

Aldringham cum Thorpe with Sizewell Newsletter



Website: www.aldringham.onesuffolk.net

December 2021

Season's Greetings

Twelve months ago, I recorded that after a lockdown that began on March 24th 2020, we were looking forward to some family time together over Christmas and the roll out of vaccines in the New Year. Well, one out of two ain't bad!

Here's hoping, though, that Omicron won't see us confined to quarters for a second year running. Figures to November 30 2021 show 22 Covid-19 cases in the Aldeburgh/Leiston area, representing a caseload of 267.4 per 100,000 population. Much of the country falls into a higher category of between 400 to 799 cases per 100,000.

Reasons to be cheerful: Two happy Good Neighbours events at the Parrot raised over £200; a fabulous Christmas Fair at the Dolphin raised a whopping £1,200 for TAHG and the local community nurse; memorable mince pies and mulled wine served up by the Days and Hazel Searle in Lakeside Avenue Thorpeness raised over £500 for TAHG.

Finally, good news from The Meare; 14 swans died from Avian Flu in November, but no other species were affected and no new cases have been discovered recently.

Have a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year

Parish Council Update December 2021

Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Atkinson reports: 'We are working through the observations and comments received from East Suffolk Council following their advice and guidance. We will then prepare a draft plan that will be the basis of further public consultation'.

Defibrillators

The Parish Council-checked defibrillator at The Meare has been taken offline after developing a fault in September. It is now too old to be repaired, so the East of England Co-op have kindly agreed to supply a new one, and possibly, a new container as well. The Golf Club Hotel, who also have a defib, stepped into the breach to provide 24hr access to their machine, until the new defib at The Pavilion was up and running in November. This is currently the nearest defib accessible 24 hours a day, but

only on foot when the sports field gate is locked. There is an exterior defib at The Parrot in Aldringham. A well-attended defib training session was held at The Pavilion in September.

Energy Companies

Councillors Atkinson and Jones attended the East Suffolk Council NGV Nautilus Interconnector Event held on 13th October 2021, Councillor Atkinson advised the Parish Council will be sending their response. Eight members of the public attended the PC meeting in October to comment and raise their concerns on the proposed energy projects.

Noticeboards and Grit Bins

Two new noticeboards are ordered but have not arrived yet. The Aldringham one will probably be re-sited on the green area opposite the Parrot, close to the village sign. A new grit bin has been installed on Mill Hill, Aldringham.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Following the announcement of an extra Bank Holiday on June 3rd next year to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, communities are getting together to decide how to celebrate. County Councillor T-J has offered £500 from her budget towards this Parish's activities.

Treebilee is a project launched by HRH Prince Charles to encourage the planting of trees during a year-long celebration of the Queen's 70-year reign in 2022. East Suffolk Council has bought 200 trees to be distributed among local councils. The PC has identified a site in Aldringham that would be suitable for a new oak tree.

Potholes in Church Road Thorpeness

There are two extremely large and dangerous potholes in Church Road Thorpeness, which despite repeated requests by Cllr Maureen Jones, have not been filled. A visitor has reported to Suffolk Highways department that serious damage has been caused to his vehicle. Unfortunately, it appears that Church Road is un-adopted, and so is not the responsibility of Highways. Although they may, without accepting responsibility, have filled some potholes in the past, budget cuts mean they cannot undertake repairs to unadopted roads any more, and these are now down to the road's owner. As the road does not appear on the Land Registry, finding the owner may prove difficult.

Dentaid

The PC has made a contribution of £200 towards a visit by Dentaid, which provides emergency dental care for people who have been unable to access treatment. As well as serving homeless and vulnerable patients, Dentaid travel all over the country and abroad providing dental services to areas where dentists are thin on the ground. Since the closure of Leiston's last dental practice, they are coming to the Waterloo Centre on February 2nd.

Website – Help Wanted

Cllr Alan Williams has been up-dating our Parish Website recently, but would ideally like to hand over to someone with more time and expertise (though you're doing a great job, thank you, Alan). If you would like to take this on, please contact him.

Pippa McLardy

Parish Councillor

Planning Update

The Parish Council received 12 planning applications between 1st August, 2021 and 21st November, 2021. 9 of these applications were supported.

