



Earl Stonham Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham, at 7pm on Monday, 13th May 2019

PRESENT:

Cllr C Woods - *Chairman*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Blackburn - *Clerk*

14 members of the public were present including Parish Councillors and invited representatives.

ES01/19/20 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Earl Stonham Parish Council, Cllr Colin Woods, welcomed those present.

ES02/19/20 - APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Police and the Bowls Club.

ES03/19/20 - MINUTES 14th MAY 2018

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 14th May 2018, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

ES04/19/20 – GUEST SPEAKER – PHIL ISOBEL – PLANNING AUTHORITY

Mr Isobel, Acting Chief Planning Officer discussed with those present the generalities of planning procedures.

Questions were asked in relation to particular applications that were similar, but where one had been granted and one refused and why that was the case.

Mr Isobel made the following points:

- Each application would be considered individually as each case was factually different.
- Officers would make decisions based on how far applications would be from amenities.
- The re-use of barn conversions into dwellings would always be looked upon favourably.
- There was more flexibility in the Government's policies over planning than had been previously.
- Planning policies were different for those applications for new dwellings to those that were refurbishments.

It was raised by one resident that he felt Earl Stonham needed more housing in order to attract younger occupants instead of it becoming a village for the older generations to which Mr Isobel replied that the Local Plan was in the process of being drawn up and would be an opportunity for Parishes to say where they would suggest houses could be built.

ES05/19/20 - REPORTS RELATING TO THE PARISH

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and, where received, their reports would be attached to the Minutes.

- a) **Earl Stonham Parish Council** – *Cllr Colin Woods*

Cllr Woods reported that there had been a lot to deal with over the past year which had included challenges with footpaths where land owners had not sprayed off their land causing issues for footpaths and their users.

Cllr Woods thanked Cllr Heard for his work in replacing the wooden posts around the Village Green and also to the Clerk, Jennie Blackburn, for all her work over the past year.

b) **Mid-Suffolk District Council – Cllr Suzie Morley**

Cllr Morley was not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

c) **Suffolk Police**

The Police were not present at the meeting and had not submitted a report.

d) **Report of the Church / Parochial Church Council – Cllr H Stanford**

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Stanford read through his report.

e) **Village Hall Management Committee – Tony Turner**

(Full report attached to these minutes)

Mr Turner read through his report.

f) **WI – Lindsey Stone**

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Lindsey read through her report.

g) **Earl Stonham Trustees – Jennie Griffiths**

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Jennie read through her report.

h) **Cricket Club – Simon Edgar**

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Edgar was not present at the meeting but a report was submitted.

i) **Bowls Club – Kate Bryant**

The Bowls Club were not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

j) **Over 60's Club – Joan Rice**

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Rice was not present at the meeting but a report was submitted.

k) **Website – Chris Hamilton**

Mr Hamilton reported that the website had been visited 300 times per month approximately, with the Recorder, Welcome Pack and Minutes of meetings being viewed the most. The next step would be for the website to be responsive to mobiles.

l) **Suffolk County Council - Cllr Matthew Hicks**

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Hicks read through his report.

- m) Footpaths – *Jen Henderson-Hamilton*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Henderson-Hamilton read through her report.

ES06/19/20 - PUBLIC FORUM

No issues raised.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman Date

PCC Report notes for Earl Stonham Annual Parish Meeting

1. Personnel changes:
 - Rev d Barbara Gallagher and Ian moved to Northamptonshire in September 2018
 - Christine Edgar retired as Reader during the year
 - Gerald Stedman retired as Lay Elder during the year.
2. Ministerial team:
 - Philip Payne (based in Stonham Aspal) continues as priest-in-charge (in charge of 8 parishes/10 villages)
 - Frankie Wicks continues as Lay Pastor
 - Henry Stanford continues as Reader - Jane Porch continues as Lay Elder
3. Churchwardens:
 - Mark Parry succeeded Ian Gallagher as churchwarden
 - Jane Porch continues as churchwarden
4. Visiting personnel
 - ReVd Bernie Rose (previously priest-in-charge of the South Bosmere parishes) now regularly takes communion service at Earl Stonham on 1st Sunday of each month
 - Ruth Dennigan (licensed Reader and on diocesan staff in a training role) also takes services
5. Regular pattern of services (all at 11 a.m.)
 - 1st Sunday — Holy Communion
 - 2nd Sunday — Matins
 - 3rd Sunday — Holy Communion
 - 4th Sunday — Together on Sunday

