



## **Toppesfield Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 At The Village Hall, Toppesfield - 7.30pm**

#### **19/69. Attendance and Apologies for Absence:**

##### **The following Councillors were in attendance:**

Councillor Andrew Bull

Councillor Andrea Chinery

##### **Also in attendance:**

District Councillor Richard van Dulken

Kaaren Berry – Clerk to the Parish Council

Ann Read – Village Show & Parish Path Partnership

Helen Kent-Jackson – St Margaret's School

Trisha Roberts – Community Shop & Toppesfield Cricket Club

Brian Moody – St Margaret of Antioch Parish Church Council

Val Moody -St Margaret of Antioch Parish Church Council

Mary-Ann Stevenson – Toppesfield Community Pub

Sheila Braithwaite – Village Hall & Petanque

Andrea Chinery – Little Chestnuts Pre-School

Alan Collard – Pumphouse Community Brewery & Toppesfield Charities

Malcolm Braithwaite

Boyd Page – Toppesfield Parish Council elect

##### **Apologies were received from:**

Councillor Paul Thompson

Councillor Mike James

Zoe Hughes – Little Hedgehogs, Fit Fun Club, The Golden Chestnuts and Arts & Craft Club

Steve & Paula Preston

#### **19/70. Parish Council Annual Report from the Chairman:**

Andrew Bull gave his report – see attached Appendix A.

#### **19/71. Organisations / group Reports:**

Reports were received from various organisations.

Trisha Roberts gave a report on behalf of Toppesfield Community Shop -see Appendix B and Toppesfield Cricket Club - see Appendix C.

Helen Kent-Jackson gave a report for St Margaret's School – see Appendix D.

Paula Preston from The Green Man sent the following message: As you are aware, we are leaving the Green Man by the end of July. We would however like to say thank you for all your support over the last year and we hope that the support will continue to the new tenants. It has been fun and we will miss the banter.

We will see you on the other side of the bar!

Steve and Paula - and all the family.

Mary-Ann Stevenson gave a report for Toppesfield Community Pub – see Appendix E.

Sheila Braithwaite gave the report for the Village Hall Committee – see Appendix F.

Andrea Chinery read out the report on behalf of Little Chestnuts Preschool – see Appendix G.

Brian Moody gave the report for St Margaret of Antioch parish Church – see Appendix H.

Andrew Bull read out a report from Paul Thompson on behalf of the Allotments – see Appendix I.

Alan Collard gave a report on behalf of Pumphouse Community Brewery – see Appendix J.

Andrew Bull reported on behalf of the Red Barrows – they are more than just the barrow shows as they include Reptile Dysfunction. They have had a good year and attended 'Car fest' and other local gigs. They also performed in front of the Red Arrows at their base. Funds are going to local causes from the monies raised and so far the school and Little Chestnuts have benefited.

Sheila Braithwaite gave a report on behalf of the Petanque – see Appendix K.

Andrew Bull read out reports from Zoe Hughes for Little Hedgehogs Parent & Carers Toddler Group, Fit Fun Club, Art & Crafts Club, the village markets and Golden Chestnuts – please see appendix L for these reports.

Alan Collard gave a report on behalf of Toppesfield Charities – see Appendix M.

Ann Read gave the reports for the Village Show and the Parish Paths Partnership – see Appendix N.

### **19/72. Time and date of next Parish Council Meeting:**

The next Parish Council meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

### **19/73. Close:**

Before the meeting was closed Alan Collard stated that the Essex Community Foundation regularly use Toppesfield to show what villages can achieve and that it is worth remembering how the village is perceived from the outside.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

## Appendix A

### Chairman's Report – Toppesfield Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019

I would like to welcome you all to this our Annual Parish Meeting where we listen and learn about the fantastic activities that have happened over the past year. It's always a great evening, although we have some thoughts for next year that we may hold it on a Saturday during the day to make it more inclusive to all. We will confirm this in due course.

