

St Andrews Church.

Busy year last year with several weddings, baptisms, funerals, and burial of ashes.

Hymns and Pimm's service in June was well supported and will be held on 4th June at 3pm this year.

Supporters' Supper held in November was very well supported by the village as was the Lent Lunch in March.

Finborough School continued to use the church for assemblies on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Increasing contact with GF Primary School and they're now using the church for key services as well.

The steeple lighting was installed last May. Lighting up the steeple and Church has been a beneficial income stream for the Church.

Faculty received from the diocese to install new electric heating system (Installation commences on 15th May)

The Church is in the process of applying to have new doors placed at the front entrance to the south porch to enhance the heat retention in the building.

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL charity no. 246643

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PETTIWARD HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Committee

The AGM was held on 30 March and we were delighted that twelve residents, apart from the existing trustees, attended. David Preece, Delia Prior and Sara Raynes were re-elected and we were pleased to welcome a new trustee, Mark Simonds. Mark has a background in venue and event management and we believe he will be a real asset to the committee. Mary Preece continues as the Parish Council nominated trustee until March 2025. Officer positions were unchanged with David Preece as Chairman and Treasurer and Mary Preece as Secretary and Bookings Secretary/Keyholder. Committee meetings resumed their pre-pandemic schedule last year, i.e. approximately every two months.

Hall Improvements and Maintenance

The planned programme of internal and external painting was completed in Spring 2022. This year we are hoping to re-roof the hall, using as many of the existing slates as possible. Installing a breathable membrane under the slates will prevent internal water damage if slates slip in the future. The work will be funded partly from accumulated funds, partly from grants and from our fundraising efforts which include the "Little Ernie" lottery and our newly launched "SOS" or "Sponsor Our Slates" appeal. So far we have secured a grant of £16,000 from Mid Suffolk District Council and should hear about an application for an £8,000 grant from the Village Halls Jubilee Fund later this month. To date we have raised a total of £1003 from individuals and businesses in the village made up of £800 from the SOS appeal and £203 from the Little Ernie Lottery.

Land Registration

In March 2022 the registration of the land and building with the Land Registry was completed. However, it was discovered that a small parcel of land, currently forming part of the Pre-school's outdoor play area, was not included in the original plans of the building. We have therefore applied for "adverse possession" of this land as we have used it for over 12 years and are awaiting the outcome.

Bookings

Our regular bookings are the Pre-school, including Parent & Toddler Group (term-time only), weekly Yoga, monthly Garden Club and Parish Council meetings. Boyton Services use the hall several times a year for training purposes. The PCC have used the hall when it's been too cold in the church. Our tables, chairs and other equipment have been used, without charge, at the Jubilee Party, Garden Club events, Buxhall fete, Coronation Lunch and will be used at the High Road Festival, as well being hired for private celebrations. Several private parties were held during the year at the hall and party bookings for this year are strong. The church's Autumn Supper made a welcome return in November and Finborough School has also used the hall recently when they've needed more space.

"Little Ernie" Lottery

The proceeds of the April 2022-March 2023 Lottery were used for internal and external redecoration and the 2023-2024 proceeds have been put towards the roof appeal.

Policies

All our policies were reviewed with no amendments.

Running Costs and Hire Charges

In common with other organisations, our running costs have increased over the past year due to higher wage costs, energy costs and general inflation. Our electricity contracts become due for renewal from 1 November and, once we know what our future costs will be, we will be reviewing our hire charges. Apart from a very small increase in 2016, this has not been done since 2014 for most users and 2012 for the Pre-school. Pre-pandemic our bookings had been increasing year on year and we did not feel that an increase in charges was justified. However, bookings have not yet returned to earlier levels and, as hire charges form our only regular income, it is likely that the committee will decide to increase charges from January 2024.

Great Finborough and District Garden Club

2022/2023 Report for Parish Meeting

This last year has seen the Club return to its normal programme. We have unfortunately lost some members over the last year, but we have gained some new members too.