 - 5th Sunday (usually at 10 a.m.) — usually a united service in one of the 8 churches (NB No longer an 8 a.m. service)
 - Midweek: Tuesdays at 8.30 a.m. — Morning Prayer in Church
 - 2nd at 4th Wednesdays at 10 a.m. — Holy Communion in Parish Room
6. New initiatives
 - bell ringing group
 - Bible study group
 - (please contact Henry Stanford if interested)
7. Dates for diaries
 - Sunday 26th May 3 p.m. walk to Stonham Parva for Rogation Service at 4 p.m. then back to Parish Room for tea
 - Sunday 30th June at 6.30 p.m. — Choral Evensong at Earl Stonham - Sunday 13th October — Harvest Festival
8. Suggestions/involvement welcome — your parish church!
9. Copies of Annual Report available

EARL STONHAM WITH STONHAM PARVA PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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EARL STONHAM WITH STONHAM PARVA PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the above presents the Annual Report for the year 2018. The report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act of 1993.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Mary's Church, Earl Stonham with Stonham Parva.

**Correspondence address: The Rectory, The Street, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket
IP14 6AQ**

Telephone: (01449) 711684 email address:
revphilippayne@btinternet.com

The PCC is a charity exempt from registration with the Charity Commission.

The Sunday School Trust administers funds originating from the sale of the village school, which are used for the purposes of Christian Education within the parish of Earl Stonham. It is separate from the PCC with the Rector and the Churchwardens as trustees.

Bank: Santander UK plc.

Independent Examiner: Chris Oliver

Address: 1, Meadow View, Needham ~~Market~~

pcc OFFICERS AND MEMBERS AS OF APRIL 2018

Revd Philip Payne (Priest in charge)*

Barbara Gallagher (Assistant Priest, left September 2018)

Ian Gallagher (Churchwarden, left September 2018)

Mr Henry Stanford (Reader)*

~~Mrs Diane Hurt (Lay Vice~~ Mrs Jane Porph (Elder and

~~Mrs Maggie Pord (Dean~~ Churchwarden)* chair)

• Deanery Synod rep)*

Mrs Frankie Wicks (Lay Minister and Deanery Synod rep)* Mr

John Jones (Treeeurer)

~~Mr Annie Skinner~~

Mrs Caroline Shield (Secretary)

~~Mr Mark Perry~~ (Churchwarden elected October 2018)*

~~Mr Mike Dawe~~

Mrs Christine Edgar (Reader, retired during 2018)

~~Mr Gerald Stedman (Elder retired during 2018)~~

**ex officio*

COMMITTEES

The PCC has the following sub-committees:

Fabric Committee: John Jones, Mike Dawe, Mark Parry

Standing Committee: Revd. Philip Payne, Jane Porph, Mark Parry, John Jones, Caroline Shield, Diane Hurt

Social Committee: Frankie Wicks, Diane Hurt, Annie Skinner, Caroline Shield

THE PARISH TEAM

Priest in Charge: Revd Philip Payne

(01449) 711684

Lay Minister: Mrs Frankie Wicks

(01449) 711222

Reader: Mr Henry Stanford

(01449) 711742

Churchwarden and Elder: Mrs Jane Porph

(01449) 711210

• Churchwarden: Mr Mark Parry (01449)

711816

Secretary: Mrs Caroline Shield (01449)

711584

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC has 12 members (ex officio and elected) and the electoral roll had 52 names on it for 2018. The PCC has met 9 times in the year, in addition to the Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Meeting, which was held on Wednesday 1 Ith April 2018.

Discussions at PCC Meetings included: Safeguarding, coffee & cake in the village hall, Quinquennial report, Lighting in church, Growing in God, Worship Themes, New signs, GDPR, Grapevine magazine, Armistice day, Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. Caroline Shield

INCUMBENTS REPORT - PARISHES OF NORTH BOSMERE

The structure of our group of 8 parishes remains unchanged. However, in late December we were advised that the Proposed Reorganization was now being staffed by the Church Commissioners and the draft scheme is out to consultation. Assuming that the scheme goes ahead, at a date in 2019 yet to be confirmed, the 8 parishes should be formally constituted as a single, 8-parish legal Benefice.

Ministry Team. In September 2018 Rev Barbara Gallagher left to take up an appointment in Peterborough Diocese.

Worship. The pattern of worship remained broadly unaltered across the 8 parishes for 2018. Special services continue to attract additional interest, especially when supported by personal invitations and/ or additional publicity. The departure of Rev Barbara necessitated a review of weekly patterns of worship. Apart from Christmas, the resulting changes were introduced for 2019.

Schools. Parish clergy continue to visit both schools (Creting St Mary and Stonham Aspal) to conduct assemblies and provide other support. Both schools hold acts of worship in their respective parish churches at least once per term whilst I, as incumbent, sit on the governing bodies of both schools

Buildings. Our buildings remain an important community resource. The focus of that resource varies from village to village. For one the church is a social hub, for another a palace of quiet contemplation, for another it is the church hall which provide the hub. For all our communities the building provides, albeit at different ways, a spiritual focal point both for family stepping points for family and community activates (such as for baptisms, weddings and funerals) and for community celebrations (such as Christmas, Harvest and Remembrance). The challenge that faces us all is linking this focus for the special event with the ongoing round of worship and fellowship in a way that builds and sustains community.

On a practical basis, maintaining 8 listed medieval places of worship remains a daunting and never-ending task. Detail reports on individual buildings, as required, will be given by the church warden or other designated person on an individual parish basis. Broadly speaking our buildings are sound at present, though all require work of some sort. I would like to pay tribute to all who contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings, recognizing that many contributions of time, expertise and money come from members of the wider community who would not count themselves as regular worshippers. This is just one example of the connection between the Sunday worshipping community and the wider community of which we are a part.

Statistics. Inevitable in any report I just note that in 2018, across our 8 parishes we hosted 8 baptisms, 7 weddings, and 30 funerals.

Rev'd Philip Payne Priest-in-Charge

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding continues to be on the PCC Agenda for every meeting with prominent notices with contact details displayed in the Church and the Parish Room.

During the year almost all the members of the PCC have completed their basic training and those with specific roles have attended appropriate courses.

Frankie Wicks has continued as Safeguarding Officer and keeps a record of training done.

Ian Gallagher has been replaced by Mark Parry as Churchwarden. Barbara Gallagher is no longer a licensed/accredited minister in this parish and Christine Edgar has retired.

Safeguarding in your parish — who's who?

The Incumbent/priest in charge Rev Philip Payne 01449 711684

The churchwardens Mark Parry 01449 711816 Jane Porch 01449 711809

The Parish Safeguarding Officers Mrs Frankie Wicks 01449 711222

The team of licensed/accredited ministers Mr Henry Stanford 01449 711742 Mrs Frankie Wicks 01449 711222

Mrs Jane Porch 01449 711809 Mr Mark Parry 01449 711816

Hall managers and bookers Mrs Frankie Wicks 01449 711222

Who will you talk to if you observe or are told about Safeguarding concerns?

Any of the above

In case of emergency where harm may come 999

Concerns of harm

Suffolk County Council Customer First 0808 8004005

Suffolk Police 101/01473 613500

If against a member of the clergy, to the Diocesan Bishop Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor 01638 718939 NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Childline 0800 1111

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre 0808 1000 900 <http://ceop.police.uk/> Women's Aid and Refuge Crisis National Helpline 0808 2000 247

Frankie Wicks

Safeguarding officer

FABRIC REPORT

2018 was a year of transition as we said goodbye to Ian and Barbara Gallagher. As well as being a Churchwarden, Ian was largely responsible for looking after the fabric of our church, so huge thanks to him for all he has done and the strong position he leaves us in. He spent a large amount of time and effort handing over to me as I shadowed him, both on fabric and Churchwarden duties, so I hope to be able to continue Ian's good work in both fields.

After receiving quotes for replacing the lighting we decided on a simpler approach of repairing and upgrading the existing fittings to take modern LED bulbs. Thanks to Tony Fowler's expertise and application in sourcing components and modifying the fittings this was achieved by just ourselves and with no disruption to the fabric. Ladder support was ably provided by John Jones and Mike Dawe. The highlight, quite literally, for me was a powered ascension to the very high points of the crossing with Tony, followed by a victory lap driving the hired scissor lift along the nave and down the church path. We now have a fully lit church for the first time for some time. Huge thanks to Tony Fowler without which this simply would not have been possible. The new LED bulbs should also decrease future maintenance.

There have been no other repairs carried out. There is a cracked pane in one of the nave leaded lights and a recommended craftsman has provided a quote for repair.

There was an issue with the roof alarm and our apologies go to any of our neighbours who may have been disturbed. The physical problem was resolved by the alarm company. An overflowing gutter and downpipe was noted during one nocturnal visit and clearing this is in hand.

MYGroup continues to carry out an annual check and clean of the roof, guttering and drains.

The annual inventory check was carried out once more and the inventory updated.

The churchyard has been kept tidy by means of working parties and individuals, particularly John Bull, all of whom have given kindly of their time. His efforts have been in part rewarded with a newer mower to drive, as the old one failed beyond economic repair. It would be helpful if all users of the churchyard ensure they place their refuse in the correct, clearly labelled bins.

Large thanks continue to be due to John Jones and Tony Fowler for the considerable time and effort they have put into helping maintain the church building, the Parish Room and the churchyard.

It remains a matter of concern that Stonham Parva is not able to be used for our occasional services nor receive visitors due to a roof problem. We hope the Churches Conservation Trust will be able to repair it soon so everyone can continue to enjoy this special place. Pending restitution we have taken advantage of the hiatus to use the A frame noticeboard purchased by the PCC for Stonham Parva to display services for Earl Stonham.

Mark Parry
Churchwarden

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY

2018 was a year of changes in our Church and these were felt by the community.

The most obvious change was that Ian and Barbara Gallagher moved to Northamptonshire so that Barbara could take up a post as Priest-in-charge of Weedon and adjacent parishes with House-for-Duty. They left in late August.

At the same time Christine Edgar retired as Reader after more than 20 years service. Gerald Stedman retired as an Elder earlier in the year after special presentations.

Mark Parry became churchwarden following Ian Gallagher's move. Jane Porch continued as the other Warden.

The service marking the Gallagher's move and Christine's retirement brought a large congregation and was followed by a shared afternoon tea served in church. This went so well that we celebrated Harvest Festival similarly with a shared lunch also in church. People enjoyed both and felt more at home in the building and with friends old and new.

Another special occasion was the long-awaited laying and dedication of a stone in the churchyard 'In memory of babies with no known grave. Each one is precious in God's sight.' This happened appropriately on Mothering Sunday.

Our annual Day of Prayer was held in Stonham Parva Church as there was a bell-ringing event at Earl Stonham Church that day. Sadly a beam fell from the roof at Stonham Parva Church later in the year and the carol service there had to be cancelled. We wait for the Churches Conservation Trust to repair this but the building has to remain closed until then.

We continued to serve the community by doing 'Coffee and Cake' in the Village Hall regularly and take our turns producing Library Lunches. Both are much appreciated. There is also much Church involvement in events raising money for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. These included a huge Hullabaloo as well as many Pub Nights and Quizzes. We certainly cannot be described as a 'holy huddle down the hill' as was the case in the past.

Frankie Wicks

ST MARY'S BELLS REPORT

I regret to say very little has happened this past year owing to having only two ringers in the band at the present time. We try to ring for the festivals and weddings with the help of ringers from other towers.

Margaret Cherry

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

We continued to be represented by Maggie Podd and Frankie Wicks and Rev Philip Payne. John Jones was serving as Deanery Organiser.

There were two speakers at the January Synod meeting. The first was Sue Vincent of the Alzheimer's Society. She summarised the work of the Alzheimer's Society. Everyone present was encouraged to register online or complete a postcard to become a Dementia Friend. The second was a presentation by Craig Hutton, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer and Training Coordinator. Craig spoke about changes to Safeguarding regulations and the need for all people who have roles within the church to undertake training.

The May meeting was held at our Parish Room. Maureen Reynel MBE from FIND (Families in Need) gave a very interesting and moving talk about how FIND was set up and the work that it does within our Deanery and beyond. FIND relies on donations and on average distributes 70 food parcels via the Food Bank every week.

October Talk by Jenny Seggar, Spiritual Director and Sarah Lock, Lay Director from Cursillo. Small groups of Christians meet across the Diocese to encourage and support each other through prayer, study and action.

In November Bosmere and Stowmarket Deaneries hosted a Growing in God Roadshow at Trinity Church School, Stowmarket, which was attended by Rev Philip Payne, Henry Stanford and Maggie Podd.

As Deanery organiser, John Jones continued to report on financial shortfalls for the Deanery and Diocese. We had updates from the Diocesan and General Synods.

Maggie Podd
Deanery Synod rep

TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2018 we achieved a surplus of £1,884 on our Unrestricted Funds, despite incurring unexpectedly high maintenance costs and paying an additional voluntary contribution of £1,000 on top of our agreed Centenary Share. This was accomplished thanks to a once-only boost to our Gift Aid tax recovery, owing to timing changes resulting from the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme.

At the start of the year we implemented the Parish Giving Scheme and the majority of our monthly standing order donors have moved over to the new system. As well as reclaiming and paying to us the Gift Aid tax every month rather than annually, it makes my work easier and has the added advantage that donors can opt for annual RPI increases if they wish.

Expenses in total came to 228,000, in line with our budget. Maintenance costs were more than we anticipated, thanks to a large bill for replacing two roof alarm sensors but these were offset by small savings under a number of other headings.

Unrestricted reserves at the year end amounted to 221,800. Our budget for 2019 envisages a deficit, but, if all goes according to plan, reserves should still be around £20,000 at the end of the year. This is more than we need to hold, but the Fabric Fund balance is quite low at £4,800 and if significant repairs are needed we may have to fund them partly from Unrestricted Funds.

During the year we purchased a new mower for the churchyard at a cost of £4,425. This was partly funded by part-exchanging the old machine for £1,000, a generous donation of £1,000 and a grant of

£1,050 (covering the last three years) from the Parish Council. We are going to write off the new machine over seven years, charging £632 per annum to the Churchyard Fund.

The Designated Fund, of £2,300 from the Atherton Bequest, was created to be used for enhancements to the church fabric or furnishings. So far none of this has been spent.

Collections for charities were held monthly throughout the year and an impressive total of £5,073 was raised. The collections are planned at the start of each year and we try to achieve a balance between church-based and secular charities, and between home and overseas.

I should like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has again been so generous, supporting both our charity collections and the church's running costs, thus making the Treasurer's job easy and free from anxiety.

John Jones
Treasurer

Earl Stonham Village Hall Annual Report – 2018-19

Another busy year at the hall with increased usage including regular pub, quiz and computer club evenings organised by the hall committee.

We had hoped to progress the main hall refurbishment this year, but the planned costs have increased substantially and means that even assuming we can get the grants we expect, we are still left with a £5k - £10k shortfall, hence the continued fund raising activity to close the gap. Hopefully a start will be possible during the coming year with the work staged to keep the hall available for use as much as possible.

On a brighter note, quite a few things have been improved over the last year including the addition of a substantial storage shed at the back of the hall that will enable lesser used items to be stored as well as some of the chairs so making more room in the main hall. As part of this work, the emergency exit route from the back corridor has been improved and the one adjacent to the stage will soon be completed. Other improvement areas have included the purchase of new lighter weight tables for the main hall and the CCTV system has been upgraded to improve hall security.

Regular pub evenings have continued with a different theme for the food each month. Quiz evenings have gone from strength to strength resulting in them out-growing the space in the club room and are now held in the main hall. Thanks to David Wicks and Norman Davis for sharing the role of quizmaster. Whilst on the subject of events, in February we hosted 'Chocks Away' playing music from the 40s to the 60s and with demonstration dancers to show everyone the steps. This was very successful, with nearly everyone there up on the dance floor at one point!

The Computer Club still holds regular meetings and provides a learning environment for new computer users together with expert advice and assistance with any computer problems. Help is on hand for Windows, Apple and Android platforms, as well as on more general topics like computer backups, security etc.

Bookings have continued to be very buoyant with usage increasing year on year with a number of long term regular bookings. Unfortunately, costs have also increased and we have therefore reluctantly made a small increase in rental charges this year.

EARL STONHAM TRUST

Annual Report 2017- 2018

Charity Name and Number:

Earl Stonham Trust – Charity number 213006

Correspondence address:

Mrs J Griffiths, Cornfields, Wicks Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5HL (or any of the Trustees).

Trustees:

The current Trustees are Mr C.Woods (Chairman), Mrs S.Budd and K.Wilkinson (who are nominated by the Parish Council) and P.Hurt (Treasurer) Mrs J.Griffiths (Secretary) and B.Rice (who are co-opted) and Mrs F.Wicks (the Church Nominative Trustee).

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Mill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

J.M.Jones FCA, Hines Farm, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket, IP14 5HQ

History, objectives and activities of the Trust

On 6 November 1984, a scheme was approved and established by the Charity Commission. The effect of the scheme was to amalgamate three previously separate charities. The scheme permits the Trustees to distribute income only. This has to be applied in defraying the cost of management of its property and other administrative expenses. Thereafter, one half has to be applied for relief in need and the other half for educational purposes. Any surplus income may be applied for any charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Earl Stonham. In general, the beneficiaries have to be residents of Earl Stonham. The Trustees are also charged with the management of the Recreation Ground. A new scheme dated 8.10.09 was approved by the Charity Commissioners; this confirmed the official name of the Charity, authorised the transfer of all the land owned by the Trust at the Recreation Ground into the name of the Official Custodian for Charities and authorised the Trustees to enter into a lease of the Bowls Club site. The formal lease to the Bowls club was completed 26th November 2010 and expired 25.11.2017 with the Bowls Club continuing the lease for a further two years . The scheme was further amended 25.6.15 to permit the appointment of a Church Nominative Trustee in place of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge as an ex officio Trustee.

Management and governance arrangements

The scheme provides for 7 Trustees. Three are nominated by the Earl Stonham Parish Council (who serve for 4 years), three are co-opted by the remaining Trustees (who serve for 5 years) and the seventh is appointed as above. The Trustees meet quarterly.

Procedures and policy for grant making

Applications for grants are considered at Trustees meetings. The appropriate form of application can be accessed on the Village Website. In addition, the Trustees, from their knowledge of the inhabitants of Earl Stonham, try to identify other potential beneficiaries.

Financial Report and performance of the Trust

In the year 2017/18 the Trust's expenditure was significantly down on 2016/7 and shows a surplus carried forward for potential future requirements. This was mainly due to the reduced need to spend money on 1 Guildhall Cottage, plus a reduction in overall Grant expenditure.

Income was only slightly up on the previous year due to small increases in investment returns and rental income.

The Trust gave Grants for the Village Hall refurbishment, Cricket Club and the Parish Council (Jubilee Bench). The Grants for Education and Needy Parishioners was very much in line with 2016/17.

The Trustees continue to seek worthy applications for Grants relating to the conditions of the Constitution.

In accordance with previous practice, the Trustees considered the report from professional Playground Inspectors organised by MSDC on the safety of the Recreation Ground Play Equipment; all their recommendations were of a low priority. Pigeon spikes have been fitted to the swing top beams to prevent bird mess on the swing seats.

The Trust purchased a new, weather proof seat for the recreation ground to replace the old, rotten wooden one.

Investment policy and reserves

The permanent endowment of the Trust consists of the Recreation ground, the cottage and investments. The Trustees have continued to retain their investments through collective investment schemes. As at 30 September 2018, these investments continued to show a healthy increase over their original purchase price (more than double). As mentioned above, they are mindful of the fact that the Cottage is an old building that needs constant maintenance and expenditure.

Independent Examiner

The Trustees intend to ask the existing Examiner to undertake the independent examination of the Trust in 2018-19 and express their thanks to him for his work in 2017-18.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Mr. C.Woods

EARL STONHAM OVER 60'S

(The Golden Circle)

The speaker at our March meeting was Malcolm Taylor who spoke about the work of the charity - Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Hearing dogs are trained to respond to important sounds and danger signals such as the doorbell, alarm clock and smoke alarm. The dogs give confidence to deaf people, particularly children who are sometimes too frightened to sleep alone. With the aid of slides and several short videos it was an inspiring and, at times emotional talk.

In April our speaker Michael Wabe dressed as Brother Michael, a fighting monk in the year 1175. He described life in medieval England at the time of feudalism. We were shown some of the pottery used in those days and also weapons of the time when he was telling us the story of 1066 and all that.

In May, for our first outing of the year we visited the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum at Neatishead. The museum consists of over 20 exhibition rooms describing the history of air defence and the development of Radar plus presentations which told the story of how Radar helped win the Battle of Britain and defended the skies during the Cold War.

If you would like to hear more about our visits to the whisky distillery at Roudham in June, our cruise on the Deben followed by time in Felixstowe in August and a trip to Norwich Castle in September, please contact Joan on 711294. Visitors to any of the Club's activities are always welcome.

Programme for 2019

Jun 5 th	Whisky Distillery, Roudham, Norfolk
Jul 3 rd	Birthday Party, Stowmarket Golf Club
Aug 7 th	Deben River Cruise
Sep 4 th	Norwich Castle
Oct 2 nd	Harvest Festival, Salvation Army
Nov 6 th	AGM & Quiz
Dec 5 th	Christmas Party

Vera Ivory

The past year has seen a good amount of repair and renewing of bridges and finger posts. The latter showing their age, the wooden posts rotting at the base making re-erection impossible by a Footpath committee member. We therefore have to wait our turn for a new one to be supplied and fitted by Highways.

We also have two stiles that give us cause for concern on the Blue Route from the A1120 and onto the A140 from the field.

It was brought to the Parish Councils attention at the November meeting that the Finger Post on Blacksmith's Lane was pointing in the wrong direction. Councillor Woods reported in the Recorder the reasons for the change. In these days of transparency we have to get these matters addressed. We know it is hard to understand why we now have to walk across a field of crops when most of us have been walking around the edge of the field for as long as we can remember.

The two village walks led by Tony Stevens have continued to be well attended and amazingly both been blessed with good weather.

Spring always brings the problem of fast growing vegetation, nettles and brambles being the worst. If you have a problem gaining access to any of our footpaths please get in touch with any parish councillor and we shall do our best to clear the way.

Thank you to Lindsey Stone for always having the kettle on at the end of the walk when we can rest our feet but continue our conversations.

Jennifer Henderson-Hamilton