story set both in the present and the past. The plays are written and directed by 'The Suggs' and interestingly interpreted by our little band of players, proving very popular.

We also held a Photography Competition last year, culminating in an exhibition of entries and later, a Great Bradley calendar for 2019. There were also two Bootiful Breakfast events on Sunday mornings which were very well received. Finally, we put on a small but lovely Christmas Fair this year, inviting local crafters to take a stall, and offering mince-pies and mulled wine too.

These events raised just under £4000 for the hall. This is more than £1000 less than in the previous year, mainly due to the nature of the events and the expenses required, such as fish and chips and

other foods etc. But I think it was a very successful year in terms of participation and variety. To do all this last year required quite a lot of organisation, and time-commitments were stretched for quite a lot of people. However it did allow us to improve our financial situation further. This year's calendar will therefore probably not be quite as full, as I don't intend to commit quite so much time. We will of course continue with those popular items - Pub nights, quiz and wine-tasting — and also hope to try another Christmas event similar to the last. There's already another play in preparation and this will be performed on 26th July. I conducted another survey of the village and got some good suggestions which we'll look into going forward too, particularly those around gardening, where I think we could organise some kind of veggie, plant and seed swap, and perhaps something around apple harvesting time (cider-and juice making) though there is nothing else in the calendar right now. A lot will depend on the level of interest and number of volunteers available. Finally, I'd like to express a big thank you to those who did give their time this year — and there are any — to make all the events such fun and keep the Village Hall relevant going forward.

Alison McCloskey said that Easyfundraising had indeed dropped considerably but they had recently reminded everyone how important it was to keep it going for their funds. John Barnett said that he had had problems getting purchases from Amazon included. Alison said she thought Amazon may have stopped giving to Easyfundraising but she would see if she could get that changed.

St Mary's Church:

Ken Ireland reported. The eight churches of the Stourhead Benefice are currently in an interregnum following the retirement of the rector, Derek Hollis last October. In January we lost another key member of the church when acting treasurer Geoffrey Vollam moved to Chevington. We were extremely grateful to Alice Ryder for taking on the role of treasurer, and Ken Ireland to taking over from Alice as secretary. However, replacing the rector is likely to take a little more time. With the new housing developments in Little Wrattling and Kedington the character of the Benefice is likely to change considerably, but there has been significant interest in the post already and the signs are encouraging.

Far from being dormant during the interregnum, the benefice churches have been very active with lay members taking services when a priest is not available. Although the number of services has reduced to one per Sunday, rotating through the Benefice, congregations have grown.

In addition to regular services over the year, in Great Bradley we had one christening, a funeral and an informal memorial service. The carol service and Christmas Day communion were particularly successful. Once again Parish Church Council meetings have been dominated by finance and fabric. At least during the interregnum the parish share, or Quota, that we have to pay has been reduced from £5000 to £3800. This has to be covered by money from collection at services and fundraising as the church gets no financial support from the state or the Church of England.

As for fabric, the 700-year old building is in fairly reasonable shape. Some minor plaster repairs have been done and we are currently applying for a grant for some 'stitch-in-time' work on the roof to prevent further deterioration. Getting approval for work on a historic building is lengthy and time-consuming, not least because St Mary's is home to a significant bat roost and time frame when work can be done is very limited. An important development this year has been the decision to revive the Friends of the Church organisation and work is in hand to recruit new members and produce a new church guide.

We would like to record our thanks to John Barnett for checking the annual accounts and to the Parish Council for cutting the grass in the churchyard. We are very grateful to our dedicated team of flower arrangers and cleaners, and other volunteers who carry out basic maintenance. Visitors always appreciate the fact that the church is kept open, given its position on the Stour Valley path.

As usual the fete will be the major fundraising event this year, on 30th June. We are greatly indebted to everyone who contributes to this event, not least Great Bradley Hall and Estate without whose support it would not be possible. There will be a planning meeting on Saturday May 18th at 10 am at Great Bradley Hall. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to come along then or speak to one of the organisers. Tickets for the Farm Hamper Draw will come round with the June Bugle and the draw will take place at the fete. Keep an eye on the Bugle and the village Facebook page for further details about this and other plans. Thank you.

