

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish (APM) held 19 April 2024 in the PDCC hall.**

Present: Councillors Pudney (Chair), Collins, Cooper, Fausset, Hollowday and Wheele.

Also Present: County Councillor Fleming and the Clerk.

Electors: 10 Members of the public attended the meeting

### **04.19.1 APM Welcome**

Cllr Pudney introduced herself, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **04.19.2 APM Apologies**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs Prendergast and Sneddon, and various apologies from parishioners.

### **04.19.3 APM To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 April 2023**

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.

### **04.19.4 APM Palgrave Parish Council: Cllr Val Pudney, Chair – see attached report Appendix 1.**

*Q: the 20mph zone was questioned. Cllr Fausset took the opportunity to update all present on the proposals*

**04.19.5 APM County Council: County Councillor Jessica Fleming** - see attached report appendix 2. She summarised her report and urged everyone to submit comments re the Norwich – Tilbury pylon project and read the ESO report. Link to this report is within her April report, listed under the PC minutes, on the website.

**04.19.6 APM District Council: District Cllr Tim Weller** – no report submitted.

### **04.19.7 APM Reports from Parish Organisations and Groups within the village**

Various 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.* These include St Peter's Church, the PDCC, Palgrave Primary School, Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Indicator Devices, Ukaholics Anonymous, Diss Art Group, Palgrave Photography Group, Extend Exercise, the Palgrave Arts Festival, the Palgrave Players, Palgrave Walking Group, Discovery Tutors and Monterey Line Dance.

**04.19.8 APM To receive comments / concerns from people present:** - There were no additional questions raised.

**04.19.9 APM There were no other matters notified to the Chair.**

**Closing remarks;** The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The date for 2025 will be agreed in due course.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

## **Report by the Chair of Palgrave Parish Council - Val Pudney**

We still have a number of vacancies on the Parish Council and hopefully some villagers would like to make up the numbers at the beginning of May.

1 - We have now finished discussions with workman to carry out bollarding round the Village Green. This will be to ensure no further encroachment of the green and to refrain people from parking on it which adds to the wear and tear. This work should be carried out in the coming months.

2 – The village sign had to be rebuilt and our thanks go to Mike and Simon Goater for their hard work which was much appreciated by all and is back as the centre piece for our village.

3 – The Green will be allowed to grow now till the end of June where it will be cut. This will hopefully alleviate the problems of overgrowth we had last year because of the wet spring and early summer. Access paths will be cut along the green like last year.

4 – Our ongoing concerns over the Grange Farm and Aura Power solar farms are no less. A liaison group between Pace and the Village has been set up to keep a check on progress but this does not appear to be happening until late 2025. Aura Power still have to finalise their proposals and a decision re the planning application is still awaited, which we will vigorously challenge when the time comes. I urge everyone to go to Mid Suffolk website to have their say.

Most of you will have received National Grid Proposals for the their preferred route for their power lines. These will be coming across the fields at the end of the village straight across Lion Road. It seems North Suffolk is fast becoming the energy capital of the country. With a further proposed large scale 800 acre solar farm at Stoke Ash this definitely seems the case.

5 – It seems that we are still the preferred route for the southern Diss By-Pass through our village so we have agreed to apply for a 20 mile per hour regulation in the Priory Road area near the school. We seem to meet the criteria for this but that will be the determination of Suffolk Highways and I am only too aware as to where we have got with them over the last 30 years. Pulling hens teeth is an understatement! There is a possibility we could pay for it ourselves as we were quoted £10,000 for the work but that is likely to be a lot higher with costs going up.

6 – I would like to thank all the volunteers who have given their time and effort to help with village projects this year like the litter pick and our SID volunteers. Your help is always appreciated and noted.

7 – I would also like to thank Jessica Flemming and Tim Weller for their invaluable efforts with Mid Suffolk and Suffolk County Council on our behalf. Finally we would like to thank our outgoing Chairman Neil Weston for the work he has given to the village over previous years and wish him the best of luck.

### **Appendix 1**

## Annual Parish Report 2023/ 2024 - Suffolk County Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

[Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming

Firstly, thank you everyone for your support this year, please get in touch with your comments, ideas and suggestions which are always most welcome.

The past year has been dominated by the unusual autumn and winter storm events, the council's response to them, and the council budget's. Budget pressures have arisen mainly from wage inflation/ living wage increase, high interest rates and increased demand particularly in adult social care (ACS) and childrens' services.

