

Reports for the APM May 2023

Report from the Chair of Badingham Parish Council

Welcome everyone. The purpose of the Annual Parish meeting is to give the Parish council and other local organisations the opportunity to let residents what they have been doing over the past 12 months. Over the last 12 months the parish council has continued to support the interests of the wider village community while focussing on the core objectives.

As I am sure you all know at the beginning of 2022 there was a significant concern about the future of the village hall. This has now been addressed, with the not insignificant help of many individuals and groups from the village. A new hall committee has been formed and is slowly bringing in steady revenue streams for the village hall - in time allowing it to be a standalone asset benefiting the village.

All councillors this year have been on training courses to ensure that we, as your representatives, can act with confidence on your behalf, ranging from training on planning process and applications, community working and roles and responsibilities.

Our strategic village plan has been a foundation for our meetings. Allowing us to consider all aspects of village life, and how we as councillors can try to make measured changes. Areas included are -

- Providing an attractive and pleasant village environment in which to live encompassing environments and sustainable activities
 - Green Spaces/Verges etc
 - Adopting green initiatives
- Provide facilities to encourage and enhance sports and leisure in the village
 - Supporting the village hall
 - Footpath working groups
 - Pocket park management
 - Development of the land around the village hall - which I am sure you all agree is really gaining traction
- Improve road safety, transport and reduce flooding risk
 - Councillor appointed to liaise with Environment agency/Suffolk Highways
 - Community flood plan
- Communicate effectively with all parts of the community and keeping all organisation involved
 - Village emergency plan
 - New Village website (www.badingham.org.uk)
- Credible Council administration –
 - Our Clerk keeping exemplary records & ensuring all information is published in the correct timely manor
 - Information into the Badingham Echo
- Development in the village is in keeping with the village
 - Training for councillors
 - Full and open discussions about all planning application in the village
 - When the response from East Suffolk County Council is different or we feel that our concerns are not being taken into account - holding a light to ESC for answers

The parish council is in a much more stable financial position and I would encourage interested parties to see our account/financial reports published on the website.

We will continue to act on your behalf but we do need further support in the way of councillors. If anyone does wish to join please catch me at the end or send me an email.

Thank you for all your support over the past 12 months - I look forward to the coming year!

Tom Mountain

Saint John the Baptist's Church, Badingham

Holy Communion Services at 11 am have continued on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Where there is a 5th Sunday there is a Benefice service in one of our 6 parishes. There have been services for Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance, and our Crib service. Due to the repairs needed to the Roof the nave is kept locked and we are only able to use the chancel which is open every day between 9am – 6pm for visitors, quiet reflection, and prayer.

Raising the money for the repairs needed to the medieval church roof continues to be a major task. We have submitted an Expression of Interest to The National Lottery Heritage Fund which has been accepted and we have been invited to submit a development application which we have 12 months to do.

Amongst other things we have held Coffee and Bacon Roll mornings on Saturdays to raise money for the roof repairs and to help with the running costs of the church as well as providing a chance to meet together and chat. These have proved very popular. We have been successful in obtaining a grant to buy 12 sit and heat cushions and backs, which, because we are unable to heat just the chancel, have been very well received.

Our Harvest Festival gifts were donated to the Food Bank at Eye and a box for donations to the food bank has remained in the church through the winter months. A collection point for clothes, shoes, handbags, for which we are paid by weight, has been installed in the church car park to help raise funds for the roof repairs.

Trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation have been planted in the churchyard. The Community Gardens continue to flourish and efforts are still being made to establish a wild flower area.

The churchyard grass and various maintenance needs are taken care of by volunteers as is the cleaning and the flowers in the church.

We remain grateful to the many people who help in various ways look after and support our village church.

Bob & Ann Foster

Badingham Enterprise Café report

The cafe continues to provide good coffee, delicious cakes and a warm, friendly atmosphere.

We have held many events in the last year, including a French evening, with food cooked by Thierry, and accordion music played by Hugh Barwell, with dancing in the street!

We enjoyed another Tapas and Tunes evening with delicious food made by Wendy and Richard, and with Syzewell Gap providing some lovely music.

We have held 2 litter picks, some Sunday teas, a couple of children's activity mornings, the annual MacMillan coffee morning, a clock back walk and brunch in October, and a Spring Forward walk and brunch in March.

We organised another very enjoyable and successful Christmas Fair, a party for our wonderful volunteers, and carol singing with mulled wine.

We also run the Wednesday walks from the cafe, and Wendy Birtall led a very informative walk around the churchyard telling us about the history of the people who lived in the village and who are buried in the churchyard.

Badingham Gardening Group

Together with Helen Oldham, we run the Badingham Gardening Club.

We meet once a month from March to October in each others homes. Some of the gardens are small and others are much larger, but we all enjoy looking round and getting ideas for our own plots. The 16 members also have an opportunity to ask questions and identify different plants. We finish with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Dee Hole

Enterprise Badingham

It has been a successful year at the Community Gardens.

With a grant from East Suffolk Council obtained by Karen, Maurice has been able to buy good quality wood to repair the plots which we originally made in 2012. He also manages the upkeep of the Gardens, mowing and strimming. Maurice has also made an insect hotel which he placed in the corner of the top border, and which we hope will soon be occupied.

Enterprise Badingham run the oil syndicate, and Rix gives us a rebate each year which we put towards village projects. Last year we gave it to the Churchyard mowing team.

We have sown yellow rattle seed in the wildflower area in the Churchyard and hope that gradually we will see more wildflowers emerging. We arranged for a big Christmas tree from Badingham Farms (who kindly donated it) and put it up outside the Village Hall. We also keep the pots outside the Village Hall full of seasonal flowers through the year.

We have done a couple of surveys of all the flowers, birds and insects in the Churchyard, and have a notebook in the church for anyone to record their sightings.

We are in the process of putting together a village recipe book, more contributions welcome!

Badingham Community Council

With Covid finally releasing its grip, the BCC has continued on the path to normality. The village fete last summer was held while fears of Covid were still a factor, but since then things have continued to improve.

Duncan stepped down as Chair and from the BCC executive committee last November due to moving away, and at that time Simon took over as chair. We now have two additional new members, Wendy and Rob, and Wendy has taken over the long-empty role of secretary. We also welcomed Celia back to the committee.

Moving into 2023 we have already had two major and very successful events, a matinee trip to Lowestoft to watch Sherlock Holmes (thanks to Michael), and the Coronation music evening (organised by Sonja). On a smaller scale we also organised several village Natter & Chatter mornings to lighten the mood during the winter months.

The BCC continues to support other causes, sponsoring both the Badingham Echo and the quiz nights, and we are in discussion with the Village Hall Committee and Enterprise Badingham on providing support for their field-to-fork proposals.

We are currently making plans for the village fete, with an all-village meeting planned on 14th June. Roland, who joined us for a time but had to step back, put an incredible amount of energy into the fete and we are working on carrying that forward, both this year and next.

Finally, with the BCC's future secured by adding new members, we are starting to discuss how we can best benefit the residents of Badingham in the longer term. All ideas gratefully received!

Simon Goodson

Badingham Echo

The Badingham Echo involves much team work. As well as our regular contributors and Jennie busy at the printing, seven of us collate the magazine and a team of 12 deliver door-to-door.

While I have been Editor for coming up to 12 years, several of those behind the scenes have clocked up many more years. Thank you to Linda and Mandy, Ian and Margot for stepping up to give us a hand.

Bob is looking for someone to stand in for him running the collator. We spend about two hours, every other month, collating the Echo and the 800 copies of the Upper Alde Link for the six parishes of Benefice.

Collating Team: Ann, Bob, Joyce, Ian, Margot, Rosemary and Tish

Delivery Team: Andrew, Ann, Annie, Jennie, Joyce, Linda, Mandy, Rita, Rosemary, Sonja, Victor and Tish

Tish

Report from the Kurling Group

The Kurling group is a happy band of approximately 16 people who meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7.15 until 9pm

Kurling is somewhat similar to ice Curling but without the brushes.. Teams consist of 4 people, all trying to beat the opposition by sliding the 'stone' as close to the centre of a target as possible. There are lots of laughs and the last 'stone' thrown can be quite vicious!!

None of us are experts but we do hit the target on occasions!

We ended 2022 with a Christmas fish & chip night which were kindly collected from Fram by Ann & Bob while the rest of us were seated at the festive tables ready to eat immediately on arrival. Afterwards we had party games devised by Tish, accordion music from Stephen and a bullseye competition won by Tony.

The social side of Kurling is equally as important as the playing and a break for tea/coffee & biscuits at half time is more than welcome.

New people are always welcome. No special skills necessary

The cost is £2.50 pp which includes refreshments.

Joyce & Ray Probert

Quiz Nights Report

Badingham Quiz nights continue to take place in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. (except for a break in August and September) and are very well supported.