Great Bradley Farms Co:

Charles Ryder said again my apologies for not being at the Meeting but I will be somewhere on the M25! This is the report:

1. I know that UKPN's plan to connect Great Bradley to the power line at Carlton is still live! I feel reasonably certain that the connection will take place during the course of the Summer and I am chasing up the exact timing. This will be of great benefit as it will eliminate the relatively frequent power cuts which we suffer in Great Bradley as a result of being at the end of the line which runs through Thurlow.
2. The fluctuation in the flow of water in the River continues to be of some concern. The ideal is that a minimum amount should flow at any one time but this is reliant on the Environment Agency using the Ely Ouse pipeline from Denver. I hope to hold discussions with the Environment Agency in the coming weeks. However, it must be accepted that there will be significant fluctuations in periods of drought, as is currently the case, and excessive rainfall.
3. We continue to manage and maintain all the roadside hedges and trees which abut our land. If anyone has any questions about hedgerows and trees, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Likewise on behalf of the Parish Council, we maintain the Public Footpaths. Again, if you have any questions about the Public Footpaths or the Permissive Footpaths, please do not hesitate to be in touch.
4. Fly Tipping. This continues to be a menace and such anti-social behaviour needs to be addressed. If you see anyone fly tipping building materials (especially asbestos or tyres) please be in contact immediately with me or West Suffolk Council. Fly Tippers cost a great deal of money quite aside from being unacceptable from an environmental perspective. For example, it costs us approximately £400 to remove any asbestos waste.
5. Tours. The annual Farm and Woodland Tour at Bradley will take place at 4pm on Saturday, 1st June. All are very welcome but please kindly notify me by email or text if you would like to come. There will also be a Tour at 5.30pm on Friday, 21st June at Broxton - again all are very welcome but please notify me by email or text if you would like to attend.

I am very sorry not to be with you this evening and many thanks John for kindly relaying my various points. I hope you have a wonderful and informative Meeting. Bradley is a wonderful place to live!

Vestey Estate report:

John Barnett said that Tim Barling had apologised but could not be present for the Annual Village Meeting. John Barnett said that the Estate appears to be happy with the way things are organised in Great Bradley. They reacted very quickly when a couple of large tree branches fell blocking the entrance to the Recreation Area and would have caused problems with the delivery of the new Outdoor Gym Equipment. The tree surgeons are returning tomorrow to take the rest of the tree down.

The Bradley Bugle:

Stuart Wilson said that thanks must go as always to the collators and distributors and to the printer. If anyone has any ideas for things they would like to see in the Bugle then just send them through to Stuart. John Barnett said that the income from advertising had gone up very well last year to £530 which covered almost half the cost of the leased printer at £1080.

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 . We have stopped the use of the url www.great-bradley.suffolk.gov.uk All the information from the old site has been transferred to the current one.*
2. *This is the third year since in 2011 the use of the website has decreased.*
3. *The number of*
 - o *sessions decreased 55% (from 4,100 to 2,255)*
 - o *users decreased 60% (from 2995 to 1797)*

o **Page views** decreased by **25%** (from 11,124 to 834)

4. After the home page the most popular pages were (in order): Archive, Farming, Family History, Houses, Parish Council, The Church

5. Reminder: You can book the Hall via the website, but no-one did last year.

5. The website is visited from England and the USA significantly more than anywhere else

6. The technology used remained constant with about 80% of visitors use a desktop/ lap top computer; 17 % used a tablet and 3% used a mobile

7. 95% of mobile visits were via Apple products.

8. The most popular browsers were (in order) Chrome – Safari – Explorer - Firefox f

9x. The significant additions to the web pages include: The Archive (see below) ; the graveyard records more (including photos of all the graves and a copy of the graveyard regards: keeping the events page updated and adding some more arial photos.

