



Creting St Mary Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Creting St Mary at 7pm on Thursday, 26th May 2022

PRESENT:

Cllr S Haynes - *Chairman*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Blackburn - *Clerk*
P Scully (PC), R Cotton (PC), G Clint (PCC / WI), N Smart (PC), J Hardingham (Newsletter), D Primmer (Welfare Charities), L Plummer (PC), H Craggs (PC), C Gordon (PC), C Bingley (VHMC), J Hitt (School) and Ralph Daff (Breheny)

CSM27/22/23 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Creting St Mary Parish Council, Cllr Sue Haynes, welcomed those present.

CSM28/22/23 - APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Police, K Martin (Social Club), J Palmer (PC & Blacksmiths Field), District Cllr Mike Norris and D Cage (PC)

CSM29/22/23 - MINUTES 18th MAY 2021

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 18th May 2021, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

CSM30/22/23 – REPORTS RELATING TO THE VILLAGE

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and answer any questions, where received, their reports are attached to these Minutes.

- a) **Welfare Charities** – *Dave Primmer*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Primmer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. He briefly read through his report.

Cllr Craggs asked whether due to the current situation and people may be needing help, could those people access the Welfare Charities for help, to which Mr Primmer replied that if anyone needed any assistance to either contact himself or one of the other trustees.

- b) **Creting St Mary Parish Council** – *Cllr Sue Haynes*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Haynes' read through her report and no questions were asked.

- c) **Suffolk County Council** - *Cllr Matthew Hicks*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Hicks was not present at the meeting but his report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be available to view on the village website.

- d) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Mike Norris*

(full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Norris was not present at the meeting but his report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be available to view on the village website.

- e) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Chris Bingley*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Bingley read through her report and no questions were asked.

- f) **Village Primary School** – *Jenny Hitt (Chair of Governors)*

Mrs Hitt read through her report.

Cllr Scully asked what the annual intake was in the school and whether all the new development in the parish worried the school.

Mrs Hitt confirmed that the intake each year was 15 pupils. She stated that the school felt positive with the new development as it would be good for Creeting St Mary as the school could provide places for children actually in the village in the future, as they would be priority.

- g) **Village Newsletter** – *Joan Hardingham*
(Full reports attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Hardingham read through her report and no questions were asked.

Mrs Blackburn, Clerk, reported the figures for the year in relation to the Newsletter.

- h) **Village WI** – *Glynis Clint*
(Full Report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Clint read through her report and no questions were asked.

- i) **Social Club** – *Kathryn Martin*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Martin was not present at the meeting so Mrs Haynes read through the report.

- j) **Blacksmiths Field** – *Cllr J Palmer*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Palmer was not present at the meeting so Mrs Haynes read through the report.

- k) **Parochial Church Council** – *Glynis Clint*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Clint read through her report and no questions were asked.

CSM31/22/23 - PUBLIC FORUM

Ralph Daff from Breheny was present at the meeting to give an update on the proposed footpath from the site.

He explained that as part of the development of 52 houses on the site they were required to provide a footpath from the site along Flordon Road. He confirmed that a 1.2 metre pathway would start from the site and go along Flordon Road to the junction with All Saints Road and that it would also go down St Mary's Gardens to the junction with St Mary's Road.

He explained that the land for the proposed footpath would be Highways land.
He added that the curb would be 6 inches rather than the standard 4 inches. It was hoped that this would help stop lorries and other large vehicles mounting it when driving along Flordon Road.

Mr Daff provided plans for the pathway.

No other issues were raised by those present.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

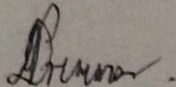
Chairman Date

CREETING SAINT MARY WELFARE CHARITIES ACCOUNTS FOR
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance B/F At 1/1/21	£11,959.23	January 2nd Retirement grants @ 12 x £200	
Income	£ 5671.28		£ 2400
		Balance C/F on 31/12/21	£15,230.51
Total	£17,630.51	Total	£17,630.51

Note a cheque for £100 was issued on 6th December 2021 but not presented until 18/1/22 and will therefore show in the accounts for year ending 31/12/2022.

These accounts were independently audited by Mrs. Frances Hammond on the 7th of March 2022.



D. Primmer (Hon. Clerk)

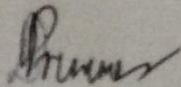
ANNUAL REPORT FOR CREETING SAINT MARY
WELFARE CHARITIES FOR YEAR ENDING THE 31ST
DECEMBER 2021

During the year ending December 31st 2021 a total number of twelve retirement grants were made to members of the village community.

A grant was also made to support two families in need in conjunction with the Social Club to help support these families during the Christmas period.

A copy of the audited accounts for the year is attached to this report.

The audited accounts for the year had been forwarded to the Charity Commission as required.



D. E. Primmer (Hon. Clerk)

Cllr Matthew Hicks 2022 Annual Report for the Thredling Division

Children's Services & Adult Care at the heart of Suffolk County Council's new budget plans

In December 2021, Suffolk County Council outlined how it plans to spend money on public services in 2022/23.

- More money to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Extra resources for adults in need of care
- Additional funds to prevent flooding and fix footpaths

Under the proposals, the council's budget for 2022-23 would rise by 4.5% (from £598.2 to £625.4m). This additional money is generated by a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in grants received from the Government. We worked with colleagues to propose a budget which will not see any reductions in our services, and invests further where it is most needed. Our aim is always to provide the best possible services for everyone in Suffolk and provide value for money. This has been a difficult budget to consider, particularly as Covid continues to make life challenging on every level, including our finances. We also continue to face rising costs and hugely increasing demands on our services year on year, particularly our adult care and children's services. But this is a budget which helps us to respond to these demands, and meets our priorities for next year. For example increasing our family services budget by £1.1m from next year, to specifically to address the recommendations made by the recent independent SEND review – this is in addition to our previous commitment of £45m to develop SEND provision."

Some of the detail of the budget proposals, includes:

- £1.1m increase for the family services budget, specifically to address recommendations made by the recent independent SEND review
- £1m additional funding for Suffolk Highways over the next four years, for example to fund road signs and responsible verge cutting
- £10m to specifically deliver an increasing number of drainage schemes (over the next three years)
- £10m to improve footpath quality and access (over the next three years)
- £12.8m to decarbonise the buildings that we own (by 2030)
- Investments this year to set up future borrowing for bigger schemes, such as SEND and carbon reduction

Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 2.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 1.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care.

Proposing an increase in council tax is not a decision we take lightly, particularly when our costs of living are going up too. However, I think there is increasing recognition of the pressure our services are under. In our public consultation, there were more people who agreed that council tax would need to go up next year, compared to those that didn't. This was especially true for funding adult care.

New Suffolk Recycling Centres online booking system improvements

It was announced in September 2021 that SCC had developed a new, more user-friendly booking system which enables residents to book slots for recycling. For bookings from 27 September, people can view all available time slots in real time, to see which booking slots are free at any given moment. The system allows you to book up to seven days in advance. If circumstances change, you can easily cancel your slot up to one hour beforehand or equally, you can click to amend your booking if required. The system is also able

to advise customers on which sites accept specific materials, such as plasterboard to ensure the correct type of booking is made to save customers' time, and it can also be used to share real time messages with customers, for example if any site needs to close due to adverse weather or emergency situations. The new booking system is connected to automated numberplate recognition to allow for a trial of automatic entry gates.

Customer survey results show overwhelming support for the use of a booking system and the Council has gathered feedback from customers and site staff on how the booking system can be further improved, which have shaped the design of this new system. Through the use of bookings the council can avoid the frustration of long queues at peak times and increase the overall throughput and efficiency of the service for residents. During the pandemic, it was important that we managed access to Suffolk's Recycling Centres in a safe and organised fashion to ensure the safety of residents visiting to recycle their waste as well as that of our staff and contractors working on site. I am very pleased that sites are now back to full capacity and the new booking system will allow us to make adjustments to the system to make best use of all available slots at every site. The system has been developed with our customers in mind, with staff taking on board the views and comments received through regular customer feedback and interactions over the past year. Our site teams have done a great job in maintaining high levels of customer service during such difficult circumstances and as we begin to recover from Covid as a county. I am pleased to launch this new online service to help people access the services they need, when and how they want to."

To make your booking, visit www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk.

Suffolk County Council's leaving care service receives high praise from Ofsted

In March 2022, SCC's leaving care service received high praise from Ofsted. Ofsted inspectors assessed the local authority's arrangement for care leavers as part of a focused visit to the service. The visit follows on from the Outstanding rating received by SCC's Children's Services department in 2019. The services for children in care and care leavers was the only area at the time to be rated 'Good' and therefore was an area of priority for the council. At the recent visit inspectors concluded that care leavers are successfully helped to transition to independence and reach their full potential. The service was seen to have a culture that is "determined, ambitious and creative" with practitioners who build trusting relationships with care leavers. Practitioners were seen accessing a wide range of specialist expertise to provide services to care leavers that are individualised and responsive. Inspectors also said that "Many care leavers achieve well, exceeding their own expectations. All are valued and their achievements are celebrated. Persistent efforts are made to reach out to those who are difficult to engage." I am absolutely delighted to receive such high praise from Ofsted. This report really demonstrates the hard work that staff in the leaving care service deliver day in, day out. I would like to thank them for the great work that they do for our care leavers. We are committed to delivering the highest quality service for our care leavers in Suffolk. All young people have the right to the appropriate level of support they need to aspire and achieve. I am committed to ensuring that this is the reality for all of Suffolk's young people, including our most vulnerable.

The full report can be found here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50178373>

Halfway mark reached as over 20,000 Suffolk streetlights replaced

In February 2022 SCC's programme to replace 43,400 streetlights with new energy-efficient LEDs reached the halfway mark and to date, the teams have replaced 21,215 new streetlights with the new lanterns. These LED lanterns use less energy and produce a more natural and focused light than the traditional orange glow of streetlights. They are extremely long-lasting products and have an expected lifetime of up to 100,000 hours. This is approximately two times longer than a typical conventional street lighting lamp. As a result, SCC is expecting to reduce its annual electricity costs on the streetlights by around 76%, saving more than £1.7 million a year. This is 16% more than what was originally anticipated. The programme is on schedule to be completed by the end of May 2022, with all heritage-style lanterns being upgraded towards the end of the programme. Prior to commencing in towns or parishes, Suffolk Highways is contacting those councils in case they wish to upgrade their parish-council owned street-lighting at the end of the project. This is one of the many pieces of work we're doing to become a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. The project will see a reduction in carbon emissions by saving energy, reducing light pollution as well as

providing clearer images on CCTV, traffic cameras and dashcam footage for the benefit of public safety. A big thank you to all involved so far, and I wish the team continued success as the project progresses towards completion. Keep a look out for signs in your area to see where the teams are working next and follow [@Suff_highways](#) on Twitter for regular updates.

Independent review highlights failings in some of Suffolk's SEND services

An independent report into parts of Suffolk's special educational needs (SEND) provision was published on September 20th. This report has been written by a team from Lincolnshire, including Lincolnshire County Council and parent carer network. The review looked at processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND provision and was commissioned by SCC in June. The report lists strengths and weaknesses of the service and includes nine recommendations for improvement. These recommendations are now being worked through and implemented by SCC and other partners who help deliver SEND services. The review has found that we must change what we are doing in a number of areas. I would like to say sorry to any child or young person, and their families, who we may have failed. Our priority now is to implement these recommendations with pace, efficiency and impact. We have begun to make these changes, but it will take time before the impact of the changes are felt. We are grateful to the team at Lincolnshire for their findings and recommendations, which we accept wholeheartedly, and for their support and advice. SCC commissioned this review after the May elections because of concerns that our SEND services were not performing well. As we anticipated, the report has shown that SEND services in Suffolk are not good enough, and I want to apologise to those children and young people we have let down. I want to be clear that this report does not cover all SEND services and many children or young people who have specialist educational needs in Suffolk are very well served, but significant changes must be made following this hard-hitting report. We must learn from this report and implement fundamental change as quickly as we can. The review was commissioned following a significant increase in correspondence from parents and carers earlier this year. An Action Plan based on the recommendations is now being implemented. One of the recommendations made in the review was to work with a third-party organisation to deliver improvements. The council has since secured Impower as a strategic partner, who will bring capacity and extensive experience of working on SEND systems across the country. Other recommendations include staff training, reviewing the process for allocating specialist placements and working with education leaders and parents and carers to understand the demand for specialist provision and use data and local intelligence to inform sufficient planning.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

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MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT TO CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 26TH MAY 2022

This report is a review of the major items of Mid Suffolk District Council business during the past year and is on behalf of District Cllr. Steve Phillips and myself.

Council Tax.

Mid Suffolk District Council has frozen its element of the Council Tax this year but investment in recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic is to continue, aiming to help residents through post-pandemic recovery while still investing in priority areas to improve the quality of life.

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to support the Covid-19 response, which has seen the Government revert to Plan B and the NHS ramping up the vaccination rollout to combat the spread of the latest variant. Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils continue to provide regular bulletins giving a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk, along with case numbers and updates. You can find the bulletins via the Suffolk County Council website.

Economic Recovery Plan launched.

Following two years of unprecedented challenges Mid Suffolk and Babergh have launched their economic recovery plan outlining the different initiatives, schemes and packages to help businesses. The aim of the recovery plan is to provide a direction for the councils to support businesses and communities post Covid to stimulate innovation, attract inward investment and encourage strong economic growth. Further details are available from the councils' websites.

Neighbourhood planning.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils were named earlier this year as part of a pilot scheme to allow residents an easier way to shape and influence development in their area. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that Mid Suffolk and Babergh are among 11 areas nationwide to be chosen as part of a pilot scheme to boost participation in neighbourhood planning. The councils have received an element of Government funding to go towards the cost of employing an additional officer, designed to encourage more parish councils to become involved with neighbourhood planning.

Gateway 14 update.

Construction has now commenced at Gateway 14, the 156 acre site which is owned by Mid Suffolk District Council at Mill Lane, Stowmarket on land opposite Tesco off the A1120, adjacent to Junction 50 on the A14, following a ground-breaking ceremony on 25th April. The site will aim to offer business, innovation and logistics development facilities and has been appointed Freeport East status. Freeports are intended to stimulate economic activity - goods imported from abroad are exempt from tariffs that are normally paid to the UK government on arrival. It also means that manufacturers in Freeports can import raw materials tariff-free, only paying tariffs on finished products leaving the site for elsewhere in the UK, or the goods can be re-exported overseas without the UK duties being paid. In England, it has been confirmed that companies inside the sites will also be able to claim lower property taxes, including on new buildings that they buy, and companies based in Freeports will also benefit from lower rates of national insurance if they take on new staff.

The main infrastructure works to create the framework for this new business park are scheduled to be completed by winter 2022/23.

Detailed negotiations are underway with a number of local and national occupiers to deliver a range of buildings which will deliver a range of employment opportunities.

£1.6m boost for Mid Suffolk and Babergh neighbourhoods.

Town and Parish Councils across Mid Suffolk and Babergh have received almost £1.6 million in the latest round of neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects. Developers are charged CIL when building new homes in the districts – enabling local infrastructure to keep pace with housing growth.

A proportion of this funding is automatically paid to town and parish councils, who are eligible for up to 15% of collected funds from their area, subject to a financial cap, with the potential for this to increase to 25% if they have successfully adopted a Neighbourhood Plan, which is the case in Needham Market. They can then decide how to spend this money to support the development of their local area – ensuring that the funding best meets the needs of the community.

The latest payments, made during April, saw almost £1.6 million distributed to 84 town and parish councils across Mid Suffolk and Babergh. Of this just under £1.026 million was allocated to 49 town and parish councils in Mid Suffolk.

Ukraine Refugee Scheme.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh are members of the Suffolk Ukraine Task Group which aims to ensure that refugees' arrival into Suffolk goes as smoothly as possible in respect of the refugees' health and wellbeing needs, assistance with school admissions, and support to help with integration and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages). The Task Group also contacts any matched sponsors to arrange property inspections to ensure the homes are appropriate and safe, and DBS checks (basic Disclosure and Barring Service checks to check for any criminal record) are completed with the help of Community Action Suffolk.

A new Digital Skills Programme for businesses.

Business owners in Mid Suffolk and Babergh who want to learn new methods or improve their existing digital skills can now access free courses as part of a new business support programme. More details on the councils' websites.

Additional funding to support districts' rough sleepers. Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council were awarded £324K to provide specialised emergency accommodation for rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness. The funding, from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme, will see new energy efficient homes in Stowmarket and Sudbury, to provide emergency accommodation for vulnerable adults at risk of living on the streets.

Councils urge National Highways to 'unblock the Copdock Interchange' on the A14.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils submitted a joint response to a consultation by National Highways on proposed improvements to the Copdock Interchange – urging the creation of a new link road from the A14 to the A12 to keep business traffic flowing freely. Traffic flow counts at the interchange have identified this as potentially the most effective solution.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils respond to new 'County Deal'.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils welcomed news that Suffolk is one of nine counties invited to negotiate a ground-breaking devolution deal – bringing more control over areas such as transport, infrastructure and skills to the local region. Further details are to follow.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh Joint Local Plan.

The Joint Local Plan Examination hearing sessions are paused while officers undertake further work to review parts of the evidence base. It is important that the time is taken to ensure this information is robust. For context, the total process for developing a Local Plan is lengthy. According to the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper, development of a Local Plan takes on average seven years, with the examination element usually taking around 18 - 24 months – often with requests for further work or clarification. The Planning Inspectorate have published performance data that shows the average time for examination is currently 18 months. They also say that plans in rural areas tend to

take longer, and that joint Local Plans tend to take longer still. So in essence, the examination has paused but this is a normal part of the process.

Development Control (Planning).

Development Control (Planning) has again been an interesting experience over the past year with several quite contentious planning applications to consider, mainly driven by Central Government's requirement for increased housing allocations. The Coronavirus has also had an impact on the way in which Development Control Committee meetings took place and meetings have mainly been held online via Microsoft Teams, although we have recently reverted to face-to-face meetings with normal Covid-19 restrictions in place.

Needham Lake Visitor Centre.

The Covid-19 situation inevitably had a considerable impact on the delivery of this project, which was originally planned to be operating during the latter part of last years summer season. However, I am now pleased to confirm that the Visitor Centre and café was formally opened on Monday 16th May, in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June.

The Visitor Centre is called 'The Duck and Teapot' following a local poll of suggested names.

Locality Awards.

District Cllr. Steve Phillips and I were pleased to be able to financially support a number of local organisations from our MSDC 2021/22 Locality Awards fund, including 1st Needham Market Scout Group, Needham Phoenix Football Club, Needham Market Bowls Club, the River Gipping Trust, Christchurch Packed Lunch Project, Needham Market Community Chinwag, Gipping Women's Club, Gipping Angling Preservation Society, 1st Needham Market Rangers, and the Skate Park Committee.

The 2022/23 Locality Awards scheme has now opened and application forms can be obtained from either myself or District Cllr. Steve Phillips.

Mike Norris
Mid Suffolk District Councillor
Joint Ward Member, Needham Market Ward

Chairman's Report.

Good Evening All and Welcome.

I would like especially to welcome our two new Parish Councillors.

As is becoming usual recently, our Parish Council meetings have been dominated by planning applications.

This gives us welcome new residents but a loss of open space.

After leaving areas of grass to grow 'wild' last year, it was agreed, after complaints from residents involved to keep the Jack's Green triangle and All Saints Green areas of grass, cut in future, leaving other areas to grow wild. This had particular benefits on Blacksmith's Field where the wild flowers on the wild area were beautiful. Unfortunately dog fouling on the Field and other footpaths in the village is a problem. We are putting notices up but the dogs aren't reading them! I suspect this is a general problem, we are not alone.

The steps up the the Village Hall the concrete area for the glass bin, the track down the Drift to the play area have been installed and paid for with CIL money. A great improvement to the Hall area and access to the Field. A tree has been purchased with a plaque for the Field to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. My thanks to the Parish Clerk, Jennie Blackburn, for keeping us on the straight and narrow for another year and for setting up the Community Speedwatch scheme.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their hard work and input over the year in their various areas.

Sue Haynes.

Chair, Creeting St Mary Parish Council

CREETING ST MARY DIAMOND JUBILEE VILLAGE HALL REPORT - MAY 2022

As we emerge from all the restrictions of the Pandemic I can report that our Village Hall appears to me to be in a good place.

Our new heating system has been working well, and it can now be controlled remotely to fit the needs of various types of bookings.

The new patio area has been much enjoyed, together with its new seating and colourful umbrellas. The lighting has also been improved, both for the car park and suitable lower lighting for the seating area.

The new soundproofed door between the Hall and the lounge area has been as asset too.

The Committee have been working towards further improvements, the main one being the refurbishment of all the toilets. Three estimates have been received and a choice of supplier and fitter has been made. We hope this work will go ahead during the summer.

Bookings have been coming back quite quickly. We now have regular bookings for four evenings a week. Daytime bookings too, and many parties of various kinds have been booked over the next few months. We look forward to the use of all our facilities over the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations, which will be provided without a charge.

We are looking for villagers who would agree to be contacted to help with general jobs around hall maintenance and cleaning, and would also like to find some new Committee Members/Trustees who can add to our skills.

Roots and Shoots have again provided us with flowers and compost for the planters at the front of the Hall, which are then looked after by the WI.

With our solar panels working well, and our electricity contract in place until 2023, we hope to keep our hiring rates at a reasonable level to encourage use of the Hall. We hope the growing population in Creeting will begin to enjoy the facilities we can offer in the years ahead.

Chris Bingley - Chair.

Creeping St Mary CEVAP School Report from Jenny Hitt – Chair of Governors

Creeping St Mary CEVAP is providing a primary education for the children of Creeping St Mary and the surrounding area that is built around Christian values where everyone is welcomed, respected and encouraged to use their God-given gifts.

We currently have 97 children enrolled at the school. Each year has an intake of up to 15 children and after the reception year the children are taught in classes with 2 year groups. Our Head teacher, Mrs Friar has now been in her role for 5 years and we have a strong team of experienced teachers with extremely low turnover.

This year has seen us slowly return to “normal” following COVID. Our school provided its children with education throughout the pandemic either in the school or with remote educational material. The staff worked tirelessly, to support our children, often whilst feeling anxious about their own health or concerned about their own family members, to provide the children with a safe environment in which to learn. This year they have focussed on supporting the children to catch up on work they have missed, supporting the children with their mental health and finding opportunities for the children to enjoy the wider educational experiences.

In October 2021 the school celebrated its 150th Anniversary. The day was marked with a Victorian themed day – the children and staff dressed in Victorian costumes and had a taste of a Victorian style education.

In February 2022 we were inspected by Ofsted who rated us as Good. The inspectors found our children to be polite and articulate and off the record stated that they thought they were delightful. Please visit the School website for the full Ofsted findings. We were pleased to see all the hard work and commitment put in by our headteacher and staff reflected in the Ofsted findings. The team works extremely hard to ensure that every child at Creeping St Mary achieves their potential.