2022 saw a full programme of meetings which included coach visits to Anglesey Abbey in March, Hampton Court Garden Festival in July and Fullers Mill with Langham walled garden, for all of which the weather was kind, together with car share visits and a variety of talks. The remainder of the year also has a full programme of talks, and visits to local gardens. We are planning to run Open Gardens in Great Finborough on the 25th of June as well as the usual social events of the Members Summer BBQ and Christmas Party.

The club donated a total of £248.70 to various charities and projects around the villages in the period 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023. This is broken down as follows:

Memory of Lesley Cass	30.00
Birch Tree for Jubilee	62.94
Raffle Prizes - Jubilee	39.99
Herb bed plants & labels	144.37
Brown Bins for church	163.50
St Andrews re Op Gdns	750.00
St Andrews re lighting church	
on BBQ evening	15
Village Hall re BBQ	300.00
St Andrews re lighting church	
for Queen Elizabeth II	100.00
Chippings for paths	140.00
Plaques for village trees	202.9
Donation to EACH re	
Christmas Party	100
	<u>2,048.70</u>

As always, the club will be happy to consider supporting other appropriate village functions.

**Judith Cameron
Secretary
May 2023**

Re: Great Finborough Annual Parish Meeting

1 message

June Nathan <junenathan1@gmail.com>

29 April 2023 at 09:55

To: Paula Gladwell <finboroughparishclerk@gmail.com>

Paula as promised quick summary of Woodpecker wood.

Apologies to Committee for non attendance due to holiday commitment.

Maintenance.

An ongoing exercise.

Coppiced Dog Wood undertaken by Nick, will need to be moved for burning in autumn.

Number of large trees have fallen. These were made safe by Martin and Kevin. A large fallen tree trunk is happily being used by the children in central area.

Contractors felled diseased Ash. Chippings of which were/are being used for woodland path.

Martin and myself have viewed and noted which trees/boughs are dead to cut down in autumn.

Trimming fallen boughs and using branches for path borders. Ongoing

✂ Drainage ditch needs to be cleared and dug.

Benches made using tree stumps and donated wooden planks. Purchased wood preserve and painted. Benches to be used by Primary and Under Fives for forest School.

Two other benches to be sanded and painted.

Bug hotel made by 1st year Primary. Items donated by Rodney.

Three new bird boxes placed along with two small bee 'houses'. Donated

Bulb planting will continue in October with new 1st year pupils.

✂ Will continue with planting of English bluebells in designated area in the autumn. (Council funding would be beneficial here)

Purchased bluebell seeds plus woodland seeds which were planted in selected areas.

Planned bonfire in Autumn to clear coppiced wood and remainder of felled foliage. BBQ planned and 'suitable' volunteers needed for containment.

In conclusion. Remarkably only lost 10 saplings which were planted due to drought conditions last year. Bad news is mainly silver birch. Will try and see if we can get replacements from Woodland Trust.

Had two volunteers from Duke of Edinburgh Award to help towards their bronze achievement. Ongoing for another couple of months. Paula has their details for insurance purposes.

Regards

June co-ordinator WHWV

On Tue, 11 Apr 2023, 15:00 June Nathan, <junenathan1@gmail.com> wrote:
Great, thanks!

On Tue, 11 Apr 2023, 10:27 Paula Gladwell, <finboroughparishclerk@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi June
That would be great, I am happy to read it out for you.

Great Finborough Allotment Association

Report for Parish Council Annual meeting

Wednesday 10^h May 2023

We battled with covid for a couple of years and then last year we battled hot days and no rainfall! Some of our plots struggled to produce crops and others were more fortunate. The fruit did well and was sweeter than normal. The annual work party in early December was a great success. We cut back all the amenity trees, hedges and the area between the allotments and the car park, as well as laying chipping on the footpaths surrounding the allotment site. The site and the surrounding area looks amazing. It was a cold afternoon and evening and the bonfire and lovely food helped us through.

Changes of allotment holders during the year was stable but by the end of the growing season several people needed to give some up for different reasons. The plots are all occupied at the moment with no-one on the waiting list.

The Allotment Association's finances are in good shape – we do a little more than breaking even each year. Our largest expense was to replace the allotments wheelbarrow. We currently have a surplus of £1,107, which is being held to cover repairs and replacement equipment and annual insurances and subscription to the National Allotment Association. The brush cutter and hedge trimmer are not working and both need replacing. The mower will probably need replacing in the next year or so.

We were not able to implement the increase in plot fees in October last year because the Constitution of the Association needed amending and updating, and this was completed at our AGM in December. The Tenancy Agreement between the Allotment Association and the Parish Council is also currently being reviewed.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard and put in many hours to improve the hedgerows, paths, water tanks and all the other jobs that get done quietly behind the scenes. And to those who provide tasty food and drink at workparties. Also big thanks to the Parish Council for their help and support.

Newsletter Annual Report 2022/23

During 2022/23 we produced 10 editions of the newsletter which were delivered to every household within the village boundaries and are also displayed on the village website. A big thank you to all of the volunteer delivery team for their work in all weathers. Peter and I have handed over our temporary editorship to Tracy Barnett to who we offer a big vote of thanks. The newsletter continues to report on village activities and inform readers of social events in the locality. I am pleased to report we currently have 21 paying advertisers, a slight increase from last year. Thank you to Paula for her hard work in maintaining our advertisers and in the administration of there invoices. New business ventures within the village delivery zone receive 2 months free advertising should they wish.

The editorial team are always grateful for new subject matter for inclusion in the newsletter and we would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support.

Simon Tarabella
Temporary Editor

Newsletter Aims and Ethos

The Newsletter will continue to report events of general interest taking place in the village including individual items of particular interest. The aim of the Newsletter is to support individuals and groups by publicizing activities and initiatives that assist them. In event of a dispute or conflict over items submitted for inclusion in the Newsletter the production team will refer such items to the Parish Council which will, at all times, act as the final arbiter.

Great Finborough Parish Council

SPEEDWATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Great Finborough speed watch group has not been active over the last 12 months due to the lack of personnel to organize and carry out speedwatch activities. The council own a Unipar SL700 machine which is similar to that used by the police that can be used to carry out these checks.

We have three positions to carry out speed watch within the village which have been assessed as safe by the police. These are opposite the chestnut horse pub, at Pear Tree Place and at the last bungalow along the High Road.

The Parish Council also own two Vehicle Activated Signs which display speeds at the Buxhall and Stowmarket ends of the village and a solar powered 30mph sign at the Hitcham end of the village.

Even with all these deterrents in place there is still a long way to go and the High Road continues to experience excessive speeds, especially late evening.

Once again, if anybody can give some of their time to this worthwhile village activity it would be much appreciated.

I am the manager of Great Finborough and Buxhall under 5's.

The village pre school has been within the village hall for over 25 years, starting of at 2 mornings a week with a mother and toddler group, going up to 3 days and now 5 days.

We have children from Finborough, Buxhall and the surrounding villages.

We had gone from strength to strength but sadly like a lot of businesses we have been hit by covid and the aftereffects from it. This meaning our numbers have reduced quite a bit and because of the cost of living, we do not have as many 2-year-olds as we used to, as families are waiting for their child to be grant funded to help them pay the costs.

Over the last few months we have been busy fund raising to help with costs, one of these events was an easter trail round the village and despite the rain we had 89 children and their parents turn out.

So, I would like to say a huge thank you, for the donations that we have received from the village and local businesses, and the support in our fund raising and the words of encouragement we have had over the last few months.

This has helped us greatly not only with costs but with the morale of the staff and committee to see the support we have.

With the help we have received we are keeping afloat and hope to see things improve soon.

A thank you from all the staff, committee and of course the children at Great Finborough and Buxhall Under 5's