Facebook Group

1. The Facebook Group is 4 years old this week! Thanks for the support!

2. At the end of Year 1 there were 180 members; at the end of Year 2, 260, Year 3, 390 and now there are 440. About 70% are women; 98% are based in the UK and 80% are from the local area

3. Posts that are not about Great Bradley are moderated.

4. 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)

5. 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

6. The record of activity on the Facebook Group provided the basis of the report of the village year that was submitted to the Suffolk Local History Society.

Digital Archive

The Parish Clerk successfully applied for funds from the National Lottery to digitise the paper-based archive that the village Archive Group have been cataloguing over a number of years. The funds helped purchase an A4 and A5-sized scanner and a Network Storage Device. The latter forms the village's very own version of 'the cloud' connected to the web so that our documents can be downloaded from the web by anyone who wants to see them. Some of the funding also paid for the time to scan the paper documents, upload them to the web and order them in the appropriate folders.

We now have over 12,000 items in the digital record, including 7,000 images. The main work was completed by November 2018 and demonstrated at the history exhibition

If you haven't looked at the archive then you can find it at

<https://greatbradley.weebly.com/village-archive.html> and if you have any documents related the village, or the people who have lived here, then please let Mike know via

mjb10fg@gmail.com They don't have to be anything special ~ you'd be surprised at how quickly the everyday village and its people change, so it is worth keeping a record of as much as we can.

Litter pick:

John Barnett said that it had been a very successful litter pick with 14 volunteers and lots of litter collected including some from Cambridgeshire! Thanks to all the volunteers who turned out and thanks also to Anne Smith and Helen Bennett for the all the refreshments afterwards.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Caroline Greatbach said that once again, this year as last I am glad to say NHW in this village has very little to report! This of course is a good thing. We are a group of 6 people who meet twice a year for wine, nibbles + to discuss any events in the village. There may well be more wine + nibbles than items to discuss! If you would like to join us you are more than welcome.

As a group we aim to deliver a village guide to any new residents in the community this contains - info on buses, schools, doctors, churches etc

- NHW- the biggest voluntary crime prevention initiative in the UK.
- Concept – the community works in partnership with police to help reduce crime where they live so making communities safer. Suffolk Polices’ new policy states they aim to work with partners (that will include NHW) to focus on early intervention + prevention as being key to their work.
- Aim – to help people protect themselves + their property, to reduce crime, so improving residents’ quality of life.
- To achieve this- NHW share info with police + others.

The facebook site which we asked to be set up initially for us so we could alert other villagers of anything suspicious continued to develop. Many thanks to Bradley Magna for maintaining this on our behalf. It is wonderful to see it used for all different purposes + is bringing the community together - whether it is alerting others of dodgy salesmen in our village, road closures, or even flooding to the most reliable boiler repair men, + even mail that has gone astray!

NHW urge you all to report anything suspicious to the police on 101 or if urgent call 999. One small piece of information provided by any one of us could be a part in the big picture for the police.

Bonfire Night:

Pat Spires reported. Great Bradley Bonfire Night Saturday 3rd November 2018. It was the biggest turn out yet for the Great Bradley Bonfire night no doubt due in part to the discontinuation of the Thurlow event. We definitely saw some new faces and all were welcome. John Barnett estimated that around 350 attended up from approximately 200 last year. As ever people were extremely generous with income on the gate and donations raising £725. I think everyone agreed the Fireworks were fantastic, we get better every year, this was much to the relief of Councillors Helen Bennet and Pat Spires who travelled to the supplier’s demonstration in Chelmsford back in September to choose which fireworks to order.

This year the Village Hall Committee took over the food and drink which was a big help to the Parish Council. Once again it proved very popular with proceeds of over £400.00 going to the VH fund. Fireworks of this type are very expensive and with the Temporary Event notice (selling alcohol) cost £932.87 but thanks to the marvellous donations ended up costing the PC £207.77. Extremely good value for such a popular village event.

It must not be forgotten that events such as this happen because people give their time and expertise for free and a special thank you must go to Charles Ryder and The Ryder Estate for allowing us to use the field again and providing the trailer which Stephen puts on the Rec for 3 weekends before bonfire night. Stephen is also collecting wood from the estate and from villagers who cannot get to the Rec.

Thanks also to the team of Simon Kiddy, Stephen, Stuart Wilson & John Barnett for building the bonfire and who also turn out the next day, along with Tara and Dave Flood, to trawl the entire field for firework debris to make sure it is safe for the cows when they return. We are very lucky to have Dave Flood and his team who set up the firework display and run it so professionally on the night. I think you will all agree they did a fantastic job.

Once again thank you to John for all his hard work, liaising with Dave and Stephen to ensure spectator safety and the overall co-ordination of this event.

Thanks to the Parish Council for organising and marshalling our Big Bonfire Night.

Community Speedwatch and Vehicular Activated Sign:

Speedwatch

John Barnett said thanks go to Anne Smith and Helen Bennett who are an essential part of the Community Speedwatch team. We run a speedwatch around once per month between April and September sometimes with an hour in Cowlinge if they have a volunteer available followed by an hour in Great Bradley. We usually record between 10 -15 drivers at Spring Barn exceeding the limit we are given by the Police of 35mph. The Police are well aware that Great Bradley has a disproportionately high number of speeding motorists and they do come and do radar checks from time to time.

Vehicular Activated Sign

We share the 2 Vehicular Activated Signs with 3 other Parishes – Lt and Gt Thurlow and Gt Wrattling. Currently Gt Wrattling do not have anyone to organise it so we share with only 2 others. This means we have the Vehicular Activated Sign for 2 months out of 3. Research shows that it is most effective when

moved to a different location every 3-4 weeks. We only have 3 poles for the sign at present – 2 at Spring barn facing in different directions and one at the village garden. We don't have one on the northern approach from Burrough Green so one is currently being organised – most likely at the 30mph pole just past Crown House. This will hopefully help to slow vehicles from that direction.

Allotments:

Bob Bennett said that it's going well. There are now 11 allotments in use out of 16. The holders had not yet been asked for any payment for rent last year but Tim Barling of the Vestey Estate has said they will be charged a nominal £1 each. The shed was given another coat of paint by some of the allotment holders who organised a painting party. A Bar-B-Q was organised for the allotment holders which was very successful.

Reports from other village groups/organisations:

W.E.A:

Pete Smith read his report:

We have enjoyed 2 very interesting sessions relating to WW1 and the period between the 2 wars learning about the effect of the war on Europe and events leading up to the outbreak of the second WW.

Personally I found the sessions on the League of Nations particularly interesting with the cultural differences coming out strongly and helping me realise what an almost impossible task it is to agree common ground for Brexit.

September 18 this year sees something completely different with a well liked speaker Andrew Sankey giving us a brief introduction to the formation of the English Garden. We will have a taster week for potential new members provided we gain sufficient support for the class to continue as the new system from WEA necessitates 17 people to commit to the course 6 weeks in advance so as to be able to confirm payment to the tutor. I will be advertising in the Bugle and a newsletter to those who have supported in recent past.

We are a friendly group enjoying the comfort of new chairs and a heating system which keeps us warm and awake - well most of us anyway.

Thank you Bob and the committee for improving an already excellent facility.

Afternoon drop-in:

Anne Smith said that numbers attending are steady and people now come from surrounding villages including 2 from Barnardiston and 2 from Thurlow. They usually meet on the second Thursday of the month. There's tea and cake and a lot of chat. All are welcome.

Art Group:

Pat Spires reported:

We have had another creative year in the Village Hall, as you can tell from the paintings that adorn the walls of our Village Hall. For those of you unfamiliar with our group we are people who just enjoy painting for pleasure. We meet on Tuesday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to paint under the watchful eye of our tutor, professional artist Jan Couling from Ashen, Clare. We are all very different and have varying levels of experience, some of us prefer working with acrylics others pastels, pencils or watercolours, Jan is happy to help and guide us with any medium.