With thanks to a generous donation from local company – Cranes - we have installed a pavilion on the school field. This has provided the children with a fabulous outside working space and a great place to play at break time.

The children and their families have supported the Stowmarket food bank throughout the year with generous donations at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

The school community delighted to be able to attend services in the church again and to welcome family and friends back into the school grounds for functions like the Summer Fayre on 18th June.

We welcome offers of support and help from the wider community in Creeping St Mary, please contact Christine Friar if you feel you would like to contribute.

REPORT ON NEWSLETTER FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Production of the bi-monthly Creeting St Mary free newsletter continues to roll off the press at Gipping Press, which has not delayed any issues despite the persistent difficulties with staffing throughout the pandemic.

The two-editor arrangement seems to be a happy one and delivery of the finished product is also seamlessly achieved, with volunteers stepping up whenever there is a need for a replacement whether it is a one-off or permanent. Thanks are due to all these people. 375 copies are printed for each issue and it will not be long before even more are needed. Thanks also to the photographers who always supply a local picture just in time. Sadly the black and white reproductions rarely do justice to the originals, but we are always pleased to find a photo suitable for the luxury of colour for the cover. Can we thank our regular contributors, the vast majority of whom send their copy in good time though a few do require chasing. We would like to encourage more people to share their experiences of village life, now thriving again after months of being shut down.

Advertising content seems to maintain a steady income, but the editors are grateful that they are not involved with balancing the books, a task that falls to Jennie.

Kathryn Martin
(Co-editor)

Creting St Mary Newsletter – Report to Annual Parish Meeting

Income & Expenditure Account 2021/22

	2021/22
	£
Brought Forward	1658.47
Income from Advertising	1155.00
Total	2813.47
Printing Costs	1528.58
Other Costs	15.94
Total	1544.52
Carry Forward	1268.95

The CSM Newsletter continues to be published and circulated FOC to all households in the village. This is due to the support of our loyal advertisers; the income from which still manages to cover printing costs.

Jennie Blackburn

WI Report – May 2022

After a quiet time when we didn't meet because of Covid restrictions we returned to having meetings in the summer of 2021.

In the months of July and August, we met outside in the newly refurbished village hall garden and enjoyed meeting up again. We have two new members to WI and to the village.

From September we resumed our meetings in the hall.
Christmas lunch at The Angel in Needham Market. We had a very good meal and it was accessible to all our members.

The new year meetings, included a beetle drive and craft evening organised by Maree Connold.
We celebrated our 75 birthday party by having lunch at the White Horse, Stoke Ash, again a very enjoyable event.

We found the work of Dr Nicola Ebbs fascinating. Nicola lives in our village and divides her week between working on the East Anglian Air Ambulance and being a consultant in the A and E department of the Ipswich Hospital.

Our July garden meeting is going to be at the home of Janet Mayell, The Old Post Office in Creeting. A lovely afternoon starting at 2 pm.

We have an open meeting in May, a talk on forensic science, we expect it to be very interesting, everyone welcome.

Each month members meet up for walks and patchwork.

To finish my report, we are hiring a bus in August, for our August meeting and having an afternoon in Beth Chatto's gardens.

This is a little insight into our WI in Creeting St Mary.

Glynis Clint.

SOCIAL CLUB REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Since my last report the club has continued to hold regular committee meetings but actual events have been difficult to arrange because of the uncertainty about health risks. We managed to organise a very successful Fireworks evening, backed by financial support from the Parish Council. A planned Christmas party for children had to be delayed, but in April this year that went ahead with an Easter theme complete with dancing rabbits, real rabbits and newborn lambs, not to mention copious food and a live entertainer with a disco.

Gluttons for punishment on the same day we held a quiz evening with fish supper provide by the Moving Plaice mobile fryer. 83 people enjoyed a wonderful night together with a last minute surprise raffle as well.

We supported some of the more vulnerable families with Christmas goodies and a voucher, as we had done last year, conscious that finances have really suffered recently.

Our first real event was a pancake lunch in February, with a soup lunch in March.

The bar returned to a regular slot on the last Friday evening each month. There have been a number of private parties for which we have provided bar services, ably helped by some volunteer bar staff.

Eastern Angles production of Booming Voices in May promises to be popular and then in June we are hoping to run a scarecrow competition, and a celebration on Thursday 2nd June with bar, barbecue and beacon as well as a live band.

For the second year we did not collect subscriptions, but the club remains in a healthy financial state and we are happy to continue merely to cover our costs sufficiently to enable us to help provide an inclusive and active social environment for the village.

Kathryn Martin.

BLACKSMITHS FIELD ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2022

The entrance to the field from All Saints Road has been greatly improved with the installation of a footpath which ends by the play equipment, making it accessible even during the wet winter months. The new play equipment has proved very popular and families are coming from outside the village to enjoy the facilities.

A few repairs were needed on some areas of the play equipment which were carried out by Andy Pallant and Ray Palmer. The play bark also needs to be topped up and I hope to organise this early June.

Phil Piper organised the replacement of the goal posts with movable posts, making the pitch more user friendly. Again this has proved very popular.

The pathway cut through the wild meadow ending by the pond allows you to get closer to the wild flowers and a number of pyramid orchids were spotted last year.

Unfortunately a number of dog owners are not clearing up after their dog and it was agreed at the last Parish Council meeting to ask residents if they would like to see a fence installed around the play area to keep dogs out.

Litter has become a problem around the picnic benches and on the field. The Parish Council have installed a litter bin at the entrance to the field for people to use, or take the litter home.

There are various bird boxes around the field. Unfortunately two owl boxes came down in the strong winds. One is irreparable but the other is being repaired by William Barns and will be put back later this year.

The den building equipment has been replaced, but is being moved outside of the designated area and causes problems when the field is cut. Parents are asked to help their children to put it back, so others can enjoy it too.

The firework night was a great success.

To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council have planted a White Beam tree near to the entrance of the field. The Social Club will be opening on the 2 June and will light the beacon in line with other towns and villages throughout the country.

Cllr Jan Palmer

Creeting St Mary Church Report

We have continued to have two services a month in our church with the other two weeks in the month at Creeting St Peter.

There are many other services in the Benefice each Sunday. The Zoom services continue as well.

Our Christmas craft fair and tea afternoon, late 2021, led by Maree Connold was very successful and enjoyed by lots of people. Beautiful homemade Christmas gifts were on sale. Our Easter service was a festal evensong, led by Henry Stanford with Ian Galbraith on the organ and the benefice choir. Sixty lilies were arranged by Caroline Barnes in memory of loved ones. The pedestal looked magnificent.

We were delighted to welcome the UEA to our Church in April, they were visiting two Churches in the area and came to us for morning coffee and a short talk on the history of our Church.

The SWT came to visit us in May to look at our beautiful church yard and help us to continue promoting wild flowers and habitats for animals living in and around the area.

They were delighted to see how the different areas were managed.

Our arrangement with Mr Ian Westgate is going very well. Ian manages the new church yard and spends four hours a month keeping it neat and tidy. Thank you to the Parish Council for their monetary input.

Other church yard work is done by volunteers over the year. We are extremely grateful to them for giving up their time.

Ian Galbraith has agreed to give us an organ recital in the near future.

We are hoping to have a tea afternoon in the Vestry on Wednesday 6 th July, 2–4pm. This will take the usual format with any profit being shared this year by Christian Aid and the Church.

Our Church supported, the Salvation Army, Family Refuge, Christian Aid and Stowmarket food bank.

We have 30 people on our electoral roll.

Here is a short account of life in St Mary's Church, Creeting St. Mary.

Glynis Clint.