



Creting St Mary Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Creting St Mary at 7pm on Thursday, 11th May 2023

PRESENT:

Cllr S Haynes - *Chairman*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Blackburn - *Clerk*

H Craggs (PC), L Plummer (PC), R Coton (PC), P Scully (PC), J Palmer (PC), D Cage (PC), P Piper (PC), N Smart (PC), J Hardingham (Newsletter), M Brame (School), K Martin (Newsletter / SC), G Clint (PCC), D Primmer (Welfare Charities), T Lawrence (District Cllr).

CSM01/23/24 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

CSM02/23/24 - APOLOGIES

None had been received.

CSM03/23/24 - MINUTES 26th MAY 2022

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 26th May 2022, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

CSM04/23/24 – 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 briefly went through his report, which would be published on the village website. He explained that there were currently places for two trustees on the Welfare Charities.

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

Mrs Haynes read through her report, which would be published on the village website.

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

Cllr Hicks briefly went through the main points of his report, which would be published on the village website.

Potholes were raised with Cllr Hicks, who explained that they would be prioritised and repaired.

- d) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Terry Lawrence*

Newly elected Mr Lawrence introduced himself to those present.

- e) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Cllr S Haynes*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Haynes read through the report, which would be published on the village website.

She added that CiL money was being applied for to refurbish the Village Hall.

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

Mrs Hardingham went through her report, which would be published on the village website.

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

- g) **Village Primary School** – *Marianne Brame (Chair of Governors)*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mrs Brame read through her report, which would be published on the village website.

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

Mrs Clint read through her report, which would be published on the village website.

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

Mrs Martin read through her report, which would be published on the village website.

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

Mrs Palmer read through her report, which would be published on the village website.

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

Mrs Clint read through her report, which would be published on the village website.

CSM05/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM

A brief discussion took place in relation to speeding through the village. The mobile camera had not been seen for some time.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Clerk contact Stefan Henriksen, Suffolk Police, to ask about that and also to approved various locations for the Community Speedwatch Team to monitor.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman Date

Chairman's Report.

Good Evening All and Welcome.

As is usual, this has been a mixed year of failure and success.

I will start with the failures. Most to do with Highways. The poor state of the road at the A140 junction is being monitored! We are attempting to increase the distance of the 30mph speed limit along All Saints Rd to the A140, this could be helped by the addition of more houses being built in this area.

The pedestrian path down Flordon Rd is not fit for its purpose; we are trying but as Highways are happy with it, I suspect we won't get anywhere.

The other village problem we keep trying to help with is the parking outside the school and the speed of the traffic going past the school. I appreciate this is a problem for lots of schools but that doesn't help us!

The planning applications are still coming in, but far fewer than last year.

The good news.

Work has started on Lilley's Wood, thanks to a volunteer group headed by William Barnes. My thanks to him for taking this on and running with it. It is hoped there will be an open day for this in June.

The ditch that ran alongside the Village Hall has been piped, allowing for a flat surface. This makes access for cutting the hedge far easier. It is hoped to cover the area with grass seed. The path that runs alongside this 'ditch' into Blacksmith's Field was cracking badly. DAB has resurfaced this free of charge. We will see if the new surface is an improvement. It certainly provides an excellent, safe scooter run and learning-to-ride-a-bike track.

The bench on All Saints Green has been resited, hopefully it will now be free of bird droppings and useable. Unfortunately a branch of a tree came down on the Green. This resulted in the total loss of the tree but a replacement has been planted.

The front car park at the Village Hall will hopefully be resurfaced this year.

One big asset for the village is Blacksmith's Field. It is an excellent play area and once again, thanks to Mr Barnes for his planned cutting, a beautiful area for wildflowers. Hopefully we can keep the dog poo at bay!

My thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their input and work over the year, particularly Paul Scully for his footpath work, Jan Palmer for Blacksmith's Field and Hugo Craggs for all the daffodils he planted.

They made a beautiful display this Spring.

Last but not least my thanks to the Parish Clerk, Jennie Blackburn, for keeping us on the straight and narrow for another year and without her knowledge and expertise, life would be far more difficult.

Sue Haynes.

Chair, Creeting St Mary Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT FOR CREETING SAINT MARY
WELFARE CHARITIES FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER
31st 2022

During the year ending December 31st 2022 there had been a total of eleven retirement grants made to members of the village community.

In conjunction with the Social Club grants were made to help support two families in need during the Christmas period.

One student grant was made in support of a third year university student.

During the year five funeral grants had been made to bereaved families.

Income for the year was £5,911.49 with expenditure being £4,500.

The accounts were independently audited by Mrs. Frances Hammond on March 8th 2023.

The statutory annual return was made electronically to the Charity Commission March 13th 2023.

D. E. Primmer (Hon. Clerk).



Cllr Matthew Hicks 2023 Annual Report for the Thredling Division

Council to protect frontline services and increase funding in budget proposal

Adult care services and children's services will receive £47m more funding as part of Suffolk County Council's £685m budget proposals. Despite an incredibly challenging economic climate, the council has been able to produce a balanced budget. This will protect the services that people rely on the most and continue to care for the most vulnerable, which accounts for 75% of the whole budget.

Adult care services will have £34m more in their budget, and children's services will have a further £13m. This will help with the extra expense needed to meet the huge increase in demands for services, as well as higher costs due to inflation. The budget-setting has been achieved with input from the council's partners, officers, departments and notably, Suffolk residents. Over 2,600 local people contributed to an online survey and focus groups, asking where they would spend more money, spend less money, and their views on Council Tax. The top service areas where people wanted to spend more, were social care services for adults and children. Some of the service areas where people also said they wanted to see more money spent, will receive additional funding:

£700,000 for SEND services to support new recruitment, which is on top of the £1.1m invested this year

£500,000 for Highways: to use environmentally friendly weed treatments, and stop using glyphosate which can damage wildlife

£110,000 for tree management: to support the 'right tree right place' policy, having an appropriate inspection regime and supporting the resulting tree management requirements.

£45,000 for Citizens Advice: to support work during cost of living challenges

A budget gap for next year - the difference between what money is available and what needs to be spent - had already been identified, resulting in savings of £15.5m for next year. Under the proposals, the council's budget would increase by 9.6% (from £625.3m to £685.3). Additional funds would come from a total 3.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in funds from the Government for adult and children's social care. Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 3.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care.

Historic half a billion pound devolution deal hands Suffolk regeneration & skills powers to level up

A landmark devolution deal, which puts money and power over building, regeneration and skills into the hands of leaders in Suffolk will be signed today. Suffolk will be devolved power over their Adult Education budget, so they can shape provision in a way that best suits the needs of the local community and will receive immediate support to build new affordable homes on brownfield sites, as well as more capital funding to improve energy efficiency in houses. The deal will also see Suffolk County Council handed control over a £480 million investment fund – this will be guaranteed for the next thirty years. This will enable the county to drive growth and plan for the long-term with certainty as it looks to level up and unlock its full economic potential. Suffolk will also get a directly elected leader of the council. This not only provides a single person who is accountable to the people of Suffolk but gives the county a local champion who can attract investment and be a stronger voice in discussions with central government. The deal also sets out the government's plans to devolve more power to Suffolk County Council through:

Investment: It will bring decades of funding worth £480 million to improve the lives of Suffolk's residents and spend on their local priorities.

Housing: The deal will provide £5.8 million to regenerate brownfield land into beautiful, affordable homes and drive economic growth across the area; Suffolk will also receive greater compulsory purchase powers.

Education: The agreement devolves the Adult Education Budget so they can shape provision in a way that best suits the needs of residents and the local Suffolk economy.

Transport: An integrated transport settlement starting in 2024/25, to support the area to improve key transport infrastructure priorities.

The Environment: The new deal will help Suffolk deliver on its ambitions to be the country's greenest county with £3 million to improve energy efficiency in homes.