This year is the end of a four-year tenure for Toppesfield Parish Council. This means that all Councillors stand down and choose to seek re-election. I can confirm that we are saying farewell to the following Councillors; **Dave Dyson** who has been on the Council for probably the longest; **Alan Preston** who proved so effective in getting jobs done quickly and to cost and importantly the inaugural Christmas Meal for our older residents; **Paul Thompson** who continues to lead the way in the regeneration of the Allotments and our community greensward areas, specifically the development of the Playing Field Playground and the hardcore space outside the pavilion. We also lose the wise financial sage of **Mike James** who has led our financial direction over the past four years. I would also like to thank **Linda Bowen** who left the Council last year and thank her for her unique contribution particularly in our relationship with the Village Hall Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our three new Parish Councillors, and when I say new, I hope they won't be offended. I am delighted to welcome back **Alan Collard** to the Council, who will bring much needed experience and financial knowledge to the team; **Chris Neale** joins us at just the right time to guide us through one of the biggest projects to date, our Community Broadband Project. A truly ground breaking challenge! Chris's engineering experience will support our planning in what needs to get done over the next four years. I would also like to welcome **Boyd Page** as our third Councillor. Boyd brings a positive 'can do' attitude with a passion for change which we welcome with open arms.

I can confirm that Andrea Chinery and Amanda Smith and myself have decided to stand again for the Parish Council. We will start new business for the next four years including appointing a Chair, Vice Chair and other portfolio roles at our Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and if you are interested in joining our new team please contact Kaaren.

The last four years have been challenging as always, as the funding we attract from Braintree District Council is reduced. This means that we have to look at other ways to fund projects and activities. Through careful planning we have managed to financially support local groups including the Cricket Club, Village Hall Maintenance and the Allotments Group over this four-year period.

The Playing Field has been revisited with a new hard standing area making it useful across the seasons, new play equipment has been purchased and installed, Five a side Goal Posts have been purchased and well used, with the full size goal posts being refurbished with new nets.

Following a survey in Gainsford End, we are working up plans on what the Playing Field will look like in the future, and delighted to have received a magnificent £1000 donation from a Gainsford End resident as part of these improvements.

We adopted both Public Telephone Boxes and installed one Community Defibrillator in Toppesfield and supplied training to the community. We are delighted to confirm that an additional Defibrillator has been funded for Gainsford End and work is underway for this installation in the next few months.

Our Christmas Lighting Up Ceremony remains a well-loved Community Event which brings people together at a special time of the year and makes full use of our Brewery, Community Pub, Village Hall and Church. It has grown from a small event in Camoise Close to over 100 people attending from

outside the community in the last ten years. A great event involving all the community including Father Christmas!

It's important to reflect on the **Village Plan** that has been the trigger point for a great deal of the work that has been achieved. The changes to the Village Hall and Playing Fields were started from the Village Plan and we are in a much better place with a Pavilion, Petanque Court, Cricket Pitch, Car Parking Space, New Play Equipment and in general a better maintained green area.

I continue to take feedback that the Community needs a regular Newsletter to keep everyone up to speed on events that are taking place. I started editing this when I first retired over ten years ago and now find myself back at work six days a week and the Newsletter has suffered as a result of this, so please don't blame Morrisons, I take responsibility for this.

As a Council we have made a decision to hand the publication over to our Clerk who will take responsibility from May 2019. We will aim to publish the small version that we trialled last year on a bi-monthly basis and will be seeking volunteers to distribute this. So from today please do contact Kaaren for your articles and events. I am confident that it will return and with a flourish under the new management.

We have had a website for the past ten years which was one of the first for a Parish Council in this area. The website was hosted and managed by a third-party provider to a good standard. As our costs become more challenging, we have looked around and found a free website which Kaaren will now host and manage. The site is now live and we welcome your feedback. The existing website will close and be removed in the next month.

In the last month we commissioned a specialist company to clean and repair the War Memorial and have had great feedback from the community on how it now looks. Additionally, we have negotiated a new contract with Braintree District Council to take over the maintenance of the grass areas of the Allotments and path from the Playing Fields. This was requested by the Allotment Society that we were more than happy to support. The first cut was last week and I am reliably informed by a very hard taskmaster, Mr Robert Stafford-Baker that it looked excellent. Fair praise indeed!

We start a new period of planning this year with the start of our **Neighbourhood Plan Project**. This kicks off on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019** here in the Village Hall at 2pm where we will welcome Jan Stobart from the RCCE to talk us through how we as a community tackle this significant project. You are all welcome, please bring your families to this event to take part and get involved.

Before I hand over to the Community to celebrate their fantastic achievements over the past year, I would like to thank on behalf of the community the sterling work carried out without fail by Kaaren, our Parish Clerk. Kaaren does her absolute best to keep us safe and legal and her regularly kept us solvent and able to commit to projects through her diligence and accounting knowledge.

Thank you

**Andrew Bull**  
**Chair**  
**Toppesfield Parish Council**

## Appendix B

### Report to Annual Parish Meeting April 2019 - Toppesfield Community Shop

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Community Shop – in more ways than one.

Following the closure of the Post Office in July last year, an Outreach service started for 3 hours each Wednesday. Although there have been a few hiccoughs – primarily caused by systems issues – this service has been well received. However, the net effect on the Community Shop is that takings are, on average, about 15% down versus when the Post Office was open 5 days per week.

The good news, however, is that the Community Shop is still viable and providing the service required by the village. In addition to the usual products and services, hot drinks are now available together with a range of locally-made rolls, sandwiches, sausage rolls and season items such as buttered hot-cross buns.

Financially the shop is in a strong position despite reduced sales income. As at end February, there was some £12,800 cash on hand. The operating accounts (i.e. those we keep on spread sheets, not the ones produced by the accountant) show a gross margin of 19.7% and a net surplus for the 2018-9 financial year. In addition, the Community Shop loaned the Community Pub Company £7,500 in April 2017 to assist with some cash-flow difficulties and this loan is still being repaid.

In this financial year, grants totalling £1385 have been made to St Margaret's School, Little Chestnuts Playgroup and Toppesfield Cricket Club.

Through the winter, we reduced the opening hours for the Community Shop so that volunteers were not walking home alone in the dark. As few people use the shop once it is dark, this had no effect on sales income and appeared to not inconvenience anyone.

The Community Shop continues to be a central contact point for the parish, and is successful only because volunteers are willing to give up some time to make it so. We are a relatively small group of people and need to recruit more members to our group. Many volunteers do multiple shifts so that we can maintain the opening hours, and this cannot continue indefinitely.

Trisha Roberts  
Chair

## Appendix C



### **Toppesfield Cricket Club Annual Report 2019**

Prepared 23.04.19

#### **Highlights of 2018 Season**

- Another good year for the club with an increase in membership.
- A total of 37 signed up members consisting of 15 senior playing members, 10 non-playing members and 12 juniors.
- We held adult net sessions and junior coaching on Thursday evenings throughout the summer months.
- We had five fixtures throughout the summer: Bardfield, Rayne x 2, Earls Colne, and Old Southendians of which we won two and lost three. The most memorable game against Earls Colne with a top drawer victory and some top class batting from Toppesfield chasing down a score of 152 to win, not to mention retaining the Dick Ruggles Trophy against Old Southendians.
- Sunday 15th July we held the annual family day which included a match of Crinders. This was extremely well attended, and a good day had by all with the weather being kind to us. Thanks

again to Rob and Claire for serving up some fantastic food, and we had some great prizes in the raffle. This is an important fund raiser for the club and a welcome boost to club funds.

- End of season club dinner held at the Green Man was well attended. Two trophies up for grabs, the 'Players player of the year' which went to Mike Turner, along with the Tiddler Trophy presented for the most memorable moment of the season, won by John Levick.
- We are very grateful for donation received last year from the village shop.

### **Plans for New Season 2019**

- Following the AGM in March the Committee was re-elected unopposed.
- With the end of season work undertaken on the wicket it is looking in good shape for this year.
- Senior net sessions due to commence on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April evenings from 6.30, so anyone interested are welcome to come along.
- Five scheduled fixtures against Gestingthorpe, Bardfield, Rayne x 2 and The Dick Ruggles Trophy match against Old Southendians on village show day. We are also hopeful of an away fixture against Old Southendians.
- Family Crinders Day on Sunday 28th July from 2.00 O'clock. Food and raffle will be provided, all welcome.
- Regrettably due to the huge responsibilities of running junior coaching with the array of policies, procedures, and welfare arrangements needed to be in place to satisfy Safeguarding and Protection of Children, the club has decided not to offer or pursue junior coaching this year.
- We have renewed our affiliation to the North Essex District Cricket Board.
- As well as the family day we will be arranging some additional fund raising activities this year, a Cricket World Cup sweep stake and a Quiz night.

### **Club Needs**

- Water to the pavilion.
- We still seek to purchase a heavy motorised roller. For us to grow as a club this is an essential piece of equipment to provide a safer, better playing surface and vital if we want to attract teams to play here in Toppesfield. This unfortunately is an expensive piece of kit.
- Looking to purchase sight screens from Dunmow Cricket Club which could offer some protection of the playing equipment at the top of the field.
- Support - If anyone is interested in being part of the club whether in a playing, helping or supporting capacity please come and speak with one of our committee members.

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

*Nick Hasler.*

#### **The Committee**

*Mary-Ann Stevenson, Nick Hasler, Bernie Stevenson, Trisha Roberts, Rob Sullivan, Rob Stafford-baker.*

## **Appendix D**

### **St Margaret's C of E Primary School**

Helen Kent-Jackson introduce herself and reported that she has been on the board of governors for the school for the last 6 years and has been chair for the last 2 years. A new head teacher has been appointed and will be coming into the school. There are 2 vacancies of the governing board if anyone would like to support the school.

Grants have been gratefully received from Toppesfield Community Shop to purchase the top 100 books that children should read and RE support equipment.

Forest School sessions started this year – 10 reception children attend this once a week, thank you to Mrs Clark for her support in this.

The reception class will be full with the September intake.

The school would like to be involved with a Christmas lunch again this year for the older generation either at the hall or at the school.

The school is holding a careers fair in July if anyone would like to get involved.

Support from Ann Read and Andy Drysdale has been fantastic on the pond cleaning and the school would like to do further upgrades to the area.

## **Appendix E**

Mary-Ann reported on behalf of Toppesfield Community Pub

With the upcoming departure of Steve & Paula the search has been started and there has been a positive response. The committee are talking to candidates and meetings are ongoing. Fingers crossed the new tenants will continue the work Steve & Paula have founded.

Financially TCP are in a better position than last year. Projects that are being worked on are new windows for the pub and they will be replaced slowly and a facelift is required. The pub is **in** a much better place now than before Steve & Paula took over.

## **Appendix F**

### **Toppesfield Village Hall.**

#### **Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2019.**

Two years ago, we stated that our aim was to provide a safe, warm and inviting environment fit for many purposes.

We now feel we have achieved this thanks to many successful grant bids and support from Braintree and our own Parish Council. The hall is, at last, **warm!** The heating is positioned throughout the building to give the whole fabric much needed heat. It is controlled by a smart phone. Usage and cost is easily monitored and the heating can be turned off, on, up or down from a distance. It's also proving to be very cost effective. We have also had installed, quality, controllable lighting.

When the work was going on, we took the chance to have any vital rewiring done and cladding and insulation replaced.

Over the year we have maintained and improved the building, its resources and the outside area. We have put systems and policies into place to give structure and guidance and to ensure accountability in all that we do.

The current committee has proved to be a good team. We work well together using our differing abilities for the good of the hall. If we are elected again at our imminent AGM, we are keen to move onto considering what our village community wants from this now enhanced resource; The Village Hall. We are seeking to find a greater purpose that would support our community. We will be seeking the views of the villages and asking to work closer with the PC and other groups to move forward in this area over this next year.

## Appendix G



### *Little Chestnuts annual report 2019.*

Little Chestnuts continues to grow and we have had another successful year. We are continuing to develop our teaching and providing extra activities, we provide dance lessons on Wednesdays, Didi Dance is a company that specialises in dance for early years children, the children have enjoyed learning the Charleston, rock and roll and ball room, and this term they are learning Salsa! This term our older children are starting Phonics lessons in preparation to start primary school these are being provided by Sound Right Phonics.

We continue to hold fundraising events to provide new equipment and resources for the children, these events have included Christmas market, raffles and coffee mornings. On the 4<sup>th</sup> May we will be celebrating 45 years of being open with a 70s night which is being held at the Green Man. And this weekend 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a garage sale trail around the village.

Over the summer time we will be enjoying outside play, visits to the allotment and working closely with the school to provide a smooth transition for our older children entering school in September. A big thank you to all those who have supported us this year.

## Appendix H

### **St Margaret of Antioch Parish Church Annual report to Toppesfield Parish Council April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019**

For eight months of last year our group of churches, which includes Toppesfield, Stambourne, Great and Little Yeldham, Tilbury, Castle and Sible Hedingham, had no full-time priest since Rev Barbara Hume's retirement in January. In September, however, Liz Paxton was appointed Rector for all seven parishes. Liz had previously been working in the benefice on a part-time basis so knows the parishes; we are delighted that she will now be looking after us full-time.

St Margaret's church has had a good year, though with some challenges on the financial side. The church was open nearly every day and regular services took place on Sundays. It was a quieter year for family occasions, with only one wedding, one funeral and three baptisms, but the big services at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas were as usual very well attended. Special mention should be made of the Remembrance Sunday service in November. Because this marked the end of the 1914/18 war the village helped decorate the church with a beautiful flight of doves extending the full length of the nave, and there was a display of the personal details and resting place of each of the servicemen from Toppesfield who died in the war. Our thanks to Alan Collard, Rob Sullivan and Malcolm Braithwaite, who researched and presented the display and made a poignant film shown at the service. Over 120 people attended and we were able to make a donation of almost £450 to the Royal British Legion. The doves remained in place as a symbol of peace throughout Advent and the Christmas season. Thanks to everyone in the village who helped by making a paper dove, and especially to Lynn Collard, Tia Stickland, Sally Croft and St Margaret's School.

The links with St Margaret's have become stronger during the year. The school held five services, with over 120 attendees each time, and the pupils make use of the church regularly for activities. Rev Liz and Sally help with assemblies and I helped the school learn carols before Christmas.

Thanks also to our choir, now 12 strong, who make our special occasions even more special. If you



enjoy singing, whatever your standard, please tell Sue Blackie and join us at our practices.

As always, the fabric of the church is a major consideration. After last year's architect's inspection, we have a long list of work that needs to be done. We made a small start by repairing some plasterwork in the nave and south aisle. We also commissioned a survey of the east wall behind the altar because a number of people have been concerned about the cracks there. The Structural Engineer has reported that the structure is sound and that we should refill the cracks. We are now getting quotes to do this and to redecorate the whole interior. The cost will inevitably be high and we will need to raise funds to carry the work out.

Finances were a challenge last year, with our accounts showing a deficit of over £2000. Income from fees for Weddings and Funerals was lower and we are now paying for churchyard maintenance and church cleaning, which until a few years ago was done voluntarily. Also, the Parish Council was unable to make its usual grant for churchyard maintenance because of concerns raised by the National Association of Local Councils that such grants might not be legal. Hopefully this can be resolved this year and the Parish Council can again support the church as it had done for many years previously, and for which the PCC is very grateful.

Meanwhile fundraising in the village will continue. The Church Fete will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> and the Supper Auction on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to everyone who supports the church in some way, with flowers, bell ringing (600 people or more come to ring our bells during the year), clock winding, extra help with cleaning and tidying the churchyard, helping organise and of course attending the fundraising events, keeping family graves tidy and generally respecting the church not only as a place of worship and peace but as the historic heart of the village.

## **Appendix I**

### **Allotment Society.**

Thanks again to Rob Stafford -Baker for cutting the grass, and to those who are still active on the allotments.

The community orchard produced lots of Pears and Apples last year. the cherries fed the birds as usual as we were not quick enough to harvest.

There was an abundance of blackberries in the hedgerow which I am sure made some splendid pies and crumbles.

We hope the water service will be taken over by the PC from now on as I will no longer be on the PC due to my resignation, the bills will be redirected to the PC.

It will also be appreciated if the grass behind the Causeway pathway can be taken over by BDC as discussed at the PC meeting last year.

Personally, there were some high points in the early months with Asparagus being very productive and a good crop of Zucchini.

Potentially there may be a reinstatement of the Allotments Coach Trips to country fairs and the likes early in the next season if there is a certain element of support, and also, we are planning a quiz night to raise more funds.

Paul Thompson

## **Appendix J**

### **Pumphouse Community Brewery Limited**

- It's been four years since the first beer was produced.
- The accounting year ended 31 October 2018 and sales were up 37% on the previous year. There was a small surplus before depreciation.
- The refurbishment of the middle section of the barn is being carried out subject to building regs etc.
- Grants from The Community Initiative Fund and the Essex Community Foundation were received. There are also two other grant applications that have been submitted and are in progress.
- 26 different beers have been brewed, 201 brews have been done which equals 97500 pints which equates to 193 pints per person in the village.
- Sales are increasing and more are being sold to various beer festivals.
- Chris Neale has stood down from the committee due to other commitments and Trevor Wyeth has joined and will be overseeing the expansion project.

## **Appendix K**

### **Petanque.**

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2019.

There is a keen group of Petanque players in Toppesfield.

Last year groups met on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. It is expected that this will continue this year and will start up again as soon as the weather is reasonable and the evenings are light enough.

I continue to keep contact with the local organiser of the leagues and competitions. Last year we entered a few of these events. It was interesting to meet other village teams. The Tuesday group is a very sociable group and there are also a group of players who would like some challenge in the form of leagues, competitions and friendlies. I'll continue to ensure all participants needs and levels are catered for and that we have a 'come and try' evening for any one in our villages who would like to try it.

## **Appendix L**

### **Little Hedgehogs Parent & Toddler Group**

We are still meeting on Monday afternoons 1.30-3.30pm term-time only. We are very quiet at the moment hopefully numbers will increase during the summer term. Planning to introduce part session Fit Fun for Toddlers movement and dance once the work in the hall is completed as unsafe to use the screen at present. We have been open 31 years in September – one of the only Toddler groups still going in the area.

### **Fit Fun Club**

We meet twice a week on Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30pm ish and Thursday 3.15 -4.15pm. Our numbers have stayed the same and we manage to cover the rent so all good. We will be advertising for new members soon.

### **Art & Craft Club**

We have had an up and down year with members being unwell and unable to attend. We are still meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evenings of each month and still really enjoy our Art & Crafts. Again, we will be advertising the sessions soon for new members as open to all ages and all Arts & Crafts – 8pm – 9.30pm.

### **Golden Chestnuts Club over 50's**

We have had new members join us, mainly ladies. We meet on a Friday in the Green Man 2pm – 4pm, we would like to thank Paula for always making us feel welcome. We had a few meals through the year and have a lunch planned for the 10<sup>th</sup> May in the new look Petals. Male members still attend and enjoy a game of cards or dominos. More over 50's are always welcome.

**The Village Markets** are going from strength to strength with new stall holders becoming regulars and customers returning each month. We are really pleased with the support from the villagers, a monthly meeting place as well as a market. Thank you.

All the groups would like to thank the Village Hall for the new heating.

## **Appendix M**

**Toppesfield Charities** – were set up at least 317 years ago.

12 acres of land is dotted around the parish and rent of £960 was raised – half of which goes to the Church and half to the poor and needy of the village. Payments to 21 residents were made just before Christmas last year.

There are 4 trustees of the Charities – Brian Moody and James Blackie as church wardens and Dusty Millar and Alan Collard as parish council representatives.

The Trustees are looking at how the parish/community could better benefit from the Charities and ideas are being looked at on how to progress this.

## **Appendix N**

### **Toppesfield and Gainsford End Village Show 2018**

Report for Parish meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019

The show was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, a week earlier than normal to accommodate other village events. We decided to return to the Village Hall as a venue as while the school did offer lots of space it was a huge job to get all the tabling and staging there.

We thought to make the show rather simpler this year and just have the competitive part of the show with a raffle and refreshments. Having outside events is always rather a worry particularly with the vagaries of our weather.

Entries in the different adult classes were up and it was very encouraging to see some new people to the village taking part. Entries in the children's' classes were a bit down which was to be expected as the show was only a few days after school started again after the Summer holiday. However as always, the entries were fantastic.

Refreshments took the form of cream teas this time and were very much enjoyed.

The raffle made a very useful sum and we were very grateful for very generous donation of prizes from local businesses as well as individuals.

The show did make a small surplus of £18.79p

We are always short of tables to stage the show and other events in the village hall. The show financed the purchase of 2 large tables, the village hall purchased 4 small tables and the community shop 2 large tables.

As ever a huge thank you to Lesley Scollay, Maureen Dimmock, Zoe" Hughes, Andrea Chinery, and Angela Delaney for their help before and on the day of the show.

The show this year is on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> September in the village hall.

We really could do with some more volunteers!

Ann Read

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

## **Parish paths Partnership**

Report for Parish meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019

I organised a new year walk on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and was delighted to lead 13 walkers and 3 dogs. A couple from Great Yeldham had picked it up from our Facebook page and another couple were parents visiting family in the village. We took the path down side of Olivers. Over the brook and up to Blooms. The bridge at this point is in a dangerous condition which I have reported. Then on the bridleway passing Blooms wood. I always particularly enjoy the views at this point as you can see Toppesfield Church Tower, Gt Yeldham Church tower and Castle Hedingham Castle.

We then turned down the hill passing the lakes where the footpath has been moved and then up the lane to Scotneys and on up Church lane to the village. A really lovely walk.

I decided to repeat the walk at Bluebell time which I did on Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 but only two walkers and a dog joined me. It was a beautiful walk with the blossom out in the hedges and the verges an array of flowers. Yes, the blue bells were out in the wood.

Re the footpaths I have declared war on the footpath people.

The diversions that were applied for two years ago have all been passed but as yet no one has been out to put the signs and way-markers up. In January I reported the dangerous state of the bridge over the brook behind Oliver and also the impassable condition of the footpath that goes across to the lakes. The references numbers obtained stated they would be inspected within 28 days. They haven't. The bridge has deteriorated further and so I have again reported this in a strongly worded email, to everyone remotely connected with ProW. I will read you the response I have had. Also, many of the way-marker posts are missing.

As the bridge has been now raised to urgent status hopefully something will be done about that but I do not think we can see any other action on these issues in the near future.

Ann Read

P3 officer

25<sup>th</sup> April 2019