

VHMC Chair's Report 2018

In 2016 we did a major paint job and clean of the main hall and foyer, which meant we had a bit less to do in 2017 – but lots of people helped with the painting and cleaning this year.

The Village Hall Committee is now in charge of the tennis courts and I would urge you to make good use of them – they are an excellent facility. As is, the play area, which is very well used and much admired.

Our main achievement this year has been the installation of our new kitchen. The kitchen is much admired and very well used. Thanks to Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County and Bredfield Townlands for their generous grants.

We have had various fundraising events – a quiz, a Christmas Fair, carol singing and a car boot and table top sale. All this money and a lot more will be going to our new extension. We applied for and were granted planning permission for the extension. We have recently applied for a lottery grant and am waiting to hear if we have been successful to move forward to the next phase. We will be applying for other grants as well but we will keep fundraising as it is important that we contribute to the pot. There will be a BBQ, a quiz, Christmas Fair and carols later in the year. In September the Hall was registered to hold a Small Societies Lottery which enabled the Hall to hold a raffle at the Christmas Fair.

Stephen Cook is busy working away on the website and we hope to have that up and running soon. We have moved over to online banking, which makes it much easier and quicker for paying out and in. The Village Hall finances are in a healthy state and we have made a significant saving in electricity costs by changing tariffs.

There are lots of regular users of the village hall – Cotton Club, Youth Club, French Class, Danegeld, Art Class, Scottish Country Dancing, Home Education Group and lots of yoga! As well as one off events, parties, weddings etc.

The Hall has experienced anti-social behaviour - dog fouling and joy riding. Notices have been put up to remind dog owners of their responsibilities and a vehicle barrier has been erected to restrict access to the playing field.

So there is a lot happening in Bredfield Village Hall and it is important that as many people as possible participate in the events, fundraising, work parties etc to make sure that we have a great village hall for many years to come. So if you are interested in becoming a trustee we would be very happy to welcome you to the committee

BREDFIELD TOWNLAND CHARITIES
APM MAY 2018

The Parish Council has the responsibility for overseeing a small charity, Bredfield Townlands. Originally established as a church charity in the early nineteenth century the trusteeship was passed to the Parish Council in 1987. Trustees are drawn from people in the village. Stuart Bellfield is our representative on the charity and I am also a member.

At the last meeting, investments were held worth approximately £32,000 – this money is used to generate dividends and returns, which is usually in the region of £1,000 per annum, and this sum of money is then made available for grants.

The charity has a remit to allow grants to projects which will be for the benefit of the parishioners. In the last twelve months, two grants were made, to the village hall, to assist with the fitting of the new kitchen, and to the Meadow and Orchard for the cost of installing a base for a new storage shed.

BREDFIELD VILLAGE SHOP REPORT TO PC AGM 2018

2017 was yet again another positive trading year for the BVS.

We are never going to be able to compete with the major supermarkets but hopefully we are providing a necessary and positive service to the village.

Turnover is up from 2016 by a staggering £40 to £37,621 and the GPM was 17.3%.

There was a net operating profit in 2017 of £1268 compared with a loss in 2016 of £1364.

This was mainly due to a reduction in repairs and renewals and a £500 reduction in electricity costs due to the new supply regime.

As mentioned at the 2017 PC AGM I had already tendered my resignation as chairman of the shop to my fellow directors to take effect by the end of 2018 at the latest.

However, as most of you are probably aware plans have changed, our house is hopefully sold and Mary and I plan to move to Felixstowe sooner rather than later.

Fortunately a new chairman elect has stepped forward to take my position and is actually chairing this meeting this evening. I am sure that with the support of the directors and committee David will prove to be an excellent leader.

Recently a general shop meeting was held in the Church Room to discuss our departure at which various staff members volunteered to take on the tasks that Mary and I have handled over the years.

I am very grateful to those people and would hope that more will become involved as new ideas are the lifeblood of any organisation.

2019 will be the 30th anniversary of the inception of the shop, the second community shop to be established in Suffolk, and I trust that even with the changes in village demographics and modern shopping habits that a further 30 years are possible.

BREDFIELD BOWLS CLUB

It seems like only yesterday I was thinking another season gone when here comes another crashing along at fantastic speed. The ubiquitous question "Where does the time go ?" can be answered with a broad grin. "Australia: for two months !"

Over the winter the membership has not been sitting on its collective laurels; we now have two cookers and upgraded wiring in the kitchen which will help make our dinners even more adventurous and attractive. Encouraged by the popularity of the monthly quizzes the bar is sporting a new Chiller / Display Cabinet and the Shed shelter is ready to accommodate smokers or fresh-air fiends for the 2018 season. The Sprinkler Fund has swelled to such proportions that Quotations have been requested and ancillary works have been planned for the autumn. New permanent, retractable, spray-heads will be piped from an additional water tank and the Green's ditches will be reinforced with breeze blocks and covered with AstroTurf (Andy / Mark what's the proper wording here please ?). To keep the Club House cosy new portable heaters will be purchased for the coming winter (let's hope it is not as ferocious as the last one !).

We will be participating in the same three Leagues as last year (Samford, Ipswich and Woodbridge), demanding the defence of some seventy Home and Away matches. Additionally we will be accommodating four Home Open Pair Tournaments, four Away Pair Tournaments Open, three Open Triple Tournaments and some (relatively) relaxing Friendlies.

On a more personal note, I have decided to relinquish the position of Chairman, which I have held for three years. I have decided to play indoor bowls on a full-time basis and will remain as a Social Member of Bredfield Bowls Club. In October we will be holding our AGM and we invite all our members to come along and help shape the Club's future.