East Suffolk Council has approved 8 of these applications, 1 has since been withdrawn, 1 has been refused and 2 are still pending. A breakdown of the applications by type, and location is as follows :-

3- Tree Felling / Crown Reduction

1 - Variation of Conditions

1 - Garage Conversion

2 - Extensions

1 - Outbuilding Conversion

1 - New Garage

1 - New House

1 - Agricultural Building

1 - Demolish and Rebuild

8 - Thorpeness

3 - Aldringham

1 - The Fens

Allotments

All six plots have been producing a good selection of vegetables, fruit and flowers, and the chickens continue to lay. Work will begin soon on fencing at the front of the plots. Unfortunately concrete posts have been impossible to find, so galvanised steel will be used instead

Alan Williams

Parish Councillor

Parish Councillors Urgently Needed

Councillor Eric Atkinson told the PC meeting in November that it is his intention to stand down next year after 40 years serving on the Council. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Eric for his enormous amount of work on behalf of the Parish, his leadership over numerous years and his unstinting dedication.

The Parish Council is still under-manned and will be more-so when Eric departs. Anyone who would like to be considered for co-option should contact any existing

councillor. Applicants would be expected to attend meetings regularly, show interest in the whole parish (not just one area), and demonstrate areas of particular expertise useful to the Council.

District Council Report

Empty Properties

We're continuing work to reduce the number of long-term empty properties in East Suffolk as they are a wasted resource, often becoming a target for vandalism, arson, squatters, fly-tipping and other criminal behaviour. As part of this, on an annual basis we review properties which Council Tax data reveals have been empty for more than 6 months. Those empty for more than 2 years which would provide good quality housing are priorities during these reviews. In the last 12 months there has been a 23% decline in properties standing empty for more than 2 years and a 50% decline in properties standing empty for more than 6 months. Some long-term empty properties may become part of our housing stock to provide much-needed affordable housing. More information on what help is available if you own a long-term empty property and how to report a property is available at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/empty-properties/

Sizewell C Examination: Our response

As part of a six-month Planning Inspectorate examination of the proposals for a new nuclear power plant at Sizewell, we welcome a range of important revisions to the scheme and a multi-million pound financial package for investment back into local communities.

Read our full response here:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/sizewell-c-examination-east-suffolk-council-response/

Surveys and consultations

We are currently running a couple of surveys and consultations and, as always we want to encourage participation as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities.

The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document:

Consultation on draft document which will provide guidance on the implementation of our affordable housing planning policies. People are able to comment until 13 December at

<https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/ESAFFHSGDRAFT/consultationHome>

The Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document:

Consultation on draft document which will provide guidance on our planning policies on sustainable construction, including guidance on a range of topics relating to the construction of environmentally sustainable buildings. People have until 13 December to comment:

<https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/SUSCONSPDDRAFT/consultationHome>

The draft East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy:

Consultation on draft document which provides a district-wide shortlist of cycling and walking infrastructure opportunities. The strategy aims to encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport, reduce contributions to climate change, support the growth of the tourism industry, and to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by ensuring more trips to work, school, leisure, day-to-day errands, or public transport hubs, such as train stations or park and ride sites, are accessible by bike or on foot. Once adopted, this strategy will replace the Waveney Cycle Strategy (2016) and will cover the whole of the district. People can have their say on the consultation until 10 January at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cbc57e4a9cc24eee7d174fb34b1bf0e>

Season's Greetings

To our councillors and our community: During the festive season of giving, it is time to slow down and enjoy simple things. For example, may this Christmas touch your heart in a special way. I wish you all the happiness in the world. And not just on Christmas, but throughout the entire year.

Cllrs Tony Cooper, Russ Rainger and Tom Daly

Suffolk County Council

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work in 2021 which has been another strange year. I'd also like to thank the many organisations and volunteers within our communities for everything they do; there are too many to mention my name/s but the help and work that many of them do mostly happens unnoticed and behind the scenes.

Energy projects have been progressing and we await to hear outcomes next year.

Below, you will read about the White Ribbons and a webinar to help to support councillors' personal safety. I am trialling an App at the moment; lone worker. If you'd more details, please do get in touch.

The cases of the new Omicron variant of Covid are rising, we are already experiencing approx. 300,000 new cases a week so please do keep up to date and follow the advice given, also think about where and how you meet, in well ventilated areas or outside.

Congratulations to all students and staff at Alde Valley for their recent award, details below.

I wish you all a very safe and Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

Best wishes, **TJ** (County Councillor TJ Haworth-Culf)

Covid-19 Latest

Council Leader Matthew Hicks is urging everyone to get vaccinated and continue using preventative measures, such as hand washing thoroughly, ventilating rooms, and using face masks. After a period when case numbