

No 301

August 17

Telstar

Stowupland News

Members of Scorpion Martial Arts Academy complete the Three Peaks Challenge





Chairman's Column

Keith Welham, Stowupland Parish Council

August 2017

We arrived back from France in mid-July and for me it was straight back into Parish and District Council business. The morning after our return I had a Planning Committee meeting at Mid Suffolk followed by another in the afternoon which continued until 9.30. The next day was preparation for the Parish Council that evening. Claire, as usual, had done a brilliant job whilst I was away and, although we had some difficult planning issues to deal with, a great deal of business was conducted in around two hours. Because of the range and complexity of the issues discussed, Claire has a huge amount of work to get through. Some people think that being a councillor involves a couple of meetings a month and not much else but several of our parish councillors head up committees and working groups and others help in other ways. And Claire keeps up to speed with all that we are doing. She deals with all the correspondence, accounts and day to day issues, as well as preparing agendas, reports and minutes and carrying out all the work arising from the meetings. If you have never been to a parish council meeting, or haven't attended for some time, I urge you to do so to see the wide range of responsibilities and work undertaken on your behalf.

I would also encourage you to take a look at the parish website – www.stowupland.com. It was set up by Kim Jennings and David Pring has now taken over responsibility for keeping it up to date. New information is added regularly and, alongside Telstar, it is an important means of communicating with residents.

MSDC Planning Committee will be considering the two applications for housing on land to the west of Thorney Green Road next week. I am surprised that very few residents of Thorney Green Road appear to know or care about the proposals. If allowed, this development could close the gap between our village and Stowmarket, destroy the views of open countryside across the Gipping valley and provide little or no benefit to Stowupland. The decisions will have been made before you read this; I am certain

that, if permissions are granted, some residents will regret not getting involved. Meantime we rely on the few who have been and are still active in seeking rejection of the proposals.

A detailed planning application for the first 75 homes on the 'Gladman' site has been made by Bloor Homes. Due to the timescale for responding to the consultation, a public meeting has been planned for 26 July and you should have received a flier inviting you to view the plans and give your views. If you have not already commented to MSDC and wish to do so it is not too late, but you need to make your views known by mid-August if you can. The application number is 17/02755; details can be accessed via the MSDC website or by visiting the Needham office.

At our July Parish Council meeting we welcomed Paula Murton as a new Councillor and we now have a full complement of members. We also had a visit from Stefan Henriksen, who was our community policeman for a number of years. However, due to cuts in the numbers of police officers, his 'beat' now covers the whole of Mid Suffolk.

July has been a hectic month but August will, I hope, be less so. In September we have a number of Community Events. I hope that everyone able to walk to Old Newton and back will join our team for the Walker Cup on Sunday 10 September, starting from The Retreat where there will be lunches and other refreshments. It is important that we win back the trophy, preferably by fair means. You may recall that there was no accurate record of the number of walkers starting from Old Newton who completed the course last year. We felt that we had retained the trophy; nevertheless an Old Newton resident removed it from The Retreat. We need to regain it this year.

Please join the Litter Pick on Saturday 16th September – 10.00 at the village hall; all equipment will be provided. If you have unwanted items, please consider taking part in the garage/yard sale on 17th September; you can register now. Put these dates in your diaries, please. Meantime enjoy the rest of the summer; I hope the weather is warm and dry, except for overnight rain for our gardens.

Keith Welham,
(Chairman Stowupland Parish Council.)



District Councillor's Report August 2017

Relocation of District Council offices - Work is still progressing with planning the move to Endeavour House in Ipswich. The physical move is now likely to take place in September. Most staff are expected to be able to work without going into Ipswich on a daily basis, by working at home or at one of nine 'Touchdown Points' when between site visits or meetings out in the wider district.

Customer Access Points – As part of the strategy which includes the move of MSDC and BDC Headquarters to Ipswich, a customer access point will be set up in Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. Residents will be able to drop in to discuss any queries with staff either face to face or, for more complex queries, via a link to Endeavour House. It should not be necessary to travel to Ipswich to meet with MSDC staff – they could come to you or meet you in a local community building or the customer access point in Stowmarket. It had been suggested that formal meetings, such as Planning Committee meetings, could be held in a local village hall but this is not now likely due to the difficulty in setting up for the meeting and due to concerns about security.

Review of Ward Boundaries – The Boundary Commission have agreed that the number of ward councillors should be reduced to 34. Because the number of electors in each ward will need to increase, this is likely to be by increasing the geographical size of each ward. In the case of the Stowupland and Creeting St Peter Ward, this could be achieved by adding another parish into the ward. I would be very sad if Stowupland and Creeting St Peter are separated and added into other wards. The District Council are tasked with producing warding arrangements and then consulting residents on their preferred option. This should take place in late summer/early autumn. The new boundaries will come into effect for the 2019 District Council elections.

New Joint Local Plan – A huge amount of work has been completed and the draft Plan will be considered at the full Council

Meeting on 20 July. If Council approve the draft Plan, public consultation will commence in August and continue into late October or early November. Appended to the Plan will be maps showing areas of land submitted by owners, developers or agents as bids for allocation as housing land. Take a look at the draft on line or, if you prefer, I have a copy and will be pleased to discuss the details contained in the document. Please get in touch. Comments on the suitability of any proposed policy or land allocation should be made during the consultation period.

Locality Awards – You may recall that two years ago I was able to make grants towards the cost of projects within Stowupland, including putting money towards the PlayPark refurbishment, Stowupland Bowls Club, equipment for the pre-school and Telstar. Money is available again and bids need to be made by 30 September. I will be happy to speak to a representative of any club or organisation which has a project, new or existing, which aims to have a community benefit.

Pre-Application Advice – MSDC is offering advice to anyone wishing to make a planning application before they actually submit their application. This could save time and money, for instance the cost of architects or planning agent's fees for anyone planning a house extension. There will be a cost which will depend upon the scale of the development and the amount of work requested. But it is not mandatory to use this service. For minor house extensions it may not be required; for a new dwelling it would be worthwhile considering seeking advice.

Planning Applications – The applications for housing on land to the west of Thorney Green Road may well have been determined by the time you read this. They were rushed through with little notice of the committee date. The details of the first phase of the housing to be built between Church Road and Gipping Road are the subject of a current Planning Application. This is likely to be determined in September. Take a look at the detailed proposals and let MSDC have any comments as soon as possible.

Keith Welham

District Councillor for Stowupland ward

Keith.Welham@midsuffolk.gov.uk



Parish Council Report

July 2017

The meeting opened with 8 members of the public present and a surprise visit from the police.

Council Report:

PC Henriksen advised that, since the new Safer Neighbourhood Team format was introduced last year, the ability for a member of the police to attend parish council meetings has significantly reduced due to the level of staffing available in the evenings. Currently all PCSO's finish work at 6pm although they are hoping that this may be reviewed, and this leaves only the standard police officers, who, when fully staffed only amount to 3 PC's who have to cover the whole of Mid Suffolk. However, he did state that should there be a specific issue of concern, then he would make every effort to attend a meeting. He was well aware of the horrendous parking issues around school start and finish times but he advised that he only has the power of enforcement if there is a total obstruction or if someone was parked on double yellow lines which does not apply in Stowupland. Even in the case of an obstruction, realistically it was unlikely that anyone would attend in time as they have to prioritise all demands on their time as likelihood of threat, harm or risk. He agrees that there is a lot of value in being out on his bicycle and interacting with the community but, with the current staffing levels and increased area of cover, that is not going to happen. This is another reason that this year there will be no community activities for children over the summer period, which he regrets. As far as the monthly crime figures are concerned, they now have to be audited which delays them by about 3 months.

Cllr Green for SCC advised that he is still awaiting responses from his colleagues to the issues raised from his last meeting with the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk and hopes to have some answers before their next meeting on 4th August. He reported that the sandbags are now being costed and once this has been done they can go ahead with their installation alongside The Green. He also needs confirmation of the start and finish points for the horse signage in Saxham Street. This had been sent to him but he did not receive it so this information will be re-sent. The MSDC report can be read elsewhere in Telstar.

Matters of Report:

The Chairman reported that the sign damaged by the BT Open Reach Contractor has now been replaced. He advised that following a meeting with SCC Councillor Green regarding the footpath between Trinity Walk

and the Community Wood, this will be pursued by Cllr Green. The ramp outside the boundary of the new property in Grays Close intended to lead to the front door has now been removed. However, the repairs to the track have still not been carried out by the builder nor has the hedge line been reinstated and there has been no contact from him.

The Clerk reported that she has been in contact with the Clerk to the Trustees of the Stowmarket Church Charity in respect of the rubbish in the ditch between their field and the allotments. She has contacted their agent who is to take a look at the ditch and advised that it depends which side the ditch is to the hedge and who has carried out any historic maintenance. He will report back on his findings. The Clerk advised that the contractor has now cleared all the rubbish from the cemetery. She advised that she has still had no response from the owner of The Retreat following her 2nd letter to him about the timber posts at the entrance to the pub car park. However, the tenant has spoken to the Clerk and has agreed to meet with the Parish Council but she feels that if the post is replaced it may well be knocked down as lorries struggle to negotiate the entrance when cars are parked opposite it. It was agreed that Cllrs Pring and Johnson would meet with the tenant to resolve the problem. Following last month's meeting, the gate at the top of the play park was secured by cable ties and a sign erected advising that it was no longer in use. However, within a week, the gate was back in use. It has now been made safe by securing it with a metal chain but it is reported that children are climbing over it now that it cannot be opened. She advised that the overhanging hedge at Birch Close has been reported to SCC.

Parish Council Vacancy:

The vacancy has been filled by Paula Murton who agreed and signed the necessary paperwork. She was asked to give some thought to which committees she would like to join.

Public Forum:

Concerns were raised about the state of the footpath along Thorney Green Road. Although this has now been cut back, it has been badly done with all the rubbish being left and people still having to walk on the road. This is to be referred to Cllr Green. Another resident was concerned about the cost of repair to a bench in the cemetery. He was advised that this was a relatively valuable bench, hence the increased costs. He also queried whether the objections already lodged with MSDC to the proposed development at Thorney Green Road still stood. He was advised that they do but there was no harm in adding any additional views as there are two applications and objections can be lodged on both. The Stowupland sign by Fast Fit was reported to be in the hedge

and therefore cannot be seen and the sign on the footpath from Maple Road is too low. The warning sign for bends that was knocked down on the A1120 past Saxham Street have still not been replaced despite a second vehicle crashing off the road in the same spot. It was also suggested that 7.5 tonnes weight restriction signs should be added to the large road sign at Mickfield Cross Roads as by the time drivers get to Saxham Street it is too late and lorries are unlikely to turn around. It was also felt that there should be more litter bins on The Green or some possibly re-located and some of the sandbags need replacing. The Environment sub-committee will check these matters.

Ward Boundaries:

The Government have requested a review of ward boundaries as many councillors have an uneven proportion of the electorate. Mid Suffolk are to reduce the number of councillors to 34 with an average electorate of 2435 to each ward. Stowupland and Creeting St Peter ward currently has around 1800. A working party has been set up to look at this at a meeting scheduled for 27th July ready for submission by 14th August.

Village Website:

Councillor Pring has volunteered to take over the management of the village website following Cllr Jennings' resignation from the Parish Council. He is willing to add relevant information to it and ensure that it has more Parish Council news, policies, and information online, accessible through smart phones etc. He is aspiring for it to be easy to navigate and he will explore the option of giving Stowupland businesses the opportunity to advertise on there and it is hoped that this would give enough income to help with the running costs of the website.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Allotments – The last allotment meeting went well with most of the allotments now let.

Cemetery and Churchyard – The cutting of the hedges will start in September once the birds have gone. Following the recent sports day at the primary school it has been decided to purchase some no parking signs to prevent people parking on the grass and across the entrance to the cemetery. The School will be asked to inform the Parish Council when they have future events so that additional parking can be provided at the village hall.

Community Events –The 3 peaks challenge went very well last month with lots of good feedback for the organisers. The Scorpions Martial Arts group are keen to make it one of their events for next year. £200

was raised for EACH. Although the numbers were slightly down for last month's Bingo, it still went well and the next one is scheduled for 29th September. Also in September, there is the Walkers Cup on the 10th with the community events sub-committee taking over the organisation from Old Newton following last year's debacle. There is to be a garage/yard sale on 17th and the community quiz on the 22nd. A request has been made for an event to be held on The Green in August 2018 and this is to be discussed further at next month's meeting.

Environment – The next meeting is scheduled for 21st September. The Clerk is to report to the junior school again the amount of overgrowth from the community wood that is hampering walking on the footpath to the rear of the wood.

Footpaths – Next meeting is on 20th July and a new chair will be required following Cllr Jennings' resignation. She has left everything in order and a really comprehensive record of footpaths in the village.

Neighbourhood Planning – Little progress has been made in the last few weeks leading up to the last meeting but there is optimism that good progress will have been made in time for the meeting next week.

Planning – A public meeting is to be arranged for 26th July at the URC Church Hall at 8pm with an exhibition of the plans submitted to MSDC available for viewing from 6pm. This will then allow the Planning Committee to submit their written submission to MSDC in time. Due to the time constraints, a leaflet drop will be made to inform residents of the meeting. The Chairman and Clerk have been invited to a meeting with Bloor Homes on Monday to hear proposals on the open spaces to be incorporated into their site. It was felt that this may be an opportunity to help to build a dialogue with the developers.

Play Park – The Clerk reported the bad news that the working group's grant applications to both Awards for All and Viridor had been unsuccessful. This gives a shortfall of £45k. They have since found out that they are eligible to apply for a grant from Biffa subject to the owner of the land being responsible for the insurance and maintenance of the equipment. The Parish Council has agreed in principle to support the Village Hall in this as it is something that they would be responsible for anyway. They can now apply to MSDC for £25k but if they do not get the Biffa grant then the refurbishment of the play park may have to be on a much smaller scale as there are no other large funders left. The amount required for the full refurbishment is £77.5k and currently they have only secured £27k. They have received £300 from the Co-Op token scheme and £500 from the Jeffrey Burton Trust this week.

Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Pring suggested that it would be useful to have a narrow strip by the road to allow people to walk by the road along the length of the half a mow. This will be considered at the next Green inspection. He also asked that the bench near the pond should either be re-located further forward or the vegetation be cut back so that it can be used. It was agreed that a working group would clear the area.

Cllr Johnson asked if signs could be provided to indicate that the tracks across The Green leading to residents' properties are to be used only by the residents and not for the general public to either park in or turn around in. This was agreed.

Cllr Reeves queried the parking of one particular vehicle on The Green but she was advised that this is actually part of the track to their property.

Clerk's Report:

The Clerk advised that Coddendam Parish Clerk has organised some new councillor training and has invited those new councillors from Stowupland to join them in October/November with the dates to be confirmed. The 3 new councillors will attend. There is also some leadership training that will be offered to all councillors who may be interested in chairing any committees or may consider standing in the future for either roles of chairman or vice chairman

Correspondence:

SCC have advised they will no longer update parish councils on services from the network assurance team but the Clerk has set up an alert from them.

The Village Hall have asked for support to apply for up to £1000 for a new cooker with a large capacity from section 106 monies. It was agreed to support their request.

Stowupland Cricket Club have asked if they could deposit their grass clippings into the cemetery but this was refused with the suggestion that they use the brown bin scheme.

A resident from Church Road has asked permission to cut the vegetation alongside the footway on the hill up from Freeman School. It was agreed that he could have use of the strimmer from the cemetery shed and he will be supplied with the necessary H&S equipment. Clerk is also to contact Plain English to request that they cut back their hedge along the A1120.

Another resident contacted the PC about the state of the footpath along Church Road but this has since been cut.

Permission was requested from the URC to park on The Green on the evening of 24th July. This was granted.

The meeting closed to the public at 9.43pm. *Sandy Smith*



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Annual report from the – Clerk Claire Pizzey

I still can't believe that my job is Clerk to Stowupland Parish Council. How can I not enjoy working for a village where I live, grew up, went to school and have family and friends in? Yes, some days and weeks can be challenging but isn't every job at some point. Some of you know who I am and others don't. I can be seen most mornings walking my dog, Betsy, she is the friendly black cocker spaniel with a penchant to bark, lots. Or maybe you have seen me on my bike, off to do something, somewhere in the village, like embarrass the children if seen riding anywhere near them! Enough about me, back to my report.

Firstly, thanks to our Chairman Keith and all the councillors for their help and support throughout this year, it has been a busy one and without them the parish would not run as effortlessly as it does. A highlight from this year has been the Annual Parish Meeting does Bake Off. Initially worried about the event, we had 21 entries for the competition. Once judging had taken place and the necessary awards presented we got to sample all the cakes and bakes before the Annual Parish Meeting began. I hope to see more entries in the coming year's bake off and look forward to seeing more of you there. I mean, who doesn't like cake?

We have seen some changes to the council over the past year and the current membership details are as follows:-

Councillor	Phone Number
Roger Carter	(01449) 770678
Rick Hamilton	(01449) 775403
Laura Johnson	07826 851030
Ben Miller	07765 408001
Dave Pring	(01449) 771891
Sally Reeves	(01449) 745739
Ray Studd	(01449) 676606
Jerry Voden	(01449) 770334
Keith Welham	(01449) 673185

My second thank you to Mike for your role within the Council and to Alan and Richard, who gave up their jobs during the year. We welcome Jeremy Birt, our new handy man. You may have seen his red van around the village as he carries out work for the Parish Council. Do stop and say hello to Jeremy, but please don't hold him up from working for too long! My third thank you and a rather large one at that, goes to all the volunteers that help myself and the Parish Council in various ways. The volunteers that we have in the village undertake a variety of tasks giving up their time for the benefit of us all. Each and every one of you help towards making Stowupland a great place to live. If you are interested in helping out in the village then please give me a ring and I can talk to you about the volunteering that goes on in the village.

The following table summarises the income and expenditure of the Stowupland Parish Council for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The Finance and Policy committee recommended that the accounts were agreed at the meeting of 27 April 2017.

The accounts have received an internal audit and are awaiting the conclusion of the external audit. My thanks to Jon Wray who carried out the internal audit again this year and I am very grateful to Jon for this.

Income and Expenditure for the period ending 31.03.17

Description	Value
<u>INCOME</u>	
Allotments	1,695.65
Cemetery	£5,101.50
Community Events	£2,733.29
Footpath	£944.86
Grants	£2,508.00
Interest received	£16.35
Miscellaneous	£9.85
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	£4,380.00
Precept	£32,600.33
Street Cleaning	£2,620.80
VAT	£1,275.35
	£53,885.98
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Allotments	£1,336.83
Asset	£835.97
Audit costs	£300.00
Cemetery & Churchyard Maintenance	£4,818.52
Cemetery Expenses	£455.24
Clerk Salary	£8,846.02
Clerk Expenses	£817.94
Community Events	£1,709.67
Donations	£250.00
Footpath	£950.00
General Village Maintenance	£975.86

Grants	£4,548.00
Grass cutting	£2,596.02
Hall Hire	£632.25
Insurance	£2,245.56
Miscellaneous	£498.08
Neighbourhood Plan	£4,380.00
Play park	£301.37
Street Cleaning Salary	£2,620.80
Street Cleaning (MSDC Emptying dog bins)	£420.00
Street Lighting	£1,869.41
Subscription	£945.72
Training	£748.00
Tree Surgery	£1,450.00
VAT	£1,247.11
	£45,798.37
Net for the period	£8,087.61
Balance at 1 April 2016	£88,899.35
Balance at 31 March 2017	£96,986.96
Current account	£55,153.81
Unpresented Cheques	£2,119.00
Un-cleared deposits	£231.29
Deposit account	£30,349.64
Community Events account	£13,371.22
Balance at 31 March 2017	£96,986.96

The Budget for the year 2017/18 has been set and the main items of expenditure are shown below:-

<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Admin	21,993
Grants to Local organisations	4,000
Grass cutting, tree surgery, ponds ditches and footpaths	6,190
Litter Collection	3,183

Provision to replace assets	3,000
Street Lighting	1,773
	<u>40,139</u>

If you would like to see or discuss any of the financial records or minutes please contact me.

It is every elector's right to make a complaint to the external auditor regarding the way that the council conducts its business. However, if you are concerned about any of the items in the accounts, the council would be grateful if you could approach me or the chairman of the council in the first instance. If we are unable to provide a satisfactory response you could then make a formal complaint to the external auditor. It is always better to try to resolve these issues and avoid a formal complaint as the external auditor's time is very expensive and is charged to the council.

The full Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of each month in the URC Church Hall. Finance and Policy Committee meets on the last Thursday of each month at the small meeting room at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome at both of these meetings where there is always a public forum to enable residents to give comment, views or ask questions. Alternatively if you would like something discussed at a meeting please drop me a letter or email at least a week before the next meeting and this can then be included in the agenda. All meetings are advertised on the five parish notice boards located round the village three days before a meeting. There are a number of sub-committees and working groups that are made up of Councillors and residents. The sub-committees and working groups open for residents to join are:-

- Allotments sub-committee
- Community Events sub-committee
- Emergency Plan sub-committee
- Footpaths sub-committee
- Neighbourhood Plan working group
- Speed watch Team

If you would like to join any of the above then please contact myself and I can let you have further information on the sub-committee/working group.

Problems relating to footpaths, street lighting, pot holes, broken signs, fly tipping etc. can be reported by email to myself.

The Parish Council are also working on a number of small projects to improve the village; these include work at the cemetery, sections of The Green and the play park. We are also looking at community engagement and will be making a number of changes to the website www.stowupland.com over the coming months. Please take a look at the website as it evolves and let us know your thoughts and ideas.

We hope you can join us as we continue to make Stowupland a great place to live!

Clerk Details, Claire Pizzey

2 Broomspath Road, Stowupland, (01449) 677005 clairepizzey@outlook.com

Countryside Rambler

Brian Ward

We are well into summer and the longest day has passed us by. The barley harvest is in full swing with the wheat to follow. Watch out for birds of prey as they harvest the fields. Recently I saw up to seven Kites and Buzzards follow the farm machinery as they cut a hay field. Beware any mouse or vole trying to escape. Most of our owls will hunt these freshly cut fields as their prey is more exposed so it is worth going out one evening to wait and watch. You may be lucky to see a ghostly shape appear with silent wing beats to hunt its prey.

I have been to my usual haunts, Minsmere being one of them. On my last visit I spent most of my time on the beach watching and photographing the Sandwich Terns diving and catching what were either Sand Eels or small Bass in the surf only a few yards from shore. On catching their quarry they would fly over my head and return to their nests on the scape. The Sandwich Tern is such an elegant bird with its buoyant flight, black cap and yellow tipped bill. Whilst I was watching the Terns, a Kestrel swooped into the grass nearby. I patiently waited for it to take to the air again and when it did it had a lizard firmly grasped in its talons.

June and July I spend much of my time searching for and photographing insects of all descriptions and I often come across a few of the less seen ones. One of my daughters lives at Bramford and whilst on a recent visit a small unassuming brown butterfly landed on a pot of lobelia on an outside table. I recognised it instantly and rushed to photograph it. The butterfly was a White Letter Hairstreak, a butterfly that normally lives high in the tree canopy, hence not seen very often. On another visit we found a male Stag Beetle, a real beast of a beetle with its over large jaws, which it uses to fight off rival males. Unfortunately the Stag Beetle is on the decline.

On my visit to other reserves I have come across Norfolk Hawker Dragonflies, Broad Bodied Chaser and Scarce Chaser, as well as the more common ones. There appears to be an abundance of Damselflies this year and even a stroll along the local River Gipping can be quite rewarding with the Banded Demoiselle being the most stunning.

On my rambles I have come across wild Honey Bee colonies in hollow trees. Also several Grass Snakes, Roe Deer with their spotted young and I even managed to creep up on a fox whilst it was drinking from a stream. My enthusiasm for finding and watching wildlife may bore a lot of folks these days but in my eyes I cannot get enough and with long days ahead of us we can all enjoy the wonders of nature and teach our children and grandchildren to appreciate it all and it's FREE !!!



July Meeting

Although we had all visited The Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL) we knew that there would be much more to be learnt from Lisa Harris' talk celebrating its 50th anniversary. In the 1950s there was growing concern about the loss of old farming ways and traditions, as mechanisation increased. Exhibitions of farming implements and machinery were staged here and there but the story of the Stowmarket site began when the Longe sisters of Abbot's Hall offered the use of their barn for the storage of large objects. Gradually, through their further generosity, and despite the setback of a violent storm causing part of the barn to collapse onto exhibits, the Abbot's Hall site was developed. Great care was taken in transferring buildings such as Edgar's Farmhouse. The 25,000 bricks of the Alton Water Mill were individually marked so that it could be rebuilt exactly, with the creation of a mill pond so that it could work. The collection of rare animal breeds began in 1980.

Fund-raising has always been an essential activity. The Friends of the Museum group has been active for 51 years and raised a total of £100,000. Grants have varied over time. When Abbot's Hall and its gardens became part of the site, they could not be developed, along with the Crowe Street Cottages and the Bury St Edmunds Settling House, until a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund was achieved. Recent funding from the Arts Council will help with new plans but the museum constantly has to look at ways of generating income, such as the Living History Fayre. For those who have missed the sight of the Empress of Britain steam traction engine in action, sadly it now needs a new boiler, which may cost as much as £16,000!

Lisa spoke amusingly of the number of objects offered to the museum and the impossibility of accommodating them all. She has to be selective and also collect present-day items which will be of interest in the future.

New volunteers are always welcome at MEAL. Phone 01449 612229, if you would like to help.

The Evening Stroll on The Green

13 of us enjoyed a leisurely walk around The Green, stopping at intervals to share information. We learnt a lot. A big thank you goes to all who took part.

A Special Fund-Raising Event

Two years ago we invited 'Shipshape' to stage an evening of traditional songs and music. We tapped our feet, laughed and had a wonderful time; but there were empty seats and our profit was small: our special event had coincided with the 'Bake-Off' final on TV! We resolved to try again. 'Harbour Lights' is made up of several of the original members of 'Shipshape', including Alvar Smith ('the singing gamekeeper'). Do come along for a brilliant evening on 13th September, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Admission will be £5 per person and there will be a Stowupland Treasure Hunt (with a map and stickers).

Archives

We are very grateful to Cheryl and Kelvin Clarke for looking after the Archives since the start of the Group. Sandra Walker has now taken on this role: many thanks to her, too. We are always interested to see documents, diaries, letters, and photographs - anything that might contribute to our knowledge of the village in the past. Items will be treated with great care and can be copied and returned. Sandra can be contacted on 01449 673296 or by email: sawalker2000@hotmail.com

Documents and Memories

We have two main sources of information: documents and memories. The former contain dates, facts and are more likely to be accurate. The latter may be a bit uncertain but we love them because they put flesh on the bare bones of facts. That is not to say that people have poor memories! The difficulty almost always comes down to dating. Unless we can link memories with particular events of known date, we all have trouble with deciding when they happened. A few years ago, we asked when cattle were last grazed on The Green. John Paddy set about finding out but although several people could remember cattle on The Green, it was not until John had a chat with Malcolm List that he got a date. Malcolm did a year of farm work after leaving school and was one of the last people to take animals to The Green: the year was 1959.

We shall try to make it clear when we are quoting memories and are sorry for any confusion in the past. One person's memory may not agree with another's - but both may well be correct, only at different dates.

Talking Point

We have no further news about the mysteriously named Watch Bench Lane; perhaps the name was a corruption of something else.

For our next 'Talking Point', in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, our village had a Church, a Chapel and a Mission Hall. Where was the Mission Hall?

Programme

2nd August *The Worlingworth Regiment* by Geoff Robinson

Geoff Robinson and Worlingworth Local History Group have researched The Loyal Worlingworth Volunteers, a body of some 90 men raised in the parishes of the region. From 1798 to 1802, they were prepared to defend the district in the event of a possible French invasion during the Napoleonic War. Geoff has found a surprising amount of physical evidence of their brief existence including medals and a painting of their Commander, Lord Henniker.

6th September *Miss Grimwade and the girls of Hope House* by Linda Sexton

Hope House orphanage trained girls for domestic service in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As with Linda Sexton's talk about St John's Home, last year, many Suffolk families have connections to Hope House.

13th September *Traditional Songs and Tunes with Harbour Lights* (see above).

We meet at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome and refreshments are available. Except on 13th September, admission is £1 for members, £3 for non-members.



Support our Village Hall

Reg. Charity No 304822 — Jerry Voden VHMC

The Village Hall is situated on Church Road and is available for Clubs, Groups, Private Parties and Weddings. Facilities include;

- *Small meeting room, ideal for small group meetings*
- *Large Main Hall*
- *Licensed Bar*
- *Kitchen area available*
- *Ample Parking*
- *There is also a range of re-cycling facilities some of which raise funds for the Village Hall*
- *For more details please contact our booking secretary, Hugh Blanch on 01449 612156*

Stowupland Mountain Rescue Team support EACH

Members of the Mountain Rescue team were joined by members of the Scorpion Martial Arts Academy on Sunday 25 June for a challenge to conquer the three highest peaks in Stowupland in the shortest possible time. There were other willing competitors, most walking and enjoying the countryside with views over the Gipping valley.

Kye Bulbeck from the Academy was first back having run the 7.2 mile course in the fastest time of 1hr 5mins. Two walkers were over 80 years old and the youngest to complete the full course was just 7 years old. The course started at Base Camp (The Retreat); first stop was Mount Pleasurst (59m, 195ft) then on to Gippimanjaro and Bell Nevis, which, at 66m, 215ft, is the highest point in Stowupland, before returning to Base Camp for refreshment.

Each participant paid a voluntary entry fee and, with other donations a total of £200 was raised for EACH, the East Anglian Children's Hospices. Certificates were presented to everyone who completed the challenge.

The event was planned by the Stowupland Community Events group. They hope that the challenge will become an annual event.

Our photograph shows some of the members of the Scorpion Martial Arts Academy.

Coffee Morning

At Stowupland URC Chapel

Friday 25th August 2017 10am-12noon

Coffee/ Tea and Cakes



Farm Shop
Cafe



Butchery
Post Office

 Local Meats

 Range of Cooked Meats

 Free Range Eggs

 Award Winning Cheeses

 Local Seasonal Vegetables

 Local Bread

Homemade Meals and Light Snacks

 All day Breakfasts 7 days a week!

 Diabetic & Gluten Free Products

 24hour ATM

Barn available to rent for Meetings, Parties, Christenings
etc. Food & Drink provided. Please phone for more details.

Open 7 days a week:

Monday – Friday 8:00 – 17:30

Saturday 8:00 – 16:00

Sundays 10:00 – 16:00

Walnut Tree Farm, Stowupland, IP14 4BD

Holy Trinity Church

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STOWEYLAND

Curate : Revd Chris Hood Tel. 677257

Churchwardens : Mrs Ann Doubtfire Tel. 770363

: Mrs Sue Hayter Tel. 613710

Email holytrinityuk@hotmail.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/haughleybenefice

Greetings from your Curate – August 2017



As I write this month's letter for Telstar we are in the midst of Wimbledon fortnight. Johanna Konta and Andy Murray have both moved successfully into the quarter finals and the country is in the fortnight of the year where we are enthralled by tennis. We become experts at spotting the drop shot and cheer at an overhead put away with power and accuracy. And whilst the crowds are, at times, unashamedly partisan there is always the sense that we love to see a game played well, with a high level of skill and the champion is applauded by all. We all have an opinion and become pundits for the glorious fortnight that is only improved for many when Cliff Richard is not forced to sing.

In the build up to Wimbledon this year there was much concern over an injury to Andy Murray. His hip was said to be causing him problems. This led to one national newspaper asking for all people to put their hands on an image of Andy Murray at a set time to make him better. Now I'm fairly confident that it was done with the tongue firmly in cheek in a bid to sell newspapers, but it made me think about how we see prayer.

At times, we see prayer as something we do when things go wrong, when all other options have been exhausted and we are at the end of our resources. Perhaps we see that if all else fails we'll reach for prayer. Now this is part of prayer but it misses out so much.

As a Christian prayer is central to all that we do as those who seek to follow Christ. Prayer is about allowing myself to become aware of God's presence in the world; it helps me notice the image of God in those I meet. It helps me to see myself for who I am before God.

Jesus left us a pattern for prayer with the Lord's Prayer. It encourages us to acknowledge God's holiness, to seek his guidance, forgiveness and sustenance. It is a starting point that helps many in their journey of prayer. I am always delighted to talk about prayer, and if you would like to talk more about prayer please contact me – I'm always happy to chat.

CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

6th Aug	9.30am	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	1st@4 Service - <i>church with a difference!</i>
13th Aug	9.30am	Morning Worship & <i>★Trinity Starz★</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)
14th Aug (Mon)	10.30am	Songs of Praise at Steeple View - <i>All Welcome!</i>
20th Aug	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30pm	Morning Prayer (BCP)
27th Aug	9.30am	All-Age Family Service
	6.30pm	Parish Communion (BCP Book of Common Prayer)

A PRAYER:

Help us, O Lord, by your grace, to fulfil the purpose for which in your wisdom you created us and in your love you redeemed us; that all our days here upon earth may be of service to others and accomplish something of worth for your kingdom and your glory; through our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

FAMILIES!

Please come along to the **'1st @ 4' SERVICE** on Sunday, 6th August at 4.00pm and enjoy this popular **'Church With A Difference'** (with some snacks afterwards)!

Then please come to our bright and friendly **ALL-AGE FAMILY SERVICE** in church on Sunday, 27th August at 9.30am. Do stay and have FairTrade refreshments with us in the hall afterwards!

STEEPLE VIEW:

The residents warmly invite you to join them for their Songs of Praise Service at Steeple View at 10.30am on Monday, 14th August, and which is followed by a short Communion for those who wish to stay.

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH:

Come along on Tuesday August 15th at 12 noon in the Church Hall and enjoy our popular Ploughman's lunch. Please ask a friend or

neighbour to come and experience the friendship whilst enjoying home cooking, salads & desserts. All are welcome!

BEETLE DRIVES:

Come along to enjoy a chat and have some fun in friendly, congenial company at the Beetle Drives which will be held on Tuesdays, 1st and 22nd August in the Church Hall. All are most welcome to join us!

OPEN GARDENS:

A truly great day with a lovely, friendly atmosphere throughout the village. Our most grateful thanks for all their hard work must go to all the gardeners and also to all those who helped in any way to raise the wonderful and record sum of £1,410 towards the upkeep of your parish church. Thanks as well to all those who came and supported this event.

UPDATE:- New Priest in Charge:

The post for a new Vicar will be advertised at the beginning of September and hopefully will result in a new incumbent early in 2018. In the meantime, we will continue to be well-supported by our curate Revd Chris Hood.

WEEKLY COFFEE CHURCH:

Holy Trinity Church has an **Open Church & Social Session from 2pm to 4pm each Wednesday.**

Come on in to the Church Hall for a warm welcome, a free cup of tea/ coffee and a chat, or to wait for children coming out of school. Perhaps to look around and enjoy your Parish Church, maybe for a quiet prayer or just to enquire about church activities etc.

FOOD BANK BOX:

If you would like to donate items for the Food Bank to help those in need of a helping hand, we have a box at the back of the church for you to leave your items. Thank you!

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:

Our well-appointed Church Hall is available for your party, meeting or function.

For bookings or for further information, please contact John & Ann Parsell on tel. 01449 672592.

Open Gardens 25th June 2017

The Open Gardens event in aid of Holy Trinity Church this year was wonderfully successful. We raised £1,410. Twenty gardens were open around the village. Each one different in size, planning, planting and design. A large number of visitors came to view each garden, ask questions, comment and discuss gardening. These visitors made the afternoon a great success.

Sincere thanks go to the organisers, gardeners, sponsors of the programme and the visitors, many from the village and others from near and far, without whom the event would not have been a success.

In 2018 we would appreciate even more gardens being open. If you feel that you would like to open your garden, do not consider it too small or uninteresting, the variety of gardens is what makes the day.

For further information or to register your interest, please contact either Kate Elliott 07730 922530 or Sue Hayter on 01449 613710.

Again, 'Thank You' to all.

Where in Stowupland?

In the June Telstar we asked 'Where in Stowupland *was* this building?' In fact it was a general store, run by Alec Disney and sold to Pauline and Jim Spencer in the 1960s. It was then demolished and replaced with what is now M&M's butchers.

If you enjoyed working that out perhaps you can discover where about in Stowupland this is or was.



August Dates

Mon	3	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tues	4	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Tues	4	Beetle Drive	2.30pm	Church Hall
Wed	5	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	5	Book Group	2.00pm	
Wed	5	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Wed	5	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
		- '50 Years of the Museum of East Anglian Life' by Lisa Harris		
Thurs	6	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sun	9	Local History Evening Stroll on The Green Outside The Retreat	6.30pm	
Sun	9	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	10	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tues	11	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Wed	12	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	12	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Thurs	13	TELSTAR DEADLINE DATE – August issue		
Thurs	13	Parish Council	7.30pm	URC Chapel Hall
Thurs	13	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Fri	14	Sixers Night	6.30pm	Cricket Club
Sun	16	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	17	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tues	18	Mobile Library	9.30am	Jubilee Court
Tues	18	Mobile Library	9.55am	The Green
Tues	18	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Wed	19	Baby & Toddler Group	9.30am	Village Hall
Wed	19	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Wed	19	W.I. – FEPOW & VJ Day	7.30pm	Village Hall
Thurs	20	P.C. Footpaths Sub. Com.	7.30pm	V.H. Meeting Room
Thurs	20	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Fri	21	Sixers Night	6.30pm	Cricket Club
Sun	23	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	24	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tues	25	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Tues	25	Beetle Drive	2.30pm	Church Hall
Wed	26	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Thurs	27	P.C. Finance & Policy Meeting	7.30pm	V.H. Meeting Room
Thurs	27	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall

Fri	28	Coffee Morning	10.00am	URC Chapel Hall
Sun	30	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	31	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall

August Dates

Tues	1	Coffee Morning	10.00am	Jubilee Court
Tues	1	Beetle Drive	2.30pm	Church Hall
Wed	2	Book Group	2.00pm	
Wed	2	Open Church	2.00pm	Holy Trinity Church
Wed	2	Local History Group	7.30pm	Village Hall
		- 'The Worlingworth Regiment' by Geoff Robinson		
Thurs	3	Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sun	6	Country & Western Dance	7.30pm	Village Hall
Mon	7	Dance Club	7.30pm	Village Hall

Future Events in 2017

10	Sept	Walker Cup
13	Sept	'Harbour Lights' traditional songs and music
16	Sept	Community Litter Pick
22	Sept	Community Quiz
29	Sept	Community Bingo (18+)

If you wish to attend one of the events listed, and would like help with transport, please contact Good Neighbours on **07591 539621**

Future Community Events

Walkers Cup	Sunday 10th Sept
Garage/Yard Sale	Sunday 17th Sept
Quiz	Friday 22nd Sept
Bingo	Friday 29th Sept
Bingo	Friday 27th Oct
Xmas Bingo	Friday 24th Nov

Stowupland W.I. report

Our June meeting opened with a warm welcome to members and guests from president, Colleen. “Jerusalem” was sung and the usual business dealt with. Judy spoke of the forthcoming outings to Southwold and Ely Cathedral, while Colleen gave details for the August river trip.

Colleen asked for a volunteer to make a flower arrangement for the President’s table at the Group meeting in October, this being our duty for that evening – as each participating Institute takes on a particular task for the two Group meetings of the year. Congratulations were given to Linda Platt for her winning cake at the “Bake off” at the annual parish council meeting. Members were reminded of the Garden Club teas, which begin again in September and for which both bakers and helpers are needed.

The delegate’s report on the National A.G.M. was read out, after which everyone was invited to partake of the strawberries & cream, with meringues & shortbread biscuits, nobody needing to be asked twice! A short quiz then followed, with small prizes for the winning team.

Competition results - holiday memories – 1st Carolyn, 2nd Christine, 3rd. Mary M. Flower of the month – 1st Christine, 2nd Mary C. 3rd Yvonne. That rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

Saturday, July 8th saw a coach load off to Southwold for the first of our outings there. The weather was fine and the play at the Summer Theatre was an unusual comedy, going back & forth from 1997 to 2017 to 2037. A wonderful sunset concluded an excellent trip.

Outings - Saturday, November 18th. - Ely Cathedral; Christmas Gifts & Food Fair, 1.00 – 4.30 p.m. Admission £4, coach fare £8.50. Leave Stowupland 10.30 a.m. to allow time in Ely to lunch. As I don’t know when the tickets will be issued, names ASAP please, to ensure I get sufficient. For further information, please contact Judy Clarke - 01449 615386
Half-a-Mow

My thanks go to Roger Carter for, once again, cutting the grass of the Half-a mow area. He has undertaken this task ever since the Half-a-mow was adopted by the Parish Council in 2001. Cutting June/July time ensures that plants, such as the Ladysmock, which flowers in the spring, can seed and the orange tip butterfly can lay its eggs on the flowers.

Judy Clarke

FLU CLINIC

**NO APPOINTMENT
REQUIRED**

There will be 3 Walk-in Clinics
on:

**Saturday 30th September,
14th October &
28th October**

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

For patients of Stowhealth
who are in the “at risk group”

You are in the “at risk” group if you are aged 65 (by 31/3/18) or over, or have:

- Diabetes
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Weakened immune system
- Severe asthma (on a preventative steroid inhaler) or chronic respiratory disease
- Transplant patient
- Spleen removal
- All pregnant women
- Carers
- BMI over 40
- Chronic neurological disease (such as Parkinson’s disease, motor neurone disease, stroke and transient ischaemic attacks)

Children aged between 6 months and 13 years old and who are in the “at risk” group WILL REQUIRE AN APPOINTMENT.

All 2 & 3 year olds are now eligible but will also need to make an appointment.

Please telephone 01449 776000 to make an appointment.

If you are not in the “at risk” group, or not a patient of Stowhealth, private flu vaccines are available at £10.00 per vaccine. Please attend the Walk In Clinics on the above dates.

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Open 7 days a week:

Monday – Friday 8:00 – 17:30

Sat 8:00 – 16:00, Sun 10:00 – 16:00

Walnut Tree Farm, Stowupland, IP14 4BD

The Retreat

Stowupland

01449 612511

LIVE MUSIC

12th August

THE SKITTELEZ

8.30pm



**Free bouncy castle every Saturday in August.
Also a BBQ in the afternoons.**



Bingo every other Tuesday from 8.15pm. Next one 1st & 15th Aug.

***Bed & Breakfast available at the
Retreat, long and short stays welcome.
En-suite available and free wifi.***



What's been happening at Stowupland High School?

(taken from Headteacher's Blog – June/July 2017)

Musical Interlude

The rush-hour concert which took place on Wednesday 14th June was a great success with a refreshingly eclectic mix of instruments and musicians ranging from Year 7 through to Year 10. The Ukulele ensemble began the early evening concert, but we were also treated to solos from various students on 'cello, piano and banjo. Two students performed a highly original brass duet composed by one of them – very impressive indeed! Well done to all our performers.

What Good Sports!

It has also been a period of very successful sporting fixtures. The Year 10 boys competed in the Western Area Athletics Competition and achieved some fantastic results; a win and second place in the 300m race, a third place in the 100m and a third place in the 4×4 100m relay team relay.

The Year 9 athletes also acquitted themselves extremely well competing in the following events: 100m, 200m, 300m, 800m, Hurdles (75m), Relay (4x100m), Long Jump, High Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Discus and Javelin. Some athletes achieved podium places with a first place in 300m, second and third place in Shot Put, third in 200m and third in High Jump. There were many highly creditable performances in 800m, Shot Put, High Jump and Javelin.

And last, but by no means least, the Year 7 girls' rounders team also attended their first ever tournament on Tuesday 13th June, having completed only a few training sessions. The girls used the opportunity to experience playing in different fielding positions and the PE staff feel that this is a very strong squad in the making.

Stowupland Stars Competition

We should take a few moments to celebrate the success of the “**Stowupland Stars**” competition. Twenty one students ranging from Year 7 through to Year 10 took to the stage at the end of June and performed for a panel of judges.

There were solo vocal performers, duets and group dances taking part in the competition and the school’s fusion group performed two pieces to entertain the audience. The judges were: Ms Clubb (Subject Leader for Music); Ms Dixie (Subject Leader for Drama) and Mr Holden (Progress Leader for Year 7). All three judges were, quite rightly, extremely complimentary and constructive in their feedback and the rumour that Mr Holden was Simon Cowell in disguise proved to be completely unfounded!

The highest marks of the evening were awarded to two Year 7 girls and to two Year 9 girls; these two acts then performed again for the audience vote and the Year 7 students were awarded first place, but all participants deserve congratulations on producing a thoroughly entertaining evening. Many thanks also to Miss Buckley, Mrs Brand and Mr Edgar for organising the event, along with the student helpers.

And Finally ...

We held our Sports Day on the 4th July and the Art and Design Exhibition opened at 5.00pm on the same day – an open event where guests can come along to see the wonderful creations from both GCSE and A Level students.

The public examination season is officially over! Both students and staff await the results of A levels on 17th August and GCSEs on 24th August; an anxious time for us all. We would like to wish everyone the very best for excellent outcomes on these days – our thoughts are very much with you.

The Walker Cup – Stowupland v Old Newton – Sunday 10 September

It's that time of year again. Forget football, cricket, tennis, cycling and the Olympics – this is the competition that really matters - the Walker Cup. The rules are simple. The village that has the most walkers making the journey there and back wins the cup. So, all you have to do is walk from the Retreat in Stowupland to the Sports and Social Club in Old Newton and back again.



The route follows footpaths between the two villages and, at a gentle amble; the walk should take a total of about 1 ½ hours there and back.

The competition is open to all ages from 0 to 90+ so even if you have to be carried you will count as a 'Stowupland walker'. Just register at the Retreat before you start and on your return. Registration is between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

There's a £2 entry donation with all proceeds going to charity (extra donations will be very welcome). So, it's a good cause, you'll see some lovely countryside and if we win we will be able to bring the cup back to where it rightfully belongs.

Collection on behalf of Barnados

I would like to say a big thank you to Oak Road for their contribution to this year's collection on behalf of Barnados. We raised over £70 this year, Jerry Voden.

A note from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council politely asks residents not to put soil, grass cuttings or rubbish in ditches around the village; particularly the ones around the school. If the ditches do have rubbish, soil and grass cuttings put in them they flood instead of taking water away. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Stowupland Parish Council 2016/2017 Annual Report from Keith Welham, Chairman

I was re-elected as chairman at the Annual General Meeting last May and Jerry Voden was re-elected as vice chairman. Since then Morris Brand, Daniela Bruce and Alan Bickerdike have resigned as councillors and Sally Reeves, David Pring and Laura Johnson have joined the Council. We currently have a full complement of councillors.

On the planning front, the 'Gladman' application 175 homes on land between Church Road and Gipping Road was approved following a Public Inquiry; we now await detailed proposals for the development. Four other applications for housing developments are awaiting determination by the district council. There are separate applications for 75 and 58 homes on land west of Thorney Green Road, and for smaller developments opposite the parish church and opposite the URC chapel. Currently there is no timescale for these to be considered by MSDC planning committee.

Music on The Green last year was run by volunteers to raise funds for the Trust Maria charity. The weather was wet before and during the event. However, a large crowd of residents and visitors enjoyed the day but, from a financial point of view, the event was not a success. Also, vehicles entering and leaving The Green caused deep ruts which have only recently been fully repaired.

We have heard nothing recently from the county council about the Safely to School pedestrian and cycle route. Scheme designers altered the details without consulting the parish council. From the outset, we have made it clear that the scheme must provide a route for children walking to the Freeman School and that the surface of the path across The Green must have a gravel finish. SCC has refused to accommodate these requests and the latest we have heard is that, if we do not agree their changes, the scheme may not be built. Attempts to discuss our concerns with decision makers at SCC have failed; meetings have been cancelled and no new dates offered. This is totally unsatisfactory as the damage to the edges of The Green is getting worse, congestion is increasing, safety is a real concern and there have been instances of verbal abuse by parents to residents and other car drivers.

Last year I reported that we had invited senior SCC Education officers to visit at the end of a school day and meet with us but when meetings have been arranged they have been cancelled. Two meetings with the cabinet member were also cancelled and we are still waiting for a new date.

The condition of roads around the village is very poor with deep potholes, especially in Thorney Green Road. Representatives of the Parish Council met with the Area Highways Manager to show him the extent of our

concerns. However, SCC has refused to fill most of the potholes because they are not yet large enough to meet their criteria for repair. The worst should be dealt with by the end of July. After months of delay, SCC did manage to get the A1120 gateway treatment completed at the second attempt.

The Green was well maintained throughout last summer and is beginning to look good following the first two cuts this spring. Tim Gaddis has won the contract for mowing for the next three years, including the churchyard, cemetery and PlayPark. Tree surgery work has been carried out in the cemetery, and on The Green, particularly around the pond by The Retreat.

Our working groups have continued to meet. Community Events have included bingo sessions and quizzes and the group also arranged pre-Christmas tea parties in Steeple View and Jubilee Court. Also, a new venture - a table top sale. Footpath surveys are carried out four times a year and problems reported to SCC but very little work has been carried out by them. Cemetery, Churchyard and Allotment inspections are carried out roughly quarterly and most of the time most of the areas are tidy and well kept. Now and then a letter has had to be sent to the holder of an allotment plot that has been left untended, but most are attractively kept and productive. Over the coming months we will be starting a general tidy up of the cemetery by removing objects that have been left near graves and cremation plots. Many of these items have been in place for a long time and have probably been forgotten. Most should never have been placed there in the first place.

The Traffic, Transport and Safety Group have carried out traffic surveys at school starting and finishing times. The SpeedWatch team has continued to measure and record speeds of vehicles and a number of drivers, but very few from the village, have had letters from the police. When Morris Brand moved to Scotland, Sally Reeves took over as co-ordinator of SpeedWatch. Morris set up the scheme a number of years ago and was responsible for keeping it going until he left. I'm grateful that Sally has taken over but more volunteers are needed. If you think that you could spare a few hours a month, please speak to Sally.

Sally and Claire have taken over the planning of the PlayPark upgrade and are in the throes of grant applications. We hope to have the new equipment installed by early autumn. The basketball court will also be improved. A check back at records from the installation of the original PlayPark showed that the court should not have been used for day to day car parking and it has now been gated and locked with pedestrian access only.

For a number of years we had been represented at the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team quarterly priority setting meetings, but these are no longer held so there is no regular contact with local police officers. They no longer attend council meetings or give written reports since the severe cut in their numbers.

Our Telstar magazine continues to be one of the best village magazines in Suffolk and has proved to be an excellent way of publicising what goes on in the village to residents and people further afield who can read Telstar on the village website or have copies sent to them. A big thank you to Liz Voden who puts the magazine together, Sally Reeves who collects the finished magazines and delivers to the distributors and to the rest of the Telstar Team who ensure we have enough adverts and look after our finances, and to our contributors and distributors. The Council is grateful to Sandy Smith who sits through every council meeting, taking notes, and puts together the reports which you can read each month in Telstar.

During the year both Alan Parris and Richard Ball gave up their jobs as village handyman and cemetery caretaker respectively. The council is very grateful for their work in the past. Alan carried out a wide variety of tasks from minor general repairs to replacing footpath signs, footbridge repair and installation of benches and bus shelters.

Jeremy Birt has taken over as village handyman and many of you will have seen his van around the village. One of his first tasks was to remove and reinstall posts near Willow Wood. Since then he has renovated one of the cemetery benches, cleared a huge amount of fallen branches and other debris from the cemetery and has been cutting back the overgrown laurel in the cemetery. In between Jeremy has undertaken various other smaller tasks.

Claire and I have met regularly with the business manager at the high school and have had two meetings with representatives at the Freeman School; regular meetings are planned for the future. These meetings are very useful, giving us a chance to share concerns and look for a remedy to any problem that may have occurred.

I would like to thank Claire for all the work she has done for the council and for the residents of Stowupland. We would not have got through the last year without all the extra work Claire has done. Much of what Claire does is unpaid and goes unnoticed by most people. Because the workload is so great, if you do need to speak to Claire, in person or by telephone, please do so during her office hours which are given in Telstar.

I am grateful to Mike Hawkins, who makes sure that The Green and surrounding areas are free of litter and The Green is an asset that we should be proud of. Volunteers have played a large part too, litter picking (a thankless task but very much appreciated), repairing notice boards (or making new ones), helping with community events, footpath surveys, maintaining the PlayPark and many other tasks which may go un-noticed. Thank you all.

Finally, I would also like to thank the councillors who have given me support throughout the year. We are now halfway through a four year stint as councillors and there is plenty to keep us occupied.

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U.R.C Chapel

Minister: Rev'd Chris Wood
Telephone 01449 678173

The next coffee morning, to be held at the Chapel, will be on Friday, 25 August 2017 10am to 12noon. Please come and join us for a drink, cake and a chat. It's always a very enjoyable morning.

Services at the URC Chapel are held each Sunday at 10.30am and we cordially invite anyone who wishes to join us in our worship. A warm welcome awaits you.

Our speakers for July are as follows:

6 August Alison Fenning

13 August Nigel Crisp

20 August Clive Herrod

27 August Ron Wade

Afternoon Fellowship

Just to keep you in the picture we recommence our meetings on the first Monday in October. We welcome anyone who would like to join us at our meetings (male or female).

Mary Clark

Ministers Message

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

I've just returned from a wonderful day out on a 'Mystery Trip' organised by Enid Lambert from Mendlesham Chapel. Amazingly Enid managed to fill a coach with people who were prepared to take the risk, by being taken to places where they had no inkling and putting their trust in her knowledge of Suffolk and what would appeal to her fellow companions for the day.

I thought I knew Suffolk well, having explored fairly extensively while living in Clacton, and more so since arriving in Stowmarket five years ago. Yet, we were soon taken off the beaten track, along some narrow country roads that I was amazed the coach could negotiate, and with each turn discovered some incredible sights, from crops growing, some delightful Suffolk villages, beautiful churches, as well as gateways and drives that led to amazing properties.



Our first destination appeared to be in the middle of nowhere, yet revealed a wonderful church called St. Mary the Virgin in Huntingfield. Looking on their website afterwards they admit 'It's not easy to find Huntingfield; even the signposts do not bear its name until you are within the parish boundary. Yet this shallow valley, divided by the infant river Blyth, with church and parsonage on one bank and manor house on the other, has been owned by some notable families in England's history'.

The church is in a delightful setting and made for a lovely photo, but it's on the inside that one's breath is taken away, through its amazing Victorian painted ceiling with is painted from one end to the other in brilliant colours, with carved and coloured angels, banners, crowns and shields. We were told that the ceiling had been painted by the Rector's wife to relieve the boredom of Parish life in the 19th century. I gather the church had to be closed for eight months from September 1859 to April 1860 while she painted the chancel roof. Tradesmen provided scaffolding and prepared the ceiling for painting but there is no record to show that she had any help with the work, and legend has it that she did much of it lying on her back, while, much to the horror of Parishioners, wearing trousers!

There are twelve large panels in the chancel ceiling each showing an angel holding either a scroll with the words of the canticle 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel', or the emblems of the Passion: the cross, the hammer and nails, the scourge, the lance, the crown of thorns and the reed. I gather she got her inspiration from travelling extensively with her husband in Europe and beyond, and wherever they ventured, she would always take her sketch pad and draw extensively. She was self-taught!

Well satisfied, we ventured from there towards the East picking up the A12 (I was on familiar territory!) only to turn off and once again negotiate some

narrow lanes, eventually being brought out at a property in the middle of no-where but near Sutton (how does Enid find such places I wonder?!). It turned out that this was the only property in Suffolk that is owned and run by the ladies of the Women's Institute. Again extremely old, it had originally been three separate properties but made into a hall with kitchen and other facilities. Here we were afforded wonderful hospitality and a chance to chat around the table and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea.

We came home in the early evening well satisfied from the day's experiences and encounters, extremely grateful to Enid for organising and providing us with an insight to parts of Suffolk that we never knew existed, and wondering how she could provide so much for so little cost.

I'm reminded of the Israelites who put their trust in Moses as he led them on a 'Mystery Trip' which would eventually lead them to a destination only known by God. The account suggests that their way was full of blessings, including God revealing Himself and His purpose at regular intervals. But, more than that, He made sure that refreshments were supplied each and every day so that they might be sustained in their journey together.

God Bless

Chris

(Rev'd Chris Wood – minister of Stowmarket, Mendlesham, Stowupland and Debenham URC's)

Telstar is also available as a link on the Parish Council website:

www.stowupland.com

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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Baby and Toddler Group:	Leanne Lambourne	07739 367324
Bowls Club:	Susan Boorman	01449 614673
	John Mollett	01449 775269
Dance Club:	May & Paul Durham	01449 672601
Local History Group:	Marion Harris	01449 770895
Short Mat Bowls:	Pam Fayers	01449 770080
Sports & Social Club:	Shaun Langford	07934 194486
W. I.	Judy Clarke	01449 615386
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Junior Page

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S	T	O	F	J	M	A	Q	I	Y	E	P
M	V	U	X	D	O	V	E	O	H	R	P
B	O	S	A	N	T	B	Z	N	P	A	I
E	R	N	R	E	G	I	T	C	U	V	H
A	N	O	K	D	E	O	J	K	W	E	K
R	S	H	A	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
K	W	O	B	S	Y	C	A	M	E	L	Q



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Stowupland Cricket Club

Saturday Team

4 games for the Saturday team this month. They started off the month well winning their first 2 matches. Firstly against 2nd place Worlington, in which captain Scott Gregory took 5 wickets. Then easily beating West Mersea thanks to a 100 from Tom Wray. The 3rd game of the month was a rarity of a tied game against Easton in which both teams scored 223. The last was an unfortunate loss away to West Mersea with an under par performance. After bowling them out for 172, we unfortunately fell 10 short to lose the game. But you can't win them all and we remain top of the table!

Sunday 1st Team.

After losing their first 3 games of the season the Sunday 1st team have won 3 out of the last 4. The team started off with a brilliant display of bowling from Kieran Gregory and Jake Taylor. We bowled Walsham out for 146 after we scored 164 batting first. This was then followed up with comfortable wins at home to Bardwell with Kieran Gregory scoring a quick fire 85. We then played Battsford twice in 2 weeks. The first game wasn't our best; we had a weak side and unfortunately lost. But the week after we got our revenge, scoring 155 with Luke Abbott top scoring with 58 and with new recruit Gaz Schwandt taking 7-38 and bowling Battsford out for 126.

Sunday 2nd Team.

4 games played this month for the second team, winning 1 and losing the other 3. A tough month for the seconds playing the top of the table Milden twice and a strong Lavenham side twice as well. After losing the first two games of the month, the seconds got a deserved win away to Lavenham. Scoring 268-6 with Tim Mills once again reaching a half century and he was well supported by Nathan Long. Lavenham had a go at the total but eventually fell 30 runs short. The return fixture against Milden was a lot closer than the first game but unfortunately we fell 20 short of Milden's total. The best batsman in the club' Aidy Sturg hit 3 sixes in a row!

The Mid Week team have once again reached the final and will be playing Mid Suffolk. May the best team win.

Jo Abbott Chairperson

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Stowupland Bowls Club

July 2017

At the AGM 2016 Sue Boorman said that she was prepared to carry on as secretary for one year. Come this AGM we must elect a new secretary so please give this your urgent attention for without a secretary we cannot continue in any of the leagues or cup games. At best we could run as a club playing friendlies and club competitions only, or games between ourselves.

As you know, I stepped in to help with the green and to chair meetings. The green is playing very well, thanks to those who have given their time, but I need to call it a day.

Please. As for the secretary, give urgent consideration to the way forward with regard to the green and chairperson.

As urgent is the need for new members; the cost of keeping the green in good playing condition is costly and funding it from the present membership is going to be a challenge.

Thank you for all that is done to keep this most friendly club going.

The season continues with mixed fortune but judging from the laughter on the green most are enjoying their games. It does not seem possible that we are two-thirds the way through the bowling year.

Best wishes, John Mollett.



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www.stowupland.com

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