The Revenue Budget for 2024/5 totals £753 million (up £53m from 2023/4), this has been balanced through a one-off injection of £16m from the corporate risk reserve. However our Chief Financial (Section 151) Officer has made it clear that future years will not have equivalent capacity to draw from reserves. In response council tax has been raised by the limit of 4.99% of which 2% is ring fenced for social care. Overall the financial position is sound though challenging and additional savings proposals must be planned to enable the council to remain solvent going forward.

Prior to setting the budget, the council conducted a public survey to assess opinion on spending priorities and conducted 3 focus groups. Comments supported funding for (in priority order from survey): Highways & Infrastructure; Children and Young People; Public Health & Communities; Adult Social Care. Comments tended not to support further council tax increases at least on lower bands. Rather, future budgets should focus on efficiencies, salaries in higher pay categories, better partnership working such as health service, and innovation.

The council is responsible for an array of services including Registrars, Coroners, Libraries, Museums and Archives, Asylum Seekers referred by the Home Office, Community Safety, Fire & Rescue Services, Trading Standards as well as Roads, Waste Disposal, Adult Social Care, Childrens Services including Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND), School Transport, Public Health. More information on these services and partner organisations can be found on the web platform [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)

- **Storms and Flooding** – As lead local flood authority, the county council has a duty to investigate 'significant' flooding under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act. These investigations help to establish the source of flooding, factors which may have caused or exacerbated the flooding, the impacts on people, services and infrastructure. Usually around 4 Section 19 events occur annually, this year there were at least 100.

The scale of work undertaken since the storm includes: Clearing and jetting over 8,000 drains, Repairing 1,200 road defects, Contacting landowners about blocked watercourses, Investing £10 million into drain and gully clearance, Hired (7) new engineers to address urgent flood problems, Gathered over 800 flood reports from homes and businesses, Helped access funding from the Government relating to Storm Babet. Work is ongoing..

- **Supporting SEND** – Along with its NHS partners, the council was jointly inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) last November which found significant concerns with the SEND service delivery by the NHS and Council. (This was the first joint inspection.) As a result changes have been made, a Shadow Improvement Board set up with membership from both SCC and its NHS partners and a new approach developed that incorporates stronger joint working arrangements. The council has invested additional funds to secure essential specialist staff and is committed to improving all aspects of the service.
- **Adult & Social Care** – Following a period of intense inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Suffolk County Council has become one of the first councils nationwide to achieve a 'Good' standard. Earlier in 2023 CQC announced that 5 local authorities including Suffolk were invited to be part of a Local Authority Assessment Pilot to help develop the new model of inspection against the requirements of the Care Act.
- **Devolution** – The Government is seeking views on in principle devolution arrangements that would include:
  - A directly elected leader of Suffolk County Council
  - Control of a new investment fund worth £480m over the next thirty years
  - Local control of the Adult Education Budget each year (worth £9.4m in 2025/26)
  - £5.8m one-off funding to prepare brownfield sites for development

- Multi-year transport funding plus £500,000 over two years to finalise Suffolk's Local Transport Plan. A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government will start on 18<sup>th</sup> March and run through until 26<sup>th</sup> May. The consultation is in two main parts – an open survey, hosted by Suffolk County Council, that any residents can complete and a sample survey of 1000 Suffolk residents conducted independently by Ipsos Mori - [www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution) and social media. The question will be debated later this summer at Full Council.
- **Bus Service Improvements** – The council will receive £3.6 million of Government funding over the next two years on strengthening and expanding Suffolk's bus network from the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Fund Phase 2 to deliver improvements to public transport in Suffolk. Suffolk's Enhanced Partnership, which represents the county council and local bus operators, has agreed to allocate £1.2 million to support operator - and local community-led proposals for new or enhanced services across the county.
- **Suffolk's Local Transport Plan** - The plan sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk until 2040 . Feedback is currently being sought on key themes proposed for the fourth version of the plan. A link to the survey can be found at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4>. The consultation runs until 8 April 2024, however late submittals may be accepted.
- **Highways Contract** - Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services commenced its new contract on 1 October 2023. Milestone is the Council's new contract partner for up to 20 years under a contract to provide projects including but not limited to maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting.
- **Nationally Significant Infrastructure and large-scale energy Projects in Suffolk** - Energy developers are bringing forward large-scale energy projects following the latest publication of National Grid's Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register. The TEC Register is a list of projects (usually NSIPs) that have secured the right to connect to National Grid's network if consented under the Planning Act 2008 by government, not local councils. These connection offers form a legally binding contract with National Grid. The current list of connection offers shows that new projects connections are possible at at Bramford near Ipswich, and at Yaxley, near Eye, in north Suffolk. These projects include large-scale solar panel and battery storage proposals in the same style as the recent SUNNICA scheme in West Suffolk, which is a proposal to create a 2500-acre Solar Farm on the Suffolk Cambridgeshire border.
- **Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Scheme** - The [ESO East Anglia Network Study](#), published on 12 March 2024 by The National Grid Electricity System Operator, was set up to explore other ways to connect and transmit energy from offshore wind in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. Options identified by ESO offer alternatives to the Norwich to Tilbury onshore line including offshore and hybrid schemes with coastal land links. Implications of the ESO study are as yet uncertain and under review.  
  
For current information from National Grid refer to: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>
- **Sizewell C** - Construction 'began' on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 under the terms of its Development Consent Order for the twin 3.2GW nuclear power stations. The council obtained significant improvements to plans during the project's examination by the Planning Inspectorate, including maximising transport of construction materials by rail and sea rather than by road. For more information refer to [Suffolk County Council's role in Sizewell C](#) . During construction the council will have a number of responsibilities:
  - Oversight of discharge requirements (equivalent to planning conditions) to maintain control over highways, archaeology and flooding
  - Project governance including chairing the Transport Review Group
  - Administering a portion of funding negotiated during the examination and secured through a Deed of Obligation (a legal agreement between Sizewell C, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council for the scheme to limit its impact on local communities during construction).

**Other reports from Clubs and Groups within Palgrave are as follows:**

### **ST PETER'S CHURCH, PALGRAVE - Hugh Bunbury, Churchwarden**

Last August we made a fond 'farewell' to our Rector of eight years, Adrian Watkins, whose time with us we had much enjoyed. Those unfamiliar with the process of appointment are often surprised that a successor is not found ready to take over the leadership of the parishes straight away, but the 'interregnum' can be as long as twelve months. We are therefore blessed with the hard work of Rev Ginny Manning and an interesting variety of visiting clergy to maintain a service in Palgrave church every Sunday; as well as other services around the Benefice. Meanwhile a Benefice Profile document has been prepared and the post is now being advertised.

St Peter's actively maintains its connection with the CofE primary school and provides two of the governors, as appointed by the Diocese. There is a weekly collective worship and, in the past year, a resumption of the 'Open the Book' assemblies in which students enact episodes from the Bible. At Easter, the volunteers set up a series of themed tableaux in the church and churchyard through which the events from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection were explained to the children.

The Church runs a well-attended monthly coffee morning in the Community Centre under the title of 'Help for Hope' at which funds are raised for various charitable causes. Last year the event raised over £1,500 for eleven different charities including for EACH, Food Bank, Ukraine, Syrian Earthquake, Save the Children and You Are Not Alone. The donation of tools for Tools with a Mission was incredibly well supported.

As ever, with a regular congregation of around 25-30 parishioners we struggle to meet the high costs of contributions to the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese for the running of the Church as a whole. For this reason we are particularly grateful to the village for the donations made at Gift Day last year – once more nearly £1,500. All of this is set aside only for the upkeep and maintenance of the church building.

The Friends of Palgrave Church is ready for revival, having not really come back after Covid. The Friends aims to organise sociable events involving those not immediately concerned with the spiritual purpose of the Church but keen to help with the preservation and enhancement of our medieval building. There is certainly the will for this to continue but not so much enthusiasm for meetings and committees. Discussions are underway to simplify the constitution and governance of the Friends.

The bells were rung for two Palgrave weddings last year, for which the six or eight ringers now receive £20 each. The regular ringing team is drawn from around the area, with only one member being from Palgrave. A regular practice evening, fortnightly, has resumed. The open evening within the Palgrave Arts Festival drew some interest but no new learners.

The Benefice Choir, by contrast, continues to attract new singers, and is developing a good sound. They have altogether revived the options for music in our church for special occasions such as the Arts Festival evensong, Adrian's leaving service, weddings and, of course, the annual carol service. The choir is booked to sing at Norwich Cathedral in November.

As usual, we have to thank our many volunteers who keep the church looking inviting by such as flower arranging and cleaning, as well as the Parish Council for maintaining the churchyard, walls and gates; these last benefitting from a particularly good refurbishment during the year.

### **PALGRAVE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL - Hannah Cooke, Chair of School Governance Committee (SGC)**



At the heart of the village, Palgrave Primary School is full, and 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 9 other primary schools: Gislingham, Bardwell, Old Newton, Rougham,

Ixworth, Crawford's, Kersey, Orford and most recently Wilby. 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: parent evenings, celebration assemblies, open classrooms, reading cafe, Open the Book and more. Our wonderful Friends of Palgrave School fundraising committee have continued to successfully raise money 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 school takes part in diverse and varied sporting opportunities throughout the year, a wonderful display is on show in the school corridor for visitors to see! Special mention to everyone who took part and supported the recent Mini Marathon fundraiser for Teenage Cancer Trust and impressive results at the multi school hockey tournament. Our pupils often are awarded for their sporting values at external events, well done to you all. Thanks to our SGC member Andrew Wheeler for his commitment and support with the minibus.
- The whole school has many opportunities to take part in live performance including the school Nativity play delightfully performed by Class 1 and Class 2. Class 3 and 4 were invited to take part in the Big Sing at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral with 20 other schools, an amazing experience. The children also took part in the Easter Experience in Palgrave Church, the Palgrave School Brass Band also performed. A wonderful contribution to the Palgrave Arts Festival and many more.
- A busy summer term is underway, national curriculum tests (SATs) are coming up for our Year 6. We then look forward to rehearsing the Key Stage 2 Summer Production and some great school trips and summer activities.
- Every year our children take part in the national checks and assessments required by the government and the results of 2023 are displayed on the School website highlighting that in 2022/23 our pupils achieved higher results in all areas and at all stages of learning than Suffolk and National averages. We are so proud of our children in everything they do.

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.

The School is seeking to improve the safeguarding provision of the pupils and also to enhance the playground surface and facilities that are on the Village Green. The Governors of the School are aware that the initial planning application submitted rightly caused consternation in some quarters within the village. A Working Party has been established to consider how best to move forward, balancing the safety and welfare of the pupils with the needs of the wider community.

Work is in its early stages and the School will continue to liaise with the Parish Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and other interested parties to find a solution.

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.

## **PALGRAVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE - Chair's Report (Summary)**



**Personnel:** There were two changes to The PDCC Trustee Committee during 2023. Di Brown and Nick Duncumb joined in July 2023 as Trustees.

Sharon Cousins – Clarke resigned from the Chairmanship of the Trustee Committee and as a Trustee in September 2023. Since this time the Committee has been without a Chairperson.

Nick Duncumb was voted in as Chair at each individual meeting. The Committee has also operated without a Vice Chair for the whole of the year.

The Committee thanked Sharon for diligently carrying out her role as Chairperson from March 2021 until September 2023. The work that the Trustees carry out, and the hours of effort they devote voluntarily was also recognised.

**Bookings and Events:** The Community Centre continues to build on the successes of previous years.

The membership total, however, continues to decrease, and we will be looking at ways of improving this in the coming months.

There was a slight increase in the number of hirers over last year and the income is broadly in line with last years figure. The number of private hirers is similar to last year.

In June 2023 Palgrave's first Mini Music Festival was held at the Community Centre playing field. The event was very well received and will be held again this year.

Improvements to the carpark (now complete) and the toilets will work to the benefit of hirers and event attendees.

Enquiries and bookings for the hire of the hall are very healthy and demand is often outstripping supply. We remain mindful of the fact that this is a community centre and it is there for the benefit of the community. The income from the hirers is essential to the ongoing upkeep of the premises, but we will be looking at ways to offer facilities to the wider community.

Open Gardens and the Garage Sale have proved popular over the years and they will take place again this year.

Quiz and Bingo nights have been introduced and are being well attended. These are adding to profits.

**The Community Centre:** The Community Centre premises absorbs a significant amount of the expenditure. The toilets at the Centre were upgraded at significant cost during the course of the current year.

Wind turbine proceeds were down slightly, due to it being out of action for 3 months.

Operationally the Centre generates a profit, but capital expenditure costs outstrip the profit.

Noticeable items for 2024 include;

1/ an upgrade to the car park. A grant from Mid Suffolk, helps although we will have to contribute over 50%

2/ An independent Fire Risk Assessment has been carried out, and whilst we generally were considered to be in a good position, there were a number of areas where we require improvements to be made. We are focussing on items that may put lives at risk and have added synchronised smoke alarms, new fire extinguishers repositioning existing, changes to signage, notification of fire escape routes to hirers and lobby information. The electric cabinet will be replaced as this was considered high risk, and the blinds will be installed over the fire exit doors in the hall and lounge to meet a recommendation of the Fire Risk Assessment.

A donation from the bar is a welcome source of income and it should be noted that it is available for all members on a Friday night.

**Thanks:** Numerous people, volunteers, Trustees, attendees, and hirers were thanked

**Financial Review|:** The Treasurers Report detailed the financial position.

**Conclusion :** It is pleasing to report that the Community Centre continues to provide services to the local community that are being utilised. Demand for the centre continues to grow and the events are well attended. There is no room for complacency, however, and the Trustees continue to look for ways to maintain and improve the current position. The Trustees are aware that the repairs and improvements to the Centre are consuming our funds and that adherence to new regulations will continue. The Trustees will continue to look for available grants and funding to support this work and take advantage of any opportunities that are identified.

Copies of the full Chair Statement and The Treasurers Report are available on request

#### **PALGRAVE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP – Phil Dyer**

The group was established in 2016 for the benefit of any amateur photographers in the village and surrounding areas. We had a break of a few months last year and returned to regular monthly meetings in January where we welcomed 4 new members to our core group of 12.

This year we are again offering an eclectic experience in the world of photography and are planning several trips around the region to practice our skills

#### **PALGRAVE PLAYERS – Cathal Prendergast**

The Palgrave Players continue to flourish, marking their third year with an impressive track record of theatrical triumphs.

Last year, the troupe embarked on two notable productions. "The Dinner Party," a delightful medley of classic musical numbers, captivated audiences at both the Palgrave Community Centre and Botesdale Village Hall, selling out and showcasing emerging talent.

Their ambition scaled new heights with "The Baker's Wife" in November, a comedic musical set in a quaint French village. The production boasted an intricately painted set, a dynamic and moving backdrop, and a spirited cast, supported by an ever-expanding backstage crew. Making its debut in the Garboldisham Village Hall, which accommodates larger audiences, the performance was met with enthusiastic acclaim and financial success.

More recently, "Celtic Nights" took the stage at Garboldisham Village Hall, offering a vibrant blend of traditional and contemporary Irish music. The performance had the audience on their feet, engaging in four lively dances, culminating in an evening filled with song, dance, and cheer.

The group recently featured as Communists at the re-opening of the Diss Museum in March and engaged in some comedic hustings and singing "Somewhere my Love" from Dr. Zhivago and was on full display in the Diss Express.

The Palgrave Players warmly welcome new talent, whether on stage, in song, or behind the scenes, as we eagerly anticipate our third year of bringing compelling theatre to life.

#### **PALGRAVE ARTS FESTIVAL 2023 - Andrew Wheeler (Chair of the Festival Committee)**

Palgrave Arts Festival was held between 7 and 15 October 2023. The principal aim of the Arts Festival was to provide a vibrant, varied and ambitious programme of high-quality events and creative activities, working with and alongside organisations and individuals in the area. Events were organised to benefit people of all ages in the local area and establish connections between community groups and individuals, leading to increased participation in the arts in the local area.

25 events took place across the eight days of the Festival covering art, music, crafts, cinema and even bell ringing. Gingerbread men decorated by community groups were displayed on the Village Green and these, along with the Festival themed bus shelter, helped to spark community interest in the Festival.



Events were, on the whole, well attended with the Come and Sing, Arts and Crafts fair, pop up concert and lunch time performances being particularly well supported. It was pleasing to see children from the Primary School being so involved in a number of events- from lunchtime performances, a calligraphy session at Elm Vale Cottages and the display of their art work in the School.

The Festival was possible thanks to financial support from the players of People's Postcode Lottery, Palgrave Parish Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. The Festival Committee would like to thank St Peter's Church, Palgrave Primary School and the Palgrave and District Council Community Centre who generously supported the Festival by providing venues for many events. Particular thanks must go to Tim Weller for his support of the Festival both through his attendance at events and through his support of an application for a Locality Award. This grant enabled the Festival to purchase a keyboard and accessories which will be a lasting legacy of the Festival and is available for community groups to use. The Festival Committee aim to hold another Festival in 2025.

### **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. We have been resident in Palgrave since September 2021 and members continue to thoroughly enjoy the facilities on hand.

Our summer exhibition in Diss last year was very successful with over 300 members of the public in attendance and over £400 in sales of art work.

Our weekly meetings continue to be very well attended and the waiting list continues to grow, with some being on there for over a year.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL REPORT – John Wells**

Since I took over the job of NW Coordinator from John Sparks the year before last, I have increased the local membership by 25% to over 50.

The monthly Newsletter is now available online so the job is less onerous. My main task is now a liaison representative for the Halesworth Police who are responsible for this area. I have access to the Intelligence Unit at Halesworth and any information received by me is forwarded to designated police officers there.

I would welcome any of the previous Coordinator's contacts to email me at my NW dedicated email address: [johnpwells@outlook.com](mailto:johnpwells@outlook.com)

### **SPEED INDICATOR REPORT 2023/24 – Adrian Mitchell**

The speed indicators have been working well this year apart from a few problems that have been caused by batteries that have come to the end of their life.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers who have kept the speed indicators working during the past year. I have resigned as a volunteer because I haven't got the strength that I once had, and I now find it difficult to remove and replace the batteries when they need to be re-charged. I am pleased to say that a good replacement for me has been found and hopefully the speed indicators will continue to slow down the traffic flowing through Palgrave.

### **UKAHOLICS ANONYMOUS – Pete Arnold**

Ukaholics Anonymous was formed in 2016 by Pete Arnold, who ran The Hub – Diss Music School. We meet on Thursday evenings between 7.30 and 9.00, with a Free Beginners' Half Hour at 7.00. 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. 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 continue to be made very welcome.

Although we are not a performance group, we sometime play out at various events in town, such as Diss Transport and Christmas Fairs. We also At Christmas we invite the local community along for a festive sing-along and the Centre

provides mulled wine and mice pies. 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" played at the Centre during the Arts Weeks and will be playing in the evening concert at the Corn Hall on Diss Ukulele Day on Sat. July 6th.

<https://sites.google.com/view/diss-ukulele-day-2024/home>

Although the daytime activities are aimed at Ukulele players, the evening concert will feature three acts and is aimed at the general public and not just ukulele players. This year our headline act will be Anarchy In The Ukulele, with excellent vocal harmonies and their own twist on well-known pop hits. Their Youtube videos are well worth looking up.

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 or call Pete Arnold on 07934 432185.

### **DISCOVERY TUTORS - Di Grantham**

Discovery Tutors began as a solitary teacher offering tuition from home in Palgrave. Today, Discovery Tutors are a team of highly experienced teachers who offer one-to-one tuition for students wishing to learn maths, English, science, French and German up to GCSE and A level standard.

We currently work from the lounge at Palgrave Community Centre on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as well as working with students online. At this point our youngest pupil is 6 years old, and our oldest is a 60 year old who is just about to complete her apprenticeship. One of our students is a Ukrainian refugee, who we have been helping to improve his written English in to enable him to reach his full potential in his A levels, as well as to be able to pass the IELTS Academic Test in, allowing him to apply to attend university in the UK. He is hoping to study law and has already had offers from universities.

Our students come from a wide variety of local high schools including Hartismere, Diss, Long Stratton, Stradbroke, Old Buckenham as well as their feeder primary schools and students who are educated at independent schools. A small number of our students are home educated.

We also hold a French Conversation group/class for adults of all abilities on a Thursday from 2.45-3.45pm. Currently we have four regular attendees plus our lovely native French speaker, Suzi. It is a friendly group and we welcome new members. Due to high demand for our services, we are currently recruiting additional tutors.

### **PALGRAVE WALKING GROUP – Bob Solley**

It's been a good year for the walking group which has grown with several new regular walkers joining us. Currently each walk we are getting between 15 and 20 walkers. We are now walking 3 or 4 Tuesdays each month with the details going out to all registered group members and published each month in the Palgrave Star. We still try to car share as much as we can when we are not doing a local walk. We also try to use open pubs or cafes on most walks for our refreshments and to support their hospitality.

### **EXERCISE WITH POLLY – Polly Lavender**

Every Wednesday at 11-12.15. Cost £6 still.

This exercise class for older people or less able people of any age, continues to thrive with up to 16 /20 participants at any given time. The extra 15 minutes now allows for lots of chatting and catching up with friends before or after the hours gentle activity to music. As we age it is ever more vital to keep as fit and agile as we possibly can. As always participants can be as energetic or less so, according to how they feel on the day. There is always room for new people to join us. We currently have a wide age range ...50s to 90+ (and we have a LOT of fun) !

### **MONTEREY LINE DANCE – Melissa Hawkes**

We enjoy our time and the excellent facilities at the hall. We have been running the group for 25 years this year, and I am extremely fortunate to say that a lot of the dancers have been with me that whole time. We don't currently have capacity to accommodate any new members, but will publicise if any opportunities arise. We particularly enjoy the lovely wooden floor, as they are few and far between nowadays.