There is a maximum of six people per table at £3 per head and all money raised is donated to local charities. These include the East Anglian Air Ambulance, E.A.C.H., St. John's Church, Lighthouse, B.C.C. , St. Elizabeth's Hospice and Hour Community. Two big milestones have been reached during this year. Firstly, in February we celebrated twenty years of quizzing when Geoff Moore and Andrew Hill - the original quiz masters - set the questions and organised a raffle with prizes being donated by local businesses. It was a memorable evening which raised £183 for Marie Curie. Secondly, from March 2022 to March 2023 a grand total of one thousand pounds was raised for our charities..... a wonderful sum of money !

Quiz nights are promoted in the Badingham Echo and on the noticeboards at St. John's Church and Badingham Village Hall.

Many thanks to everyone who regularly support the quizzes. Grateful thanks also to the quiz masters for their time in setting a wide range of questions which contribute to such enjoyable evenings.

Ian Wolstenholme

Badingham Community Litter Picks

Litter picks continue in Badingham, twice per year usually in early Spring and Autumn. The events are hosted by Badingham cafe and have been very well supported; up to 25 residents turning up to each event and doing a great job for the village and the environment! Always a fun Saturday morning with great homemade snacks afterwards as a reward for all the hard work! Watch out for future dates - they'll be advertised in the Echo and on NextDoor.

Karen Gregory

Need A Hand

There has been no action or requests for help with the Need a Hand but remains open to any requests.

Karen Gregory

Badingham Village Hall Committee Report May 2023

The new committee first met in October 2022 and from the start has worked really well as a team to get things done. The initial focus was on finishing off the refurbishment of the interior of the Village Hall, which has now been completed. Following this we have focused on developing the outside area to the rear of the hall. The groundwork clearance has now been finished and the routes of drains confirmed. We have been helped by a brilliant group of volunteers who have are a great asset and Badingham Community Council is supporting the work financially. The Village Hall and BCC are now sharing a storage room to the rear of the building and access to this space is available, even if the hall is in use, through an outside door.

The committee is currently collecting quotes and suggestions for the hard landscaping work which we hope will be finished over the next few months. After this we will work with gardening groups from the village to help us develop the area to become a community garden space which can be used for functions and social activities. We hope that planting in the autumn will enable the garden to feel established by the spring of 2024. We have recently worked with Enterprise Badingham to submit a bid for the "Field to Fork" project and if successful this will enable us to establish a village herb garden. This project is as much about cooking and using local produce as growing so it would help us make good use of the new kitchens and link to the community gardens in the churchyard.

With all the improvements to the hall and its surroundings we hope that bookings will increase over the next year. The hall continues to be used for most village events but is also available for private functions and is being used by educational groups. However, we do need to increase our income if we are to meet escalating costs. The committee has been advertising the hall in neighboring villages and will continue to promote its use for daytime and evening classes as well as for functions. We will continue to improve our marketing but there is a lot of competition from neighboring community halls and classes in Badingham have not been well attended by local residents so have moved to Framlingham. There will be several functions over the coming months to raise funds - including a coffee morning, a talk with wine and finger buffet together with the auction of a donated painting, a music night, a folk ceilidh and the winter market (in partnership with the Community Café).

We have a strong committee where everyone works hard to get things done and we could do with a couple of new members for the next year. We also need to continue add to our team of volunteers and extend it to cover all aspects of expertise needed to maintain a valuable resource. We rely on having a public space like the Village Hall so all groups in Badingham will need to pull together to support, develop and use it to make sure it can survive into the future.

Martin Clark

Badingham Bowls Club

The Badingham Bowls Club remains very active within the village. In the region of 30 residents regularly compete both home and away against other village teams in the Woodbridge, Saxmundham and Bob Wright leagues with reasonable success.

Long serving Club Captain, Ray Dearing continues to be in charge of the club with responsibility for keeping the "green" immaculate and for team selection which is based on giving all players regular games, irrespective of ability.

Michael Skinner was appointed Club Chairman at the last AGM and intends to take this long established club and important community facility forward by encouraging new players to the game.

Finally, the club is very much looking forward to working closely with their new landlord for the benefit of all that live in the village, or play the game of bowls or just visit the White Horse Pub.

For more information on how to join the Badingham Bowls Club, where the emphasis is on enjoying the game, good results are a bonus! email michaelc36@hotmail.co.uk or call Michael 01728 638270

Michael Skinner