The deal is now subject to local consultation, a council resolution to change their governance model so that electors directly elect the council leader, and elements, such as the transfer of new powers, require parliamentary approval to secondary legislation. The deal envisages the election of a directly elected leader after May 2024. Subject to the passing of the relevant measures in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

£2.5 million saved on energy costs as LED streetlight project nears completion

A project with the aim of replacing all 43,400 streetlights across Suffolk with sustainable, longer-lasting, and cost-saving LED bulbs nears completion. It has saved more than £2.5 million pounds so far. The change to LED streetlights supports Suffolk County Council's aim to reduce carbon, light pollution, and bring down ongoing maintenance costs for the council, all whilst providing the best value to residents. It was expected that the council would reduce costs by around 76%, however, the target was exceeded, with 77.64% savings made to date. In June 2021, Bouygues Energies and Services were announced as the partner to deliver the project to upgrade 43,400 Suffolk streetlights with new, reduced energy LED lanterns. The total number of upgraded streetlights is currently at 40,692 excluding any of the Ipswich Borough Council, or Town/Parish council owned streetlights. There are approximately 1,700 upgrades outstanding, which includes any remaining heritage lantern upgrades. It is hoped that around 1200 of the remaining lanterns will be completed by the end of the year. Prior to the commencement of the project, Suffolk Highways contacted towns and parishes to provide them with the opportunity to have their parish-council owned street-lighting upgraded at the same time. All heritage-style lanterns are also being upgraded as part of the project. The upgrade of the lighting system will include a further rollout of SCC's central management system which will allow lights to be switched on or off and dim individual or groups of lights. This smart technology will increase the control the council has over its power consumption which will further reduce costs. The system will also automatically flag any lights that are not working which reduces the need for night-time inspections. The shift over to these new LED lanterns has enabled the council to save a considerable amount on energy costs and supported our organisation's ambition to become carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. I would like to extend my congratulations and thank you to all those working on this project and ensuring its resounding success. I look forward to seeing its continued positive impact in the coming years as we reap the benefits of stronger, cheaper and more environmentally friendly streetlights.

Next round of new SEND places agreed by Cabinet

The Council's Cabinet agreed a new wave of funding to continue its programme to provide places for children and young people with SEND. The £3million agreement marks the start of Phase 3 of the Capital Programme to create three additional specialist units providing 42 additional places for students with special educational needs and disabilities. This follows Phase 1 of the programme which created 825 new places across Suffolk and Phase 2, which was signed off in June 2022, and will create up to 73 new places. So far, £45million has been allocated by Suffolk County Council to deliver the new places for Phase 1 and Phase 2 - £15million of which has been provided by the Department for Education. In addition, Cabinet also agreed to support the Department for Education's High Needs Provision Capital Funding (HNPCF) for 2023/24 of £7million to be spent on the development of units attached to mainstream schools to support students with social, emotional and mental health problems and speech, language and communication needs. This will create up to 168 new spaces, and is an addition to previous funding agreed from the Department for Education in 2022/23 for up to 78 new places. The third item signed off today was Cabinet's support for the application for funding for two free schools from the Department for Education. One of these will be in east Suffolk and support children with severe learning difficulties and the second will be built in Sudbury for those with autistic spectrum disorder and complex social, emotional and mental health problems. If the bids are successful, both schools will teach children and young people from across Suffolk. In total, Suffolk will deliver up to 1,317 new places for children and young people with SEND by 2025/26. We are seeing a continued increase in demand for specialist places for children and young people with SEND in Suffolk and it is vital we continue to stay ahead of this increased demand.

£7.8 million redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre to begin

Work on a major expansion of the Foxhall Recycling Centre near Ipswich is set to begin. RG Carter Ltd has been appointed by SCC as contractor for the £7.8 million project. The new design will increase capacity for cars on site, reduce queuing and improve access from Foxhall Road, and provide greater capacity to meet future growth. The site will have a raised level construction, giving better access to

the containers for users without the need for stairs. Containers can also be emptied without the need to close the site. The funding includes £794,414 from East Suffolk Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy collected from new housing developments in the East Suffolk area. Work is scheduled to complete in early 2024 and the site will remain open to the public during construction. The project will be conducted in phases to keep the centre operational throughout the build, but at certain times this may result in fewer booking slots being available to the public. The Re-use shop will change location in the new layout and will need to be closed for a period early next year to allow this to take place. The project will also see the installation of a feeder lane from Foxhall Road, making access into the site safer. Of the 11 recycling centres around the county Foxhall accounts for 19% of recycling and waste, collecting more than 12,500 tonnes a year. This is a significant investment in Foxhall recycling centre that will bring benefits to its users for many years to come. Whilst the centre will remain open during work this will be a complex project which will, inevitably, result in some disruption at times, so I would ask the public to be patient while improvements are being made. Foxhall is the busiest recycling centre in the county, so once complete this really will be a flagship site for Suffolk residents.

County Councils unanimously agree “no” to damaging pylons proposal

Authorities in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk have united to condemn the current proposals for a 180km network of 50m tall electricity pylons. The East Anglia GREEN proposal put forward by National Grid for a 180km network of electricity pylons between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury. The councils agree that the plan for pylons is destructive and outdated, and will cause irreversible damage to the countryside, wildlife habitats and local communities. A new electricity network is needed to transmit the ambitious 50 GW of offshore wind that the Government aims to be delivered by 2030, and to connect new projects like Sizewell C. So much of this ambition falls on East Anglia, to provide energy for much of the country. The councils fully support the need to generate this renewable and low carbon electricity, to meet local and national Net Zero ambitions. However, they believe that more suitable, sustainable and modern alternatives for the network have not been properly investigated and presented, such as undersea cable routes around the coastline of East Anglia. Formalising their long-standing positions on the East Anglia GREEN proposal, the councils join a group of 13 MPs who signed a letter criticising the consultation, along with a growing public petition

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

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CREETING ST MARY VILLAGE HALL REPORT MAY 2023

I am pleased to report that our Hall has had a reasonably good year, bookings have remained steady, and we have regular users who enjoy our facilities.

Our main project over the last year has been the complete refurbishment of the toilets, and this was completed fairly recently. We have been pleased with the results achieved, and have had favourable comments from our hirers. Cleaning is now a lot easier too.

We have added to our Trustees over the year and also have a new Booking Secretary. Our bookings now run off a dedicated mobile phone which can be handed to another person when holidays etc intervene, plus of course email too.

Our website has been modernised and upgraded and we hope this will result in more accessibility and future bookings.

Roots and Shoots have provided us with flowers for our planters, and we would again like to thank the WI for their watering rota.

We come to the end of our electricity contract in July and it will be a challenge to deal with the inevitable increased costs. We have adjusted our hire rates recently in reflection of what is to come, but are also determined that we must stay competitive.

Our solar panels help of course, and we are looking at the viability of having more installed.

The Creeting population is growing substantially, and we hope that this will provide more Hall use in the coming years.

Looking ahead, we are now looking at a full refurbishment of the lounge area, and possibly making the doors into the billiards room wider too, making that area more usable. Grants for this are currently being explored. Chris Bingley (Chair)

Newsletter Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

The Creeping St. Mary Newsletter continues to be published every 2 months with the February edition being the first of what is now Volume 42. It is delivered to all the approximately 370 houses in Creeping by a reliable band of volunteers co-ordinated by David Haynes. There are 10 distributors altogether, and the numbers of copies they distribute vary between 16 and 71. It is clear that once the two big developments at the Breheny and Charity estates, will require more but hopefully would be recruited from their inhabitants.

The Newsletter continues to be a source of information for every household, with a Who's who. details of village events arranged by the very active Social Club and numerous other organisations and some for which up-to-date information would be appreciated. Also reports on how events went and photos would be welcome to dilute the words! There is also the reports from Parish, District and County Councillors to be digested.

A difficulty for the editors can be people not adhering to the deadline which is 15th of the month prior to publication (January, March, May, July, September and November). The Editors sometimes have too much coming in late – requiring re-organising of the pages which can lead to errors creeping in and making it hard for the co-editors Joan Hardingham (on the computer) and Kathryn Martin (proof-reading among other things) to keep up the standards they would like. Another issue is over-long articles – a page is about 500 words, with no space for photos!

The revenue from advertising covers most of the costs but more advertisers are welcome. Thanks to Jennie Blackburn who keeps track of finances and to Gipping Press who not only publish the Newsletter (sometimes at short notice) but review it to check there are no major mistakes and deliver it up into the village when complete.

Joan Hardingham and Kathryn Martin – co-Editors

Creting St Mary Newsletter – Report to Annual Parish Meeting

Income & Expenditure Account 2022/23

	2022/23
	£
Brought Forward	1268.95
Income from Advertising	1504.00
District Council Locality Grant	250.00
Total	3022.95
Printing Costs	1860.42
Other Costs	0
Total	1860.42
Carry Forward	1162.53

The CSM Newsletter continues to be published and circulated FOC to all households in the village.

Jennie Blackburn

Creeping St Mary CEVAP School
Report from Marianne Brame – Chair of Governors.

Creeping St Mary CEVAP provides a primary education for the children of Creeping St Mary and the surrounding area. It is built around Christian values where everyone is welcomed, respected and encouraged to use their God-given gifts with the school's vision including the passage "Anything is Possible" taken from Mark 9 v 13. We currently have 99 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.

With Covid restrictions behind us, the school has returned to a usual way of working. In line with other schools, post Covid saw some heightened levels of anxiety in the early part of the year, but the school has measures in place to support both staff and pupils. During the winter term there was just 1 day when there was a full complement of staff as the effects of Covid and other illness were being felt. However, the strength of the school's planning and teamwork, led by Head Teacher Mrs Friar, ensured that there was no detrimental impact to the pupils.

In September, the school marked the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The queue for the lying in state and funeral procession were discussed with the children and each pupil and member of staff tolled the school bell as a mark of respect.

Despite the current cost-of-living challenges the children and their families have continued to support the Stowmarket Food Bank with generous donations at Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter.

School residential trips have resumed with Y5 and Y6 going to Herefordshire in October and the Y3/4 visit to Thorpe Woodlands taking place the w/c 9th May. The trips help pupils gain independence from home, develop self-sufficiency and enable personal development and team building. The children are able to take part in outdoor and adventure activities as well as developing practical skills. Without the dedication and good will of staff staying on site with the classes these visits would not be possible.

The school has marked the coronation of King Charles III with the children learning about the new coinage and stamps, the new royal cypher as well as learning to sing God Save The King. The culmination of this activity was on 5th May when staff and pupils dressed in red white and blue and held a day of activities centred around the coronation.

This summer term has seen the school focus on key Aims and Values with those set for this term being Perseverance and Wisdom. We have been able to hold a number of services in the church and a particularly poignant event was the service held on Remembrance Day at the War Memorial in the churchyard.

The school's website is kept fully up to date and is a great source of information on what is on so please visit the webpage and join us for the Summer Fayre on 23rd June.

The building of a significant number of houses in the village is likely to have an impact on the school. To best help the school support the children who move into the area, we would welcome the council requesting that 106 funding be put in place for all future large scale planning applications.

The school would like to thank the Creeping St Mary Welfare Fund which supported one of the pupils.

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

Draft

Creeping St Mary WI.

We celebrated our 76 th birthday this April with afternoon tea in the Village Hall. We had Queen Bee from Stowmarket cater for us, it was a lovely relaxed afternoon.

We continue to meet most months on the second Wednesday.

At the beginning of the year we had a meeting full of nostalgia. Arthur Stephenson brought films along of the drama group's Christmas concerts in 2006 and 2011, it was wonderful to see friends now and then, performing comical scripts.

Our August meeting will again be an outing, this year our trip is to Peter Beales rose garden near Attleborough, with afternoon tea and a talk by one of the rose specialists.

We hope to fill a coach with members, villagers and friends.

We have a garden meeting in June, we are looking forward to visiting All Saints Barn, Lower Lane, courtesy of Trilly and Marvin.

We try to make our programme as varied as possible, speakers include Hattie Bennet who brought her cello and told her life story through music. Our May speaker was Margo Harrison with her dog Linus. Margo gave us a wonderful talk on the work of the charity 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Margo, herself profoundly deaf spoke of the work and how dogs are trained to help individual people with their specific needs. Linus a cocker spaniel was allowed at the end of the talk to come and say hello, he was gorgeous.

In September we have a speaker from the Commonwealth War Graves who will talk on The CWGC; GARDENING THE WORLD.

Visitors are always very welcome, please come and join us.

Our patch work group continues, run by Pam Primmer and a monthly walk is enjoyed and organised by Marion.

Other courses are available through SE WI, Suffolk East WI and recently three of our members spent a day lino cutting and printing.

To finish this report, looking ahead, we are having a coffee morning in the VH on Saturday September 16 th to promote the work of the WI and ours in particular.

There will be crafts and displays and a chance to view our WI archives. A princess will be visiting for the younger children who love Disney.

WI is a way of meeting up with friends, building friendships and feeling part of the community.

Glynis Clint
Creeping St Mary WI May 2023.

CREETING ST MARY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 11TH MAY 2023

Social club report

The village social club continues to run smoothly and helps to provide valuable occasions to bring the community together. The bar opens every last Friday in the month and attendance is rising. 14 volunteers now provide bar duties and have been or are being trained in using the Challenge 25 scheme to help the club meet its obligations in preventing underage drinking. We have changed all glasses used in the bar to "safety glass". We have provided bar services for 2 funeral wakes and 3 private parties in addition to a very good programme of village events. These included a Platinum Jubilee celebration, pudding evening, wine tasting, World Cup football screening, fireworks night and a 1980s themed night at Christmas, when there was also a children's party complete with Father Christmas and elves.

Since then there has been a pancake lunch and soup lunches. We held another fish and chip supper and quiz. As I write work is underway for a weekend of Coronation celebrations, with a barn dance, field fair and volunteering day.

At our AGM the chair was taken over by Lisa Nobes. The club remains very much a team affair with the committee and extensions of it doing the work entailed in organising our activities. Having stood down myself after 3 years in the chair it is very gratifying to see my hopes for a more united social life for the village gradually bearing fruit with many more people happy to lend a hand when needed. We are also involved in the Hall's plans to refurbish and improve the decor of the lounge and pool room.

Membership stands at 157. We have not charged a fee to join since the pandemic. We try to help families by keeping bar prices and ticket prices low and support a few disadvantaged families with a Christmas gift scheme. This year we hope to start a charity fund for similar things so we can remain true to our aim to provide sporting and social events for the benefit of Creeting St Mary residents as well as help those who may need it.

Kathryn Martin.

BLACKSMITHS FIELD ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2023

The footpath from All Saints Road into the playing fields has continued to allow access even during the winter months. However large cracks appeared a year ago and, despite the installers making a repair, they continued to worsen. A site meeting was again arranged and they advised that because of the close proximity of trees, the roots will continue to cause the subsoil to heave and shrink and recommended covering the surface with a self binding gravel. They have now taken up the tarmac and replaced the complete path with this material.

The play equipment continues to prove very popular and it is intended to put an article in the Creeting Newsletter inviting residents of the village to make suggestions as to further improvements which they would like to see. The latest Safety Inspection Report has highlighted a number of areas which need attention. If anyone in the Village would like to help, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The new moveable goal posts are in constant use.

Once again I regret to report that a number of dog owners continue to not pick up their dog litter. This is completely unacceptable. It is the responsibility of all dog owners to follow their dog and pick it up. There is a bin at the entrance to the field.

Also litter is still being left around the picnic benches, particularly during school holidays. There is a bin at the entrance to the field. Use it, or better still, take the litter home.

The owl box at the bottom of the field which blew down in the strong winds at the beginning of last year, has been repaired and put back by William Barns. A barn owl has been sighted flying over the playing field. Maybe he has found a new home!

A tree had to be taken out on the village green and Phil Piper has used some to replenish the den building area.

The firework night was again a great success.

The White Beam tree planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is looking very healthy.

Cllr Jan Palmer

St Mary's Church

We have continued to have two services a month plus ones for festivals.

We have a small but dedicated congregation with a number of people from outside the village joining us regularly for our services. We are pleased to welcome the school for their festival services and end of term get togethers.

Many people help to keep the church and the church yard well maintained.

Support from the village is wonderful, our recent volunteering morning on Coronation Monday was very well supported and lots of fundamental tasks were undertaken including filling in the potholes on the drive.

Other times of the year we have an enthusiastic group tackling garden jobs in the church yard. We are very aware of its environmental importance and respect it at all times. The wild flowers carpet many of its areas. Mr Ian Westgate helps regularly a few hours a month which is really important in keeping the area under control.

Our Vestry is almost 186 years old and needs attention from time to time. It's a good meeting place particularly for practising bands, they can make as much noise as they like!

We are looking forward to an organ recital concert this Saturday. Ian Galbraith will play a variety of tunes, entitled, 'Fun, Film and Folk.'

Glynis Clint
May 2023.