Our term time tends to be from 8 to 10 weeks and we are self-funding so the fees charged must cover the cost of the hall and our tutor. The number of weeks per term will depend on the number of participants. I am pleased to report that we have managed to maintain our numbers this year and have not had to increase the fee's excessively.

Once again we held our exhibition in the Church during the Village Fete and it was extremely popular this year. Due in part, I think, to the church being the coolest place to be on such a hot day!!! At this point I must put on record our thanks to Conrad Hawkins who for many years has supplied the display panels for our exhibition, not only supplying them but bringing them, putting them up and collecting them the following day. Without him we could not have put on such a professional display. A huge thank you, we wish Conrad well in his retirement.

Thanks to The Archive Group and the grant that John managed to obtain for the Group the village now has its own display panels which we used for the last Archive, WW1 Exhibition. Thank you to the Village Hall Committee for their support, we are so lucky to have such a lovely hall for our village activities. Thanks also go to the Parish Council for the grant which will go towards a variety of items for the Art Group over the coming year.

Finally, we are happy to welcome new members so please spread the word.

Scottish Country Dancing Class:

Helen Smith read the report from Ella Hollins:

The class has continued on a Monday afternoon between 2 and 4pm. Numbers have increased so that we usually have at least 12 dancers. Although the physical exercise is important, following the different formations in each dance keeps the mind alert and active too. Mostly the class copes with the complicated dances but on very rare occasions we give up and start afresh the following week when it all seems to come together for some reason. The annual Marie Cure dance held in Wickhambrook WI Hall is always fun and raises a considerable amount of money for the charity. The annual Spring dance in Thurlow Village Hall is coming up on 26th April. Great Bradley Village Hall isn't large enough for the numbers attending sadly but otherwise our hall is a wonderful venue and much appreciated. This class has been running now since 2001 with fluctuating numbers but always enough to continue.

Pilates:

Helen Smith read the report:

Seven years of teaching Pilates on Tuesday nights in the village hall and the class is still going strong. Class numbers have been fairly consistent over the last 12 months with only a couple of spaces in the current block. I am very happy with the Hall facilities, the WiFi seems much improved and everything has been running smoothly. Many thanks to the village hall committee.

Tai Chi:

Alison McCloskey said that Tai Chi Class takes place on Monday mornings from 10.30 for one hour with our instructor Sarah Wright. Classes are usually in 8 weeks blocks and cost £8 per week. Tai Chi combines deep, controlled breathing and relaxation with slow-flowing movements. Originally developed as a martial art in 13th century China, Tai Chi is now practised around the world as a health-promoting exercise. There are several different kinds of the art — we practice Tai Chi for Arthritis, concentrating on movements to strengthen our core and joint stability. We start with a series of warm-up movements, and then usually work on perfecting our first learned 'routine'. We expect to shortly move on to a new one, so will eventually have a few different routines to use. There are usually about eight or nine of us in the class and I think we all find it very relaxing, and at the same time remarkably tricky for something that seems to happen so slowly. Part of the challenge is trying to remember what comes next and we all occasionally find ourselves facing the wrong way or missing 'bits out, but it actually doesn't matter. It's just a lot of fun and good for us too.

Fitness Class:

Alison McCloskey said that they meet on Thursday evenings from 6.30 – 7pm. They are doing a 6 week session and then possibly moving to the Recreation Area when the weather is suitable.

Book Club:

Our book club meets on the first Monday of each month from 7.30pm until 9.30pm in the village hall. We currently have 11 members, three of whom come from Thurlow and the rest from here in Great Bradley. Along with tea and biscuits we review the previous month's book which is usually followed by a lively discussion. The way in which we choose our material is that members will suggest books they would like to read or sometimes books they have already read but would like to share with others. A list is compiled and we collectively choose the next month's book. We can sometimes obtain copies from the mobile library or purchase them ourselves or sometimes we will share copies during the month to keep costs down.