Report for BJMO - AGM 2018

If there is a theme it is for 'New' this current Year!

Wildflower Meadow

Since April last year the ID system, and the 'special interest' publications have been fully developed and are in regular use in the shelter. It was threatened at one stage late in the summer but thanks to the volunteer team it has been carefully mended – and is smart again now and back in action in spite of winds earlier this year that have moved the entire shelter from its concrete plinth but thankfully without blowing it over!

There has been concern since the end of last growing season at the proportion of 'weed' and also of the threat from the scrub re-growth at the base of the hedges; Fleabane and Blackthorn the major culprits so far. So to counter this the maintenance plan this year is changed - SWT have offered their advice of cutting (topping) the meadow twice this year to see if this can help. It will be done just after the main flowering is over – and cuttings will be collected immediately; followed by the usual end of season topping during October but no later so that any unwanted growth will be stopped. Tracey Housley of SWT will be visiting with Ben Calvesbert who has Topped the meadow since we began, so we are in expert hands.

In addition there will be a new regular visitor to the Meadow, Laurie Forsyth [some of you may already know his work, he publishes quite a lot in local magazines, as well as the Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust]. Laurie has offered to visit regularly and to act as our Recorder for this season. This is really helpful as our new in-house Recorder- Stewart Belfield - has just had a new knee! But we welcome him to the Committee officially today as well. It is really helpful to have these expert visitors at this stage because the different wildflowers all have different needs and our special marsh helleborine likes to grow in open land so if we can stop the threat from the encroaching weeds and scrub we are 'helping' it in the best way. If we left the meadow developing entirely 'naturally' just now then this new very rapid and successful growth would rob the wildflowers of their supply of light and water.

We have a Wildflower Walk Event arranged for this year – it will be on the weekend of June 16/17th in the morning, and will be led by Laurie Forsyth. (Details of time and which day will be on Noticeboards and on the Website just as soon as we know.)

There will be the usual well-mown pathway through the field and the wildflower sward. We have a new Volunteer Mower – Keith Derham has offered to start this off this year, but we shall also need a few other volunteers on a list please. If you are interested please will you let one of us know... a wonderful job on a summer's evening....? Even if you find you can only do it once – you will be playing your part, and we shall all be grateful!

Orchard: New News

One of the trees died last year, a cherry – and this has now been replaced by a Cider Apple. There has altogether been a great deal of work done in the Orchard – you will notice I'm sure. The base of every single tree has been cleared and weeded – thanks from each of us goes to Paul W – thank you; and also for being the single member of the Work Party earlier last month! It was a particularly nasty day – but it was surprising that no one even asked if the Party was postponed? We shall suggest a new date soon and Advertise it - once the weather is settled into a better pattern! It will be a very different year for the Meadow as we shall be starting a new Maintenance plan under the gaze of SWT – of 2 toppings during the growing season to influence the fierce recent growth of weeds and underscrub.

There is a new owl box up now – and reports of sightings of owls visiting already!

When we started in 2013 it was with the help and mentoring of Paul Read and the STOG (Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group) – well this has now become something 'new'.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund Orchards East has arrived based at Norwich UEA in the History Dept. This is led by Professor Tom Williamson, a Landscape Historian and a very active team who are launching so far in Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Essex. I had the chance to go to the Essex launch in Marks Tey and met the Team – a v interesting day; including a visit to an unusual Orchard called Crape at Marks' Tey. They are looking for Volunteers of all sorts – to survey locally in their own parishes, to take oral histories and to plot individual orchards and scattered orchards of all sorts. All of this will involve training and support – and do please contact them directly, they will be charming; lively and laughing a lot!

Project Manager – Howard Jones email h.jones@uea.ac.uk and Gen Broad (Survey co-ordinator) whom many of you already know: g.broad@uea.ac.uk There is a Spring Newsletter available to everyone – do just ask. As I write there is blossom appearing on several trees.... the weather does not allow photos just at the moment(!) – but once the wind calms and the rains stop we can all be Out There feeling the delight of new growth!!

General Meadow Life - ongoing:-

1. Green Flag Award – we hope this will be granted again this year. A Judge will visit and check on last year's critique and I understand will make themselves known to us. Last year it was a mystery visit – so unfortunately we couldn't have a chance to explain our maintenance and were reduced to an amber result which means we are under pressure to 'do better'!

2. Mowing walking pathways – Please sign up to this.... We only need a few people on a list – it will not be a large commitment, and is entirely voluntary. Talk to anyone on the Committee or specifically to Keith Derham, who has kindly offered to start us off this season.
3. Work Party - we shall need more than one this year and will keep you informed of dates and details. Please will you keep us informed of your contact details – any new changes to emails or addresses are Really important to us and also if you do not make use of the Website just let us know and we can put all the information available in the Shop or deliver a paper version if you would like....
4. Structure – over the years we have developed a few Regular Events and should like to build on these.

Wildflower Walks – accompanied by botanical and biodiversity local Experts –

June, July

Juicing - we hope to extend this to more than one Day this year; we shall need help

And will keep in touch about developments

Winter season – we hope to begin later this year with an Event in the Village Hall

Involving a Food Historian who can deliver us a lecture punctuated with freshly

Prepared Foodstuffs!!

More of this later.... !!

5. We are so lucky as a Village to have this resource and I urge you to visit it and own it – it belongs to us all, and each of has a place there. Thankyou to so many people..... they know who they are.....

15.04.2018