



# Toppesfield Parish Council



## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 At The Village Hall, Toppesfield - 7.30pm

### 16/98. Attendance and Apologies for Absence:

#### The following Councillors were in attendance:

Councillor Andrew Bull  
Councillor Dave Dyson  
Councillor Mike James  
Councillor Linda Bowen  
Councillor Andrea Chinery  
Councillor Alan Preston  
Councillor Paul Thompson

#### Also in attendance:

Kaaren Berry – Clerk to the Parish Council  
Ginny & Fran Laskowski – Village Hall Committee  
Anne Read – Community Shop, Footpaths and Flower Show  
Paul Thompson – LARG  
Brian Moody – St Margaret of Antioch Parish Church  
Andy Howells – Toppesfield Community Pub  
Andrea Chinery – Little Chestnuts Pre-School  
Nick Hasler – Toppesfield Cricket Club  
Alan Collard – Pumphouse Community Brewery  
Rob Stafford-Baker – Toppesfield & Gainsford End Allotments  
Zoe Hughes – Little Hedgehogs, Fit Fun Club, The Golden Chestnuts and Arts & Craft Club

#### Apologies were received from

Tony Davison – Toppesfield Parish Charities and Margaret Dyson – Doctors Car Service.

### 16/99. Parish Council Annual Report from the Chairman:

Andrew Bull gave his report – see attached appendix A.

### 16/100. Organisations / group Reports:

Reports were received from various organisations.

Ann Read gave reports on behalf of the Toppesfield Community Shop and The Village show - see appendix B.

Andy Howells gave a report on behalf of Toppesfield Community Pub – see appendix C.

Ginny Laskowski gave a report on behalf of the Toppesfield Village Hall Committee – see appendix D.

Councillor Andrew Bull read out a report from Margaret Dyson on behalf of the Doctors Car Service – see appendix E.

Councillor Andrew Bull read out the report from Tony Davison on behalf of the Toppesfield Charities and their accounts. For Tony's report see appendix F. A copy of the accounts can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Brian Moody gave a report on behalf of St Margaret of Antioch parish Church – see appendix G.

Andrea Chinery from Little Chestnuts Pre-School gave their report - see Appendix H.

Zoe Hughes gave a report for Little Hedgehogs Parent & Toddlers – see appendix I.

Nick Hasler gave a report on behalf of Toppesfield Cricket Club and submitted their accounts – see appendix J.

Alan Collard gave a report on behalf of Pumphouse Community Brewery Ltd. – see appendix K.

Andy Howells gave a report on behalf of the Red Barrows – see appendix L.

Ann Read gave a report on The Parish Paths Partnership Group a - please see appendix M.

Rob Stafford-Baker gave a report on the Allotments – see appendix N for this report.

Zoe Hughes gave reports for The Golden Chestnuts Club, Arts & Craft and Fit Fun Club – please see appendix O for these reports.

Councillor Andrew Bull reported that the Yarnies group are in hibernation and not meeting at the moment.

Paul Thompson gave a presentation on behalf of LARG – see appendix P for copy of slides shown.

#### **16/101. Questions from the public:**

A couple of questions were raised during the report from the Cricket Club; Councillor Andrew Bull stated that these will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **16/102. Any Other Business:**

It was mentioned that a planning notice has been placed in Park Lane regarding car parking and refuse storage – this will be looked into as the Parish Council were not aware of this.

#### **16/103. Time and date of next Parish Council Meeting:**

The next Parish Council meeting will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 8pm. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

#### **16/104. Close:**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

## **Appendix A**

### Parish Council – Chairman’s Report 2015/2016

I am pleased to report a good initial year for our newly formed Parish Council and I thank every councillor for their contribution.

After many years of planning, we were able to complete the magnificent refurbishment of the changing rooms at the playing fields from a tired concrete building into a splendid looking, dry and safe space for use by the community. It was pleasing to see the newly formed Toppesfield Cricket Club using the new facilities for their annual cricket match at the Village Show. The Parish Council was delighted to grant funds to the Cricket Club to enable them to purchase kit and scoreboards. We look forward to seeing this new Community group grow and provide outdoor sport for all.

Alan Collard led a fantastic project in the planting of Nineteen Elms to commemorate the First World War. These have been planted throughout the community and will be a respectful reminder of those within our village that gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The Parish Council took part in Network Five Meetings which are designed to bring the local villages together. Information is shared and activities supported which will benefit all involved.

This year we started to see the Braintree District Local Plan which proposed a call for land from private landowners for development to meet the significant local housing needs. The Parish Council decided to try something different in our consultation and communication and held a ‘Listening Event’ in the Village Hall to display the proposals and receive feedback. The Council also had stands for the proposed improvements to the playing fields, the refresh of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and a well received complimentary cream tea, enjoyed by all.

We had a fantastic response with over 200 people attending and were able to record every single piece of feedback on the proposals, both positive and negative. This formed our evidence base for our response to Braintree District Council who decided that the community should not take any additional housing development in this scheme. A huge thanks to Kaaren Berry, our Parish Clerk who managed to turn many hundreds of post it notes into a legible document which was so successful in our response.

The Parish Council met its financial commitments for this financial year, through tight control from our Parish Clerk and Councillors. We were able to commit to a £10,000 grant to the Playing Fields Improvement and an additional £10,000 towards the purchase of a land behind The Green Man which on an Annual Parish Precept of around £11,000 was a great achievement.

I would like again to thank Kaaren and all our Parish Council for their commitment and efforts in sustaining and improving our community and look forward to an even busier year in 2016.

Andrew Bull

## **Appendix B**

### **Toppesfield Community Shop**

Report for Annual Parish meeting April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016

The shop continues to thrive providing a vital service to the village. As with many larger retailers, it has been a challenging year added to which we are really competing with Aldi, Lidl and the click and deliver service offered by many stores. Our strength is in the personal service we can give to our customers many of whom cannot access other services. This is particularly the case now that our two bus services are under threat. The social aspect of our shop is as important as the shopping. The Post Office of course adds greatly to the services we are able to offer and quite a few people come from other villages to use our post office because it is so friendly, no parking problems and no queues. Thank you to Trisha, Keely and Trevor for keeping the Post Office manned and also for their help in the shop as well.

During the year we have hosted three networking meetings organised by Plunkett Foundation together with The Pub and The Brewery. At these meetings people from other community projects exchange ideas and the good news is that we get paid for hosting these meetings. Plunkett think Toppesfield is fantastic!

The shop would not survive without its' volunteers. We have gained three new volunteers this year, Wendy Ames, Rosi Horton and Liz Chard. All three are really enjoying helping in the shop and have said what a great way it is to get to know people. In addition to these we have helped Oscar Blackburne with his community service part of his Duke of Edinburgh award and currently Rhiannon Brazier is helping in the shop just to add more skills for her C.V.

Financially this has been a better year than last year. We have had to be very diligent in trying to reduce wastage by products going out of date. This is particularly applicable to bread; milk and other short date items and is solely down to the diligence of the volunteers. So thank you to all of them.

We always make grants available to support village projects and this year we have given grants to The Cricket Club and LARG. Also I have just updated and republished my father's booklet about the Chapel and have been awarded a grant towards this. The booklet together with a post card of coloured photos is now available in the shop.

We started the new financial year with a very reduced committee, just four members which is the minimum we can have. However during the year we were delighted to welcome Wendy Ames and Rosi Horton to the committee. Our AGM is in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> May and I am standing down from the committee. I have been Chairman for 6 years and was vice chairman for 2 years prior to that and feel it is time to hand over. It is very rewarding being on the committee and we look forward to getting some more committee members with new ideas at the A.G.M. The business part of the meeting will be followed by refreshments so if you are a shareholder do come along and have your say.

### **Village Show Report for APM on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**

The show was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Toppesfield Village Hall. As always the weather can dictate what happens on the day but the investment of a gazebo helped to protect the outside stalls. Generally entry numbers were a bit down but as ever the exhibits were of a very high standard. The children's exhibits do tend to steal the show with the animals made from fruit and vegetables and this year the decorated cakes. Perhaps we should stage our own bake off.

We did have a change in the way we did the raffle and joined with the Village Hall committee to collect items for the raffle and their bottle, leafleting Toppesfield and Gainsford End in advance with requests for donations. The generosity of everyone was over whelming with huge numbers of items being donated. For the show raffle rather than having lots of miscellaneous prizes we made up several big hamper baskets of themed items which I think were most attractive to the public and resulted in the raffle takings being double that of previous years. As before the Art club staged an exhibition of their work. It is astounding what talent we have in the village.

There were several stalls and games going on in the garden but we were let down by several stall holders at the very last minute.

The cricket match taking place on the playing field organised by Bernie completed a great village day.

The funds from the show had built up quite considerably and we decided that this money was not being put to good use. As the money had been made in the village we decided to give some of it back into the community by awarding grants to village organisations. We gave £500 each to LARG, Toppesfield Village Hall and Toppesfield Community Pub Ltd.

I would like to thank Lesley Scollay, Zoe" Hughes, Maureen Dimmock and Angela and Denis Delaney for their help in the organising of the show and running it on the day. It is a huge amount of work especially in the last few days.

The show this year is on 10<sup>th</sup> September the schedules are available and we plan to improve publicity and raise the profile of the show making more of the outside events. So if you have any ideas and a little bit of time do join us. *Ann Read*

## **Appendix C**

**Toppesfield Community Pub** (TCP) have maintained the original business model, whereby we own the premises, pub, barns, and gardens, leasing the pub to Tony and part of the barns to the Toppesfield Brewery. We still make the lion's share of our profits from the beer tie, and act as the link between Brewery and Tenant. Last financial year that ended in Jan 2016 the business was performing broadly in line with the original business plan. Volumes were a bit lower than anticipated at the end of last year but the margins held up, the original forecast was well founded as after 4 years it is still a good guiding principle.

Last year we restructured the lease to our tenant moving its form from a commercial-style "1954 Act" lease to one more suited to a community-owned business.

Redevelopment plans are still very much alive, delayed by some elements of funding. We have 2 grants, a bursary, and substantial share income, with pledges still to collect. The main grant we were seeking has been subject to changes in government policy where the emphasis has shifted from supporting existing businesses to opening new ones regardless of their ability to survive. This month a new fund opens to satisfy this need and as you can imagine we have our application ready.

We have decided due to funding delays to divide the project into smaller portions and make a start on some of the works right away, more on this at our forthcoming AGM on 14th May at 3pm, where you are invited, shareholder or not.

Andrew Howells

## **Appendix D**

### **Toppesfield Village Hall Committee – Chairman's report**

We had 5 new members join the committee at our last AGM and Chris become our new secretary. Thank you to all the committee for all their help and support this year. We would like to thank the community for all their kind donations towards our annual tombola and drinks hamper, collected last year along with the flower show – groups working together.... In March we held a Ronnie Buckingham evening this was a great success future dates for his return are planned. We are holding a Cockney night in June with Gordon Bennett.

Future plans are to install heating in both toilets, thanks to Ann for the kind donation from the Flower show funds.

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2106.

Thank you yours

Ginny

## **Appendix E**

### **Doctors Car Service Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2016**

Doctor Car Service is being well used; we have had 41 requests for the service since last annual parish meeting. Only on two occasions were we unable to help. One due to short notice the other no driver available for the time requested.

As usual I could do with more volunteers, and will again try in the village magazine and put notices in the shop and on the notice boards.

Thank you to the Parish Council for their on-going support, and if any of you wish to volunteer great but please let me know we need volunteers.

Margaret Dyson

## **Appendix F**

### **Annual Charities Report....2016**

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

This is my report for the year ending March 2015 – including a copy of the Annual Accounts.

At the Annual Meeting of the Charities held in December 2015, the committee consisted of:- Tony Davison & Dusty Millar (Parish Council Representatives) and Brain Moody & James Blackie representing the Church. Apologies were received from the Rev. Barbara Hume.

The income from the Charities this year was £974 – the same as last year.

- Rent on Parish Land ..... £960
- Olivers Farm..... £1
- New House Farm (Stambourne)...£12.75
- Craigs End House ..... £0.25

This equates to:-

- John & William Edwards Charity
- Durnford Annuity
- Robert Edwards Charity

The beneficiaries were the Church; the School and the Older people of the Parish.

Tony Davison  
(Hon. Treasurer)

## **Appendix G**

### **St Margaret of Antioch Parish Council**

Annual report to Toppesfield Parish Council 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

This year has seen an important change in how the church in our area is organised. Until now Toppesfield has been part of the Upper Colne group of five parishes with the two Yeldhams, Stambourne and Tilbury. Now a new bigger group has been formed, including all the Upper Colne parishes plus Sible and Castle Hedingham.

Our vicar Barbara is now in charge of all seven parishes, with help from Rev. Liz Paxton and Rev. Mike Bursell. The office for this new group, or benefice as it is called, will now be in Castle Hedingham rather than Gt Yeldham and Barbara can be contacted there.

It is difficult and expensive to provide ordained ministers for all the rural parishes so by grouping them in this way Barbara has a team who can work together, with the help of lay people in each church, to support all our villages.

You should not notice a great deal of change here in Toppesfield. Barbara may not always be able to be here herself to take services or to help people in the village, but someone from the team will always be available when needed.

The church is open all week for visitors to drop in for a few quiet moments and regular services take place on Sunday. Only a few people come every week and we welcome everyone to join us even if only occasionally. But special occasions attract a large congregation. This year we had very good numbers at our Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas services, and many have come at other times such as for the Christmas Tree Competition, school services, when many family members come along to join in with the children, and the recent celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. And this year there are four weddings, something which has not happened in recent history. Toppesfield Church is a wonderful place to celebrate such a happy event and more people are deciding to do so.

Many people of course help the church in other ways for which we are very grateful. They clean the church and the brass monuments, arrange beautiful flower displays, ring the bells, wind the clock etc. This year a group have worked together to create the new altar frontal in the south aisle in memory of John Suddards, rector here in the 1990s, who was tragically killed a few years ago.

We are also very grateful to the Parish Council for its financial support in keeping the churchyard tidy. It is a place many walk through to the school or shop or to visit family graves. A big thank you to Stuart Hammond who works hard to make it a beautiful and peaceful part of our village, and to those who keep their family grave tidy.

The fabric of the church continues to be a major responsibility for the Parochial Church Council. Having failed last year we have applied again for a grant to repair the roof of the south aisle and porch and are still hoping to raise funds for major repairs and redecoration inside.

We are still trying to make progress with County Broadband's proposal to install a broadband antenna on the roof of the tower. The church authorities stopped approving such schemes because of certain legal concerns, but these seem to have been resolved and we along with twelve other parishes are hoping to apply for permission (again) in the near future.

Our fundraising events are a mainstay of the village's social calendar and our thanks to everyone who help run them or support them. The Cheese and Wine, Church Fete, Clay Pigeon Shoot, Barbeque and Supper Auction were all excellent and helped the church over all its income and expenditure during the year to make a small surplus of £1400 to add to reserves for the future fabric repairs.

## **Appendix H**

### **Little Chestnuts report for 2015-2016.**

Autumn term 2015

A new school year and two new members of staff join our setting both local ladies and level 3 qualified.

Over the summer holidays we updated some of our equipment and toys and added a mathematic and literacy shed to our outside area, this has encouraged the children to mark make more and use numbers in their outside play.

Our Christmas production was a success with many of our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles coming to watch the children singing on stage. We also visited Audley end for a winter wonderland train ride, and were invited to watch the children of St Margaret's in their school production, the children enjoyed this immensely.

#### Spring term 2016

As numbers steadily increased we decided to advertise a position for a young apprentice, we had several applicants and have interviewed potential people which we are looking to employ as an apprentice from September 2016, to gain experience and their level 3 in childcare and education. We ended our spring term with an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet competition and hot lunch.

#### Summer term 2016.

This term we have launched our 'friends of Little Chestnuts' fundraising group, we will be inviting parents, and members of the community to join and help us to raise funds for equipment, toys and future development for the setting.

Fundraising this term will include a walking treasure hunt and bbq, a sponsored trundle and end of term fund day. We are also celebrating the queen's birthday with a tea party.

We are revamping our storage and display equipment, this will help define the learning zones in the setting, as well as encouraging children to self-select the activities and toys they wish to use.

Fundraising for the coming year will go towards new play equipment and construction toys for the outside area.

Numbers are looking good for the coming school year and we look forward to our apprentice joining our setting, as well as new children and their families.

## Appendix I

Report for Parish Council APM – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Little Hedgehogs parent and toddler group – held on Monday afternoons 1.30pm – 3pm in the village hall term time only. We are now in our 27<sup>th</sup> year the group will be celebrating its 28<sup>th</sup> year in September... I am so glad we held on through the quiet times because it gives me great pleasure to inform you we have over 12 new members with babies ranging from 18 months to only a few weeks old it's been brilliant enjoying new experiences with new parents and how things have changed in childcare, but one thing it still remains an important way to communicate all parents meeting up together in a group and the hopefully help lead on to Preschool then local School...In the summer term last year we allowed preschool to share our space so they could offer more hours this has continued and seems to be working well to date.

Thank you

Yours

Mrs Zoe G Hughes

## Appendix J





## **Toppsfield Cricket Club Annual Report 2016**

### **Background.**

Having played a cricket match in conjunction with the village show for three consecutive years, contesting for the Dick Ruggles Trophy against Old Southendian's, it was felt by some enthusiastic individuals that there was an opportunity to make more of the time an effort that was going into preparing a wicket and perhaps look to arrange some more friendly fixtures.

On the back of this a grant application was made to the Parish Council which was duly accepted and effectively giving the 'rubber stamp', and the funds to get the ball rolling.

TCC was officially formed in August 2015.

### **Highlights of 2015 Season.**

Further donations were greatly received from the Village shop and The Sainsbury's Trust, with thanks to Trisha Roberts for writing to each organisation on our behalf.

A bank account was opened.

A club constitution has been set out which was considered good practice.

There are currently two officials of the club which are Nick Hasler and Bernie Stevenson.

For transparency a set of accounts have been published and a copy attached to this report which highlights where the club funds are being spent, and on what. This is believed to be appropriate at this stage considering the donations that have been received.

Regrettably last season Old Southendian's were unable to field a side on the village show day, due to a wedding. However, a side was brought together skippered by Bernie's brother-in-law J.R., and made up mostly with Cornish Hall End players. The Dick Ruggles trophy was again up for grabs, with the added bonus of the 'Tashes' trophy being thrown in for good measure. Hence why there were a number of furry upper lips on display. Thanks to Matt Webb for that 'outside of the box' creation.

The day again was very well supported with the added bonus of utilising the new pavilion and complimented by the Red Barrows marquee to add that finishing touch.

Thanks to Rob Stafford-baker on organising a raffle which helped raise some valuable funds, and for organising the construction of the bar inside the pavilion to allow welcomed refreshments to be served.

An enjoyable day was had by all!

During the closed season a considerable amount of work went in to improving the wicket for the forthcoming season. Before winter set in the wicket was scarified, cut, aerated, seeded, and ½ tonne of top dressing applied.

Fencing was purchased and erected in an attempt to stop the local wildlife i.e. rabbits from digging holes but unfortunately they were quite determined little blighters and still managed to find a way in.

We think they remain our biggest enemy?

### **New Season 2016**

Work has already commenced on preparing the wicket.

Our aim to again hold the 5<sup>th</sup> annual fixture on Village Show day, and are hopeful that Old Southendian's will return to the fray to contest for the Dick Ruggles Trophy.

We are also looking to have some further fixtures throughout the summer months with Cornish Hall End and Shalford both expressing interest.

We will be looking to hold our first AGM this year.

### **Our Objective**

We are under no illusion. There is no intention, or ever has been, to play cricket week in, week out. To be honest most of us involved are 'has-beens'.

Our goal is to play three/four friendly fixtures throughout the summer months preferably against local sides.

Our overall objective remains.....

To have a bit of fun!

By .....Playing cricket in the village.  
And.....Support the local pub by drinking beer!

### **Questions for the P.C.**

Concern over the Pavilion Insurance and whether the wicket mower is covered?

The Tree?

Can anything be done about the rabbits?

Careful consideration needs to be given before sighting any additional play equipment; this could be detrimental to future cricket matches if located in the field of play.

Who is going to ensure that consultation will take place with interest parties?

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### **On behalf of Toppesfield Cricket Club.**

#### **The Club Officials**

Nick Hasler, Bernie Stevenson.

### **Appendix K**

#### **Report to Toppesfield Annual Parish Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Past.....

- 12 months ago work had just started; equipment still in store.
- Brewery completed early September when power connected.
- First brew released on 29<sup>th</sup> September

- So far 187 firkins; 60 pins; over 1000 bottles. So far brewery has produced nearly 15,000 pints (equivalent to 30 pints per man, woman and child in the village)
- Sold 144 firkins and 16 pins to Green Man
- Assuming a previous average selling price of £3.50 for ales, customers have saved more than £5,000
- Christmas sales very good – bottles and pins for home sale. All production sold.
- In 2016 have so far supplied to 2 beer festivals – Colchester and Stowmarket.
- Strong group of volunteers – most beers now racked off and bottled by volunteers.
- Website and FB page are being used to disseminate information about activities.
- Good coverage in local and national press and TV.

#### ...Present...

- Basic portfolio of beers – Tap, Gold, Black & Plough Dog
- New recipes being developed for summer – watch out for Summer Ale
- Have started bottling again; aim to have selection for Father's Day
- Applied for Premises Licence for off-sales (NOT consumption on premises) Should hear decision by end of April
- Also applied for AWRS licence, a new HMRC requirement.
- Now also renting from TCP space in barn adjacent to brewery for storage
- Putting right some minor snagging details

#### .....and Future.....

- Looking to increase capacity by installing new fermentation vessel. Cost would be about £2,500-3,000
- Funds for this would come from mixture of cash, new small share issue and (possibly) grants
- Want to increase number and role of volunteers
- Focus on production for:
  1. GM
  2. Bottles
  3. Private buyers (weddings, celebrations etc)
  4. Beer Festivals; This weekend our beers will be at the Great Maplestead Beer Festival, at the end of May here at the Green Man and in June at the Braintree Festival.
- Sell beer direct from brewery
- Plan for succession

#### Summary

- Much has been achieved
- Much more successful than any of us expected
- Tremendous future for the brewery
- Many people to thank
  1. Those who provided the finance, that is the shareholders and the 3 donors ( Sainsbury family Charitable Trust; Braintree Mi-community Fund; Essex Community Foundation). In total £38,000 was raised
  2. TCP for allowing us to use the barn
  3. All the volunteers who have helped in so many ways both before we started and subsequently, with a special mention for Mick Sims and Brian Hammond who have reinvented themselves into assistant brewers.
  4. My colleagues on the committee. We have had a good range of skills which have manifested themselves in many ways

5. Last but certainly not least to Phil, our brewer who has done a magnificent job. Phil is really committed to what he is doing here in Toppesfield and has worked very hard to get the beers to the quality they are.

- 2016 will therefore be a year of some consolidation on the successful start but also a year in which we hope to see increased production, sales and profitability.

Alan Collard  
28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

## **Appendix L**

The Red Barrows are still primarily raising funds for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Traditional 'barrowing' activity has been reduced to only attending large festivals or special national events rather than performing at a large volume of local events. Over £60K has been raised to date, in the last few years the bulk of that has gone to Children In Need from our appearances at Carfest.

Replacing the traditional performances have been a number of other ventures, most notably the "Reptile Dysfunction" band where we perform regularly at pubs and venues locally, all proceeds going to the charity.

We have been trying to retire from pushing wheelbarrows, however public demand prevents us from doing so.

Thanks

Andrew Howells

## **Appendix M**

### **Toppesfield Parish Paths Partnership**

Report for Parish Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

The last year has seen an awful lot of rain with the result that during the Summer vegetation grew like mad making footpaths very over grown with almost waist high nettles etc. in some places and then with the wet Winter the paths became very muddy with the result that footpath walking has been a bit tricky! This situation is not helped by the reduction in cutting of the footpaths by Highways. However it is good to see that people are using the paths and this does help to keep them open.

I planned a walk for 16th August up to the Old Church Yard near Thurston's but unfortunately no one came. However I am planning a walk joining with Bulmer Parish walkers on May Day Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30am from the Green Man and will organise further walks in the Summer and Autumn.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> I organised the usual New Year walk and despite the weather being pretty horrible six people plus several dogs braved the conditions to start the New Year. It was really nice to introduce a new family to the village to the fantastic, if soggy, parish they have moved into. We took a stroll down Church Lane towards Gt Yeldham and did take a short cut back to come up Scotneys lane as the rain did really descend!

Eddie Human and I have done a bit of trimming and clearing on the entrance to footpaths and keep a weather eye on what is going on. I did say last year that I plan to prepare a parish footpath map but must admit that I haven't done so. It really is still on my list of things to do. I would be really grateful

for anyone with rather better computer skills than I have could help me with this.

Another situation could now arise with the possibility of housing developments in our parish. We must be vigilant where it is possible that any development might compromise public rights of way so that we do not have the ridiculous situation that we have in Camoise Close where the footpath was never officially diverted by the developer and still actually goes through 2 properties and so it is not clear whose is responsible for the upkeep.

Keep an eye out for posters for walks and do report to me any problems you come across with a public right of way.

Ann Read

## **Appendix N**

There are 24 allotment plots and at present 22 are being used. Allotment holders are getting on well and everyone is enjoying the space. There are tree meadow land spaces and the bottom meadow is ready for wild flower seeding. 22 orchard trees were donated by the RCCE and only one was lost. The allotments are well supported by the village and there is space to expand. The trip to Blenheim Palace is nearly full. A huge thank you to the shop for their donations to the allotment society. Rabbits are also a problem at the allotments.

## **Appendix O**

**The Golden Chestnuts** over 50's club – we meet every Friday afternoon 2pm – 4pm, we have over 15 members that continue to enjoy a good catch up and a game or two of cards...we have had a few meals out over the year including our 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary in November and we finished 2015 with our bring along Christmas party. We are looking forward to using the new bowls equipment when it arrives soon and hopefully we will be planning a few summer outings. We would also like to offer our support in finding out more about a community mini bus for the village.

**The Art & Craft Club** – we have almost been going a surprisingly 14 years this coming October, we meet every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm – 9.0pm ish we are a small but dedicated bunch doing a range of crafts from card making, needle point, wood craft and painting plus more.... We did our annual display at the Flower show and a few of us took part in the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday event in the Church last Saturday.... We also have many social occasions throughout the year.

**The Fit Fun Club** – we meet every Tuesday afternoon 3.30pm – 4.30pm and Thursday afternoon 2pm – 3pm, we now have 12 members ranging from the ages of 21 to 70+ years a club for all ages its really going well, we all enjoy our sessions and getting together for meals out during the year on our excess funds... we are a growing group always room for new members...

Thank you

Yours

Mrs Zoe G Hughes

## **Appendix P**

# LARG

Leisure and Recreation Group.

*A group of volunteers that are working towards  
improvements in the Parish recreational facilities  
With the backing of the PC*

## Phase one

- Phase 1 Refurbish Changing Rooms – complete
- Phase 2 Roadway to park hard Play area - Hoop  
Play equipment for tots .

In addition we have managed to get a Boules court completed.

Best Costing are

All tarmac hard standing 18,

Colne Contracts

Best price play equipment £££££

Sovereign Ltd

## Achievements so far

Funding requests .

New changing room and pavilion facilities.

Grass Cutting on a regular basis .

5 a side pitch. In constant use

Boules court/ Pitch First Match on 3<sup>rd</sup> May .

Juniors can play any time

Quotations for pathways suitable for disabled access.

Woodland Trust award for Colour Hedging.

This will help conserve wildlife

Upgraded pathways and greensward near the allotments  
and community orchard.

Facebook page for the group

A Cricket Club.



## What is it we want in the village ????

- New play equipment for TOTS
- New adventure equipment for older kids
- A multi-surface winter play area
- Better access to the park
- Exercise and gentle sports equipment for the older generation ?
- A more pleasing place to visit( Colourful Hedge Rows ,Wild Flowers, Pathway
- More seating
- Cleaner walk ways .. And disability Access!
- Better maintained facilities

### Multi- facility hard play area

You told LARG what you think should be on it !

**Hoops** – **nets** – **Skate-boarding** . **Ball games**

This is without doubt the 1st Choice of the listening event .. Somewhere to play on hard standing !



Number 2 choice at the Listening Event



Rear View of the No 2 choice



This piece of equipment received no votes at the Listening event, as either 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice



Play www.play f/playdateplay



Achievable  
Bonus



## UE SKY THINKING

is what we want to do moving forwards to the next phase Phase 3



Space Walker

Baroback Slider

Surfer

Slider

Xercise Storage

Body Toner

WICKSTEED playscopes

Tenterden Recreation Ground  
Tenterden Town Council  
18/95175 Int 0& 15/12/19

Logos: European Union flag, United Kingdom flag, TGI logo, and a green award logo.

This type of activity was very popular at the listening event

Balance and coordination