During November last year we had a visit from a well travelled author, Apple Goodly whose first novel 'Fireburn' had been one of our books. Set in the late 1800's It told the story of a young Danish girl returning to her childhood home of St Croix, an island in the Caribbean Sea where she inherited a sugar plantation from her father, shortly after the abolition of white slavery. Although a fictional story, Apple's research of the history of the island and her experience living there made for a very compelling story line along with some very interesting factual information. It was an enjoyable evening where she was very happy to sign copies of her book for us.

Please contact Anne Smith for any further information.

Photography Class:

Nicola Stroud said that the photography club has been going for about six months now and has about ten members. We meet on the third Monday of the month (sharing Monday's with the Book Club which leaves space for a weekly club if needed). The first half of the meeting is spent reviewing the photos the club has taken over the previous month (the theme having been set in the previous meeting). The second half is dedicated to learning something new and one of our members gives a talk/presentation on an aspect of photography.

We are running the Great Bradley Photography Competition this year - the display will take place at the village fete. We have also been asked by the Archive group to photograph the village twenty years on from when it was last recorded in 1999.

John Barnett thanked the organisations for their presence tonight and the information they provided.

WW1 armistice and village archives combined exhibition:

This was very successful with very many visitors and lots of compliments and thanks to all those who helped with the organisation and refreshments.

Speeding in the village:

This had been covered under Mary Evans report from Suffolk County Council.

Recreation Area

John Barnett said:

1. Outdoor Gym equipment now installed and well used. Grants had been obtained to assist from St Edmundsbury Borough Council - £3,500 from their RIGS grants and £500 from Jane Midwood's Locality Budget, £500 from Mary Evans at Suffolk County Council and £1,000 from Havebury.
2. Glade area – Eastern half of the trees have had maintenance last year and the Western half is to be done this year.
3. Royal wedding celebrations were extremely well received and thanks to Borough Councillor Jane Midwood for a grant to assist with this
4. John Barnett thanked all the volunteers who check the play equipment (and also now the outdoor gym equipment) for us weekly.

Village Garden area:

John Barnett thanked the volunteers who keep this area weeded and tidy for us all. Richard Sugg said that they could do with some more bark chips. There are 2 large piles of bark chips near the entrance to the Recreation Area and John Barnett said that was available to anyone who wishes to have some/all.

New footbridge between Clarendale and the Permissive Path to Matthews Lane:

John Barnett said that the new footbridge had been installed at this point and the Parish Council were considering the possibility of another to cross the rather dangerous and slippery ditch onto the verge at Matthews Lane itself.

Big Lunch event:

The next Big Lunch Event is on the Recreation Area on May 19th. All welcome – there will be free food and drink courtesy of the Parish Council.

New Outdoor War Memorial:

John Barnett said that Great Bradley was one of the few villages not to erect an outdoor War Memorial after WW1. There had been a suggestion that this should be rectified and it would have been most appropriate to have achieved this in 2018 as part of the Commemoration of 100 years after the Armistice was signed. However, there had not been time to manage that as well as the exhibition so the project was postponed to 2019. The idea is that there will be a plaque with all the names on and the VHMC has agreed that this can go on the front of the Village Hall. It is designed to commemorate both World Wars and we have the names of all who served and those who died in WW1 but the difficulty now is to ensure we have all the names from WW2 as well. If anyone has any information on this please let John Barnett know.

Any other ideas/problems etc:

Peter Smith said that dog mess on the Recreation Area was starting to be a problem again.

Simon and Antonia Kiddy were thanked for ensuring that the flag days were kept and the flags put up at the Village Hall appropriately.

Jill Rodwell suggested that the Village Hall could have a baby change facility. Bob Bennett said that perhaps the disabled toilet was the best place and he would take the suggestion to the VHMC.

John Barnett thanked everyone for attending the Annual Village Meeting and declared it closed at 9.15pm. Further refreshments were then available for everyone.

Signed:

Chair

date: