

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish (APM) held on 1 June 2022 in the PDCC hall.

Present: Councillors Weston (Chair), Bremner, Collins, Cooper, Fausset, Prendergast, Pudney, and Sneddon.

Also Present: District Councillor Burn and the Clerk.

Electors: 8 Members of the public attended the meeting

06.01.1 APM Welcome

Cllr Weston introduced himself, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

06.01.2 APM Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs Dingle and Shirley-Smith, and various apologies received from parishioners.

06.01.3 APM To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 May 2021

Copies of the Minutes had been previously circulated. The minutes were agreed and accepted as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

06.01.4 APM Reports

The following reports were summarised by representatives at the meeting, where present. All reports issued prior to the meeting commencing were previously circulated. All reports are appended to the minutes on the parish council website. *Due to lack of space they are not posted on the notice board.*

06.01.4.1 APM Palgrave Parish Council: Cllr Neil Weston, Chair – see **Appendix 1**

06.01.4.2 APM County Council: County Councillor Jessica Fleming - see full report **Appendix 2**

06.01.4.3 APM District Council: District Cllr David Burn – see full report **Appendix 3 as a separate pdf document**

06.01.4.4 APM St Peter's Parochial Church Council - see **Appendix 4**

06.01.4.5 APM St Peter's CEVC School: Read out by Andrew Wheeler on behalf of Hannah Cooke, Chair of Governors – see **Appendix 5**

06.01.4.6 APM Palgrave and District Community Centre – see **Appendix 6**

06.01.4.7 APM Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan - see **Appendix 7**

06.01.4.8 APM Neighbourhood Watch – see **Appendix 8**

06.01.4.9 APM Palgrave Welfare Trust: Sian Bunbury, trustee, read the report - see **Appendix 9**

06.01.4.10 APM Reports from many other village organisations as detailed from Appendix 10 onwards. These include Diss Art Group, the Friendship Club, Palgrave Photography Group, Ukaholics Anonymous, Palgrave Cinema, Extend Exercise, Palgrave Allstars, Cribbage, Carpet bowls and the Palgrave Players.

06.01.5 APM Other Village organisations – Cllr Weston thanked all village organisations for their input. He thanked the volunteers who carry on month after month giving their time to the village. Special mention was made to Kevin & Sue Mobbs for their ongoing commitment to the Defibrillator checks; John Whistlecraft for cutting the cemetery grass between the headstones; Michael Locket for marking the burial plots; Phil Dyer as our Cemetery Administrator; all the SID volunteers who do a fantastic job of keeping our Speed devices operating - Hugh & Sian Bunbury, Rupert Fausset and his son Toby, Penny Thomson & Richard, John Wells, Adrian Mitchell, Nick & Nicky Emerick; the 3 man team who recently renovated the two village standpipes - Hugh Bunbury, Chris Mills and Kevin Guinea; and lastly all the litter pickers who turn up twice a year to keep the village clean headed up by Roddy and Laura Forster. There are too many to mention but everyone's help is really appreciated. Thanks were also expressed to the Jubilee bus shelter decorators, Jane McClintock and Penny Thomson.

06.01.6 APM Any other relevant matters or questions: - The Chair raised the imminent Solar Farm planning application which is due to be available shortly on the planning portal and the question of a possible extended 20mph limit around The Green which has to meet strict guidelines.

06.01.7 APM Date of next Annual Parish Meeting: This will be held sometime in April 2023, possibly 23 April t.b.c.

06.01.8 APM Closing remarks; The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Report by the Chair of Palgrave Parish Council

2021 was another year of disruption to activities in Palgrave and of course beyond. With the lifting of the restrictions a lot more has been possible.

Here is a list of some of the highlights of the work of the Council recently.

- Completion of road projects
 - Access-only road
 - 40mph buffer zone
 - Weight restrictions on Crossing and Priory Roads
 - St John's bend improved signage
- Acceptance of our offer to purchase the Green
- Progress on the DDNP
- Creation of more natural areas of the Green
- Protection of the Waveney valley environment – lodges
- Creation of a Quiet Lane along Millway Lane
- Repair of Cemetery Gates
- Installation of a bench down Lows Lane
- Improvements in drainage down Lows Lane
- More dog bins with one more to come

We still have many challenges ahead including

- Ownership of the Green is still not secured and the vendor's solicitor is not replying to communication
- Solar Farm on the edge of Palgrave
- Electricity pylons crossing the Waveney Valley

We still have a decent amount of CIL money that can be invested in infrastructure in Palgrave and would welcome ideas where this money can be best used to benefit all the residents. We also have a plan to protect the Green further from damage once ownership is gained.

Appendix 1

Annual Parish Report 2021/2022 - Suffolk County Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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Looking back to May 2021, newly elected Leader Matthew Hicks announced council priorities as: supporting vulnerable residents, Suffolk's economy, the environment, and value for the taxpayer. Since that time much has happened; the council has been engaged by pandemic recovery cost of living pressures, as well we are profoundly affected by the war in Ukraine and in helping refugees settle with host families

In addition to Central Government grants, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) has invested almost £10m to support Covid-19 through Suffolk's Strategic Recovery Plan, including:

- **The Local Economy** - £2.05m towards Suffolk's businesses recovery and the potential Haughley Junction rail upgrade
- **Communities** - £2.6m towards housing projects, improve literacy levels, and families and young people in need of support
- **Engagement** – £0.139m towards Youth Healthwatch projects and community engagement
- **Climate Change** - £1.5m to implement the Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan

Other strategic investments committed over the year include:

- **Highways Flooding and Footpaths** - £10m to improve highways flooding and £10m to upgrade pavements and footpaths.
- **Waste Recycling Centres** - £14.5m in upgrades and a new Ipswich waste recycling centre.
- **New Special Educational Needs & Disabilities School Places** - Continue investing £45m in building or extending facilities to offer 800 new SEND school places

Suffolk's Highways contract with Kier is due to end in September 2023, and the council has started the two-year process of tendering for a new Highways Services partner. The approach is to use one contract for the majority of highways functions with separate contracts for streetlighting and traffic signals. Following a rigorous tendering process, the council plans to award the new contract in early 2023 with the new service provider beginning in October 2023.

The council appointed a **new Chief Fire Officer** and Executive Director for Fire and Public Safety in August 2021. Jon Lacey now leads the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and is also responsible for SCC's Trading Standards and emergency planning services. On the same theme, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service acquired **three new state-of-the-art response vehicles** in 2021 equipped with the latest technology, to support firefighters at complex emergency incidents. The new vehicles will typically be used as a hub and where field coordination is required.

Budget for 2022/23 - The council approved a budget for 2022-23 which includes a 4.5% increase (from £598.2 to £625.4m), generated by a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in grants received from the Government. The proposals were approved at full council in February.

Suffolk has experienced its worst ever Bird Flu Epidemic which is still active and has greatly affected poultry rearers both large scale and small. Poultry and other captive birds may be let out as of 2nd May 2022 except within a 3 km Protection Zone. But there are some precautions which should be taken, details <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-latest-situation-avian-influenza-prevention-zone-declared-across-great-britain> Protection Zones are posted on APHA's interactive map: <https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html> If you live within a 3 km Protection Zone birds must remain housed.

Commencing last June, the council commissioned an external review of its **Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services** by Lincolnshire County Council. The findings are now available and an action plan is in place. You can [read the report and action plan here](#). Currently there are approx. 6,000 children with a care plan and a further 12,000 pupils have special educational needs not needing a care plan. The Council has formed a SEND Accountability Board which is providing oversight for implementation of the Action Plan.

Infrastructure Required to support Government's 2050 Net Zero Target – In October the Offshore Electricity Grid Task Force (OffSET) was set up to respond to the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review (OTNR) and commitment to deliver 40GW of Offshore Wind by 2030. The group includes regional MPs and councillors chaired by Sir Bernard Jenkin MP and is responsible for ensuring that related Planning is effectively scrutinised in East Anglia. New transmission infrastructure includes added capacity linking Bramford to Twinstead, and Anglia Green.

National Grid's East Anglia GREEN is a 400 Kv new power transmission project, the preferred route runs just west of the Thornhams and east of Gislegham then up through Burgate and Palgrave to Norfolk. Public consultation started as of 21st April and runs until 16th June There is a public session in Needham market on Friday 27th May 1.00 – 7.00 pm. This is a very substantial project which will affect communities along the route. Further information is available on the website www.nationalgrid.com/east-anglia-green

Other Infrastructure under Consultation include the proposed Sunnica Solar farm (a 2,792-acre 500-MW scheme on the Cambridgeshire border) and numerous smaller (non NSIP) solar projects. Drax/Progress Power gas fired peaking plant, for renewables back-up, commenced development near Eye in 2021. There is also Anglian Water's new pipeline project (Bury to Colchester).

Platinum Jubilee Events - To mark the celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, celebrations are planned over the four-day Bank Holiday weekend, between 2 and 5 June 2022. Sunday 5 June 2022 is referred to nationally as the 'Big Jubilee Lunch'.

Ukraine and Refugees – The council has responded promptly to the Government's policy on hosting Ukrainian refugees, and many have already arrived in Suffolk. Please refer to the webpage. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/supporting-afghan-ukrainian-refugees/policy>

St Peter's Church, Palgrave

With the passing of Covid restrictions we have settled into a pattern and style of Sunday worship that was devised to suit those rules but which seems generally appreciated to continue for the present. Our 'Community Worship' service is held every Sunday at the same hour (the converse often having been a criticism in the past). Services have resumed in the other villages, so the congregation at St Peter's may seem to be depleted but has in fact grown; with several Church members having moved to the area recently. The reduced pew capacity accommodates our regular numbers comfortably. Refreshments can now be offered after the service, and most stay on and enjoy this social opportunity. As we end the year, the wearing of face masks is relaxed and we no longer set aside alternate pews

The necessities of the pandemic served to strengthen bonds between the Benefice Churches, and Palgrave Church often hosts services and activities of the Benefice, such as the All Souls commemoration service and, most recently, the World Day of Prayer and an action group that has grown out of that. The revived Benefice Choir practises at St Peter's. They are preparing to sing at Bury Cathedral.

Palgrave Voluntary Controlled CofE Primary School is, as ever, limited for space and we are pleased to help them with this need (although, in view of rising energy prices, the PCC proposes to seek a contribution for heating and lighting). It is important that the School maintains its association with the Church. The big events in the school/church calendar, such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the leaver's service bring both children and parents into the church. The School has also resumed 'Open the Book', albeit in a slightly scaled back fashion and without Church members taking part. For most of the past year it was almost impossible for our clergy and church governors to participate in school activities and collective worship. This has only recently resumed. In addition, we are lately encouraged that the School has welcomed one of our PCC – a former teacher – to talk to the children about relevant Church events.

Sunday Club, for young people, is run as a Benefice activity, based in Wortham Village Hall. At present, none from Palgrave attends.

Financially, the PCC is reasonably sound but has not met its Parish Share in full for the past few years, nor has it undertaken any of the costly fabric repairs recommended at the last Quinquennial Inspection. Income comes chiefly from the Sunday collection plate, and we have to thank the generous giving of quite a small number of people. Again, this year, we did not hold an annual 'Gift Day' but plan to do so in September 2022. We staged a second book sale this year which was well supported and raised almost as much as the first such sale.

The fabric of the church is overall in acceptable condition and weathertight but this may not be true for long if some effort is not made towards basic maintenance of the exterior walls, at least. There are some persistent areas of damp in the walls. There is also the on-going question of the carpeted floor platform at the front of the nave. Mould has occurred on the underside of the boards, which have also expanded. As a matter of outward appearance it would be good to have the two clock faces repainted. Other than the sale of surplus pews, and some hassocks, nothing is missing from the inventory of church furnishings and contents. The church interior is well-presented thanks to a great team of volunteer cleaners – not all being regular Church members and several newly enlisted this year. The same must be said for those who ensure that there are always fresh flowers on the altar, plus a good display on special occasions.

Our set of eight bells has been largely silent over the past year; not for any want of condition but for lack of ringers and opportunity. Regular practise evenings at nearby Oakley and Redgrave have drawn away the ringing team that used to meet at Palgrave. However, it is always a pleasure to assemble a team to enhance Church weddings.

The Friends of Palgrave Church has not been active this year, but continues. New enthusiastic members are needed, together with a suitable target or entity for fundraising efforts.

Upkeep of the churchyard and its boundaries is looked after by the Parish Council. The grass is regularly cut, which is appreciated, along with occasional wall repairs often necessary.

The Church Electoral Roll has increased by 4 persons, with none leaving, and is thus now 36.

Hugh Bunbury, Churchwarden

Palgrave CEC School – Hannah Cooke, chair, Palgrave School Governance Committee & trustee of the Tilian Partnership

At the heart of the village, Palgrave Primary School is full of creativity, eager learners, achievement and superb effort, interest and enthusiasm. Well done and thank you to our inspiring school staff and all of the children.

Palgrave Primary School has been part of the Tilian Multi Academy Trust since the partnership's formation in August 2016. We are now partnered with seven other local Church of England schools: Gislingham, Bardwell, Old Newton, Rougham, Ixworth, Crawford's and Kersey. Chair of the Tilian Trust is Stephen Yapp, Andrew Berry is Tilian Partnership CEO and Julia Waters is Head of Palgrave School.

All schools retain their individual identity and character within the Tilian MAT. We are a Church of England school and Christian Values underlie our activities. Palgrave School has its own governing committee (PSGC) with parent, community, staff and church representation. We also benefit from the support of St Peter's Church, Palgrave Community Centre and parishioners for school activities. Our thanks to you all. We are a licensed Forest School provider and lucky enough to have our own forest school site in Palgrave to use. Special thanks to Jane and Ian McClintock for their kind provision of land for this dedicated use by the school. All year groups take part in the forest school programme so everyone can benefit from this excellent outdoor learning experience.

Parents and carers are involved in the life of the school and engagement is high. We have enjoyed the return of face-to-face parent evenings, school assemblies, open classrooms and reading cafe. Our wonderful Friends of Palgrave School fundraising committee have continued to successfully raise money during this difficult time with initiatives such as the popular Bags 2 School clothes collection. Thanks to the F.O.P.S fundraising, the cost of school trips are substantially subsidised. An extra treat from F.O.P.S was the whole school visit to the Wolsey Theatre for the Christmas pantomime.

A snapshot of life in school includes:

- The return of inter-school sports after a break of 18 months with a wonderful variety of sporting opportunities for the children. Congratulations to all of the children who took part in the many events and displayed the sporting values of respect, teamwork, courage and passion.
- Live performances, in front of parents and carers. The school Nativity play was delightfully performed by Class 1 and Class 2. Palgrave Church was full for the school's Easter Service, led by the Year 6 pupils. The Palgrave School Brass Band played for the first time in two years in front of parents and their renditions of Hot Cross Buns and Fanfare were tremendous.
- A busy summer term is underway. Well done to the children who sat their SATS papers. (The national curriculum tests were suspended for the last two years). We now look forward to rehearsing the Key Stage 2 Summer Production. The whole school has enjoyed outdoor adventurous activities at Thorpe Woodlands such as archery, high ropes and obstacle courses. In July, Class 3 and Class 4 pupils will travel to London to visit the Houses of Parliament for a debating session, 10 Downing Street and also Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. We are working with Suffolk County Council and local hosts to support a Ukrainian family.

The school building:

We do have physical restraints of the school building, which are challenging but the school is extremely resourceful and creative with use of space. The physical barriers are not seen as a barrier to learning. In fact, we strive to provide even better opportunities for children by accessing real venues and real equipment. We are continually working to maximise our learning space and considering new ways to face this challenge and take this forward into the future.

Looking to the future, our aspiration is developing aspirations for all children. We are optimistic about the future with our enthusiastic and capable staff, engaged and involved parents and caring school environment.

Q: Is there any chance of getting the grass replaced in the playground?

A: Andrew Wheeler will find out and reply to the clerk with the information

Palgrave and District Community Centre

The Centre opened its doors again last May and bookings for classes and events have escalated with every weekday and evening booked and most weekends. Our Community Centre is now a regular venue for fitness and dance classes, carpet bowls, musicians, an art group, photography group, theatre group and the Friendship Club. The playing field is used every week by the fitness bootcamp, Palgrave School and by many dog walkers and other residents. The Palgrave All Stars children's sports activity has also returned to the playing field.

The monthly cinema evenings have been extremely popular and we have had good attendance since their return. The PDCC have hosted a number of successful village events including the recent Garage Sales, several coffee mornings and a very well attended "Newcomers Welcome" Barbeque in September. Many new residents moved into Palgrave over the "lockdown" year and we have extended a warm welcome to them.

We celebrated 10 years of pollution-free electricity generated by the playing field wind turbine. Throughout the various lockdowns and restrictions on activities at the Centre the only reliable and consistent source of income has been from the turbine. although the turbine provides a very useful buffer against fuel costs, the end of our current fixed price contract will mean an additional £2500 per annum in the cost of the electricity we need from the grid – a 100 per cent increase compared to previous contract. Regrettably the Centre is not classed as a domestic dwelling and therefore does not have the price cap "protection" that residents have for their homes.

The rewilding of the periphery of the playing field is at last completed and the area has been sown with wildflowers. Thanks go to all the volunteers, who worked so hard on this project and to Mid-Suffolk District Council which awarded the PDCC a Locality Grant to cover costs.

Every month we produce the Palgrave Star magazine which is wholly funded by the PDCC. A copy is delivered by volunteers to every household in the village.

We are eager to continue to develop Palgrave Community Centre as a hub of community activity for everyone in the village. A facility which offers opportunities for the whole community to meet, stay active, learn new skills and volunteer. A thriving asset, at the very heart of our rural community.

Unusually perhaps, Palgrave Community Centre is run by a charity and we do not receive local authority or parish council funding towards our running costs. This means that we have to be self-sufficient. We have plans to enhance and improve our facilities and the PDCC has just embarked upon a complete refurbishment of the toilet facilities at the Centre – we must ensure that the building is in a good state of repair, it was built in 1986 and is now showing signs of wear and requires updating. The playing field and children's play area also require regular maintenance. All this comes at a cost and we must therefore explore the available funding options. Our efforts will safeguard the future of the Centre and ensure that it provides a high-quality, affordable and accessible community facility.

Finally I would like to publicly thank every one of the Trustees for the time and commitment that they give to the Centre. My thanks also go to everyone who has volunteered at our events and also to our members who provide much valued support.

Sharon Cousins-Clarke, Chairperson, Palgrave and District Community Centre

Appendix 6

Diss And District Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is being developed by local people working together with the aim of improving the quality of life for the people who live, work and visit Diss and surrounding villages, including Palgrave.

Over the past year the steering group representatives have continued to meet to drive forward the plan and follow the statutory obligations. DDNP drop-in sessions were held last July and Palgrave residents were invited to the Community Centre to take a look at the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan displays, ask questions and find out more about the local planning document during the consultation period. During this event local residents and professionals in the field of architecture and planning pointed out some inaccuracies with the design code guide for Palgrave and assisted to improve on the information held. Design codes are important for planning as they set out the design principles to

reflect local character and design preferences. This was a great example of Palgrave residents actively assisting to help shape the future of the village.

Following the feedback received from the first Regulation 14 consultation which ran from June to August 2021, the draft DDNP was reviewed and due to some significant new policies and revisions to some already drafted policies an additional consultation was required and feedback invited until Thursday May 5th 2022.

Following on from the consultation process Palgrave has been required to remove two local green spaces that were due to be designated within the plan.

The journey of adopting a neighbourhood plan for Palgrave has not been smooth over the years, a number of representatives have come and gone, volunteered their time willingly but the system and bureaucratic process is long winded and frustrating and should be more professional, efficient and effective to best serve communities with their aspirations for the future. On a positive note the plan for Palgrave does not require any building allocations for the next 18 years so it is likely to gain support from local residents when it comes to the final referendum. This does not mean that development will not take place in Palgrave only that there are no numbers which need to be met.

Work started on the plan in 2017 and the final version is due to be submitted for approval imminently!!

Bec Dingle, DDNP Representative

Appendix 7

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Fortunately, we live in a relatively peaceful village in a low crime level county. In fact, if you check the Suffolk Police Website (www.suffolk.police.uk), in our police area of Eye the “headlines” are a burglary appeal, a shop robbery, drink driving and arson.

In the year ending May 2021/2022 the nation was still in a reducing covid lockdown situation and there was less public outdoor movement, but this did not deter the national “on line” scammers from remaining very active and seeking to take advantage of the more vulnerable people and their generosity with fake Ukraine, NHS, Save the Children and many more despicable schemes. However, I have had no reports of these passed to me, so we are not to know if any did occur in Palgrave. In fact, I have received very few reports from Palgrave residents in the last twelve months apart from an isolated burglary that occurred in Lion Road that was reported to the police of which I had very few details.

So, coming up to date, I think the main concern that many users of the community centre and immediate centre neighbours have currently, is with “visits” by unruly noisy youths appearing in the evenings in their vehicles to the car park, their loud behaviour, who leave litter and generally make a nuisance of themselves. The Community Centre Chairperson Sharon Cousins-Clarke had reported it to the police and to me last week and I reported it to our Suffolk Police Community Engagement Officer (PC Simon Green). Whilst witnesses to this behaviour might be tempted to tackle the youths themselves it is a matter best left to the police. Photographic evidence with number plates etc have already been sent on and if you’re aware this behaviour occurs again please phone the police on 101 and/or use the Suffolk Police web site where there is a simple form that can be completed on anti-social behaviour (www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/6). Some residents may recall we had a similar problem to this a couple of years ago with noisy youths on motor scooters, when after the police were involved at least one of the youths was prosecuted and his motor scooter confiscated.

Finally, any resident who is affected with an “on line” or other crime, should always phone the police (101 or if an emergency 999) or any of the many specialised organisations (Trading Standards, National Crime Agency etc). If any further help is required, you may contact me on 01379 641596 or 07973976497 or johnandbonny@outlook.com. I also regularly circulate a monthly edition of the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association Report. If you wish to receive a copy and/or join the Palgrave circulation list (on line or “hard” copy) please let me know.

John Sparks

Appendix 8

PALGRAVE WELFARE TRUST (Registered Charity no. 257293)

This is the first time for some years that the Trust has reported to a Parish Meeting. It may be helpful therefore, to anyone unfamiliar with its activities, to outline its origins and functions. It is an amalgamation of several old charities, one of them dating back to 1653, set up by individuals over the years for the benefit of residents of Palgrave to provide coal, for example.

Nowadays grants from the Trust are of four principal types: assistance in cases of exceptional hardship (for example the cost of travel to repeated hospital appointments or to visit a family member in hospital or after they have been discharged, educational grants (for field trips, etc) and grants for the general benefit of the village. It is also usual, subject to strict criteria, to make sympathy payments to bereaved spouses. There is no fixed limit to grants, but they are usually small.

The Trust relies on investments for its income and does not engage in fund-raising. It has five Trustees, the Rector of Palgrave (ex officio), two appointed by the Parish Council, currently Michael Lockett and Ian McClintock, and two co-opted by the Trust itself, currently Siân Bunbury and Pam Whistlecraft, the latter in succession to Pauline Whistlecraft who retired as a Trustee in November 2021. The Trust is very grateful to Pauline for her service over many years.

It is not possible to give detailed information on the Trust's activities as all requests for assistance are treated in the strictest confidence. In 2021 the Trust made four grants totalling £700 out of income of just over £1100. It has made one grant so far in 2022.

The Trustees are always anxious to learn of situations in which they could be of assistance, particularly in the present time of rising inflation. They appeal through this Report to all parishioners to tell them in confidence of possible cases of hardship, as people are all too often reluctant to come forward themselves.

Michael Lockett (Chairman)

Appendix 9

Miscellaneous reports from other village Clubs and Organisations: Appendix 10

Palgrave All Stars Youth Activities – George Georgiou

This is predominately for 5 – 11 year olds living in Palgrave. We had approx. 25 children pre Covid. Post Covid we are getting an average of 10 – 15 children, most of whom live outside of the village so it would be great to have some local support. It is currently run fortnightly on Sunday mornings, the next being 12 June. We are looking to engage with the school to attract more local children. We would like to host an hour for 11 – 16 years olds from 12 – 1pm, if we can attract enough participants. We also need volunteers to help manage the scheme. Please contact George Georgiou if you can help in any way.

Extend Exercise - Polly Lavender

The group has 17 members, mostly ladies, and it consists of movement and dance to music. It is suitable for all ages and abilities including wheelchair users, disabled and elderly people. A hour session costs £6. Pre Covid we ran many sessions at care Homes but this income stream has not re-opened post pandemic.

Cribbage – Jean Potter

We first started to play crib at the school as there was no community centre then. The small weekly fee went towards helping raise the money to build the PDCC. In 1986, when the PDCC was opened, we started to play thereon alternate Monday evenings. We now play every Monday evening in the lounge area at 7.15pm excluding bank holidays. Anyone is very welcome to join us.

Carpet Bowls – Jean Potter

This began in 1989 / 1990 alternating back then with the cribbage nights. Now we play every Monday afternoon between 2 – 4 pm excluding bank holidays. New members will be made most welcome.

The Palgrave Players -Cathal Prendergast

The group was born in March from the arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It is a musical theatre group and we will be performing at the Jubilee picnic on Sunday 5th June. It's a highly enthusiastic group of local people. Our next project will be Jack the Ripper – The Musical, which we will begin rehearsals for in earnest post Jubilee weekend. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for supporting us financially for start-up funds.

Palgrave Friendship Club – Pat Simms

Our Friendship Club has been running for many years now – it is aimed at ladies and gentlemen (senior citizens) who would appreciate an afternoon out socialising with their contemporaries. We have to admit that our membership has dropped in recent months but we are still here at the Community Centre every other Tuesday and we welcome anyone of a certain age who would appreciate an afternoon with company enjoying a cup of tea and a chat and perhaps a game of cards or bingo or a raffle – but, most of all, we are here for each other. We have a chat and we listen. We hope to welcome new members now that socialising restrictions are improved. We are called the Friendship Club for a very good reason.....

Diss Art Group – Phil Dyer

Established in the early 1960's the Group has gone from strength to strength and now has over 30 regular members. Previously we had been meeting at the Catholic Church in Shelfhanger Road, but post COVID restrictions, the decision was made to move to Palgrave. In September 2021, the move was made and members have thoroughly enjoyed the facilities on hand. We have recently held a very successful exhibition at St Mary's Church, with over 300 members of the public in attendance and over £600 in sales of art work.

Palgrave Photography Group – Phil Dyer

The group was established in 2016 for the benefit of any amateur photographers in the village and surrounding areas. The COVID break brought some challenges, but we carried on meeting sporadically through Zoom. We returned to the Community Centre in September 2021 following a very successful exhibition held in the main hall that month. The group meets monthly and has around 15 permanent members.

Palgrave Cinema – Michael Rogers

After a very poor start to the year (Thanks covid) we finally managed to get going and start showing films again. The biggest problem we have had is that the movie industry took its time releasing viable features to show, however, we are starting to get some great features be released and numbers are increasing to close to pre-lockdown levels.

Ukaholics Anonymous – Pete Arnold

The group was formed by me in 2016, and I ran The Hub – Diss Music School. We are a social ukulele group, who meet once a week to play our ukes, sing some songs, drink some tea and share some laughter. Anyone can join the group, regardless of ability or experience and help is given to beginners. There is safety in numbers! We play a range of songs from the 1920's through to the modern day, which for most of us is the 1970's.

We started meeting upstairs in Designer Makers on Market Hill, but moved to the Quaker Meeting House, as our numbers expanded. After the covid lockdowns we moved up to Palgrave Community Centre, where we can make use of the large screen and where we have been made very welcome. Although we are not a performance group, we often play out at various events in town, such as Diss Transport and Christmas Fairs. This year we will be playing at Palgrave's Jubilee celebration. We also hosted a Valentine's singalong for "star-struck and broken-hearted lovers" at the Centre and were pleased to welcome a sizeable group from the local community, who came to sing with us. We are always happy to welcome new members to the group and are happy for other instruments to join us, too.

Some of the group have been with us from the start and have even formed an off-shoot band, Daisy & The Continentals, who play Jug Band, Country & Swing music. "The Daisies" will be playing in the evening concert at the Corn Hall on Diss Ukulele Day on Sat. July 16th. This is the first Ukulele Day we've been able to put on since covid restrictions were lifted and we're pleased to be back. There are details of the various activities on the Corn Hall website and on this link:- <https://sites.google.com/view/dissukuleleday2022/home>

There will be a Big Busk by Diss Mere at 11.30 and the evening concert will feature three acts and is aimed at the general public and not just ukulele players. Almost every town and city has a Ukulele group these days, it seems. The uke is an easy instrument to learn and joining a group like this is a great way to meet like-minded people and have some fun. If you are interested, come along to one of our sessions on Thursday evenings at 7.30 or call Pete Arnold on 07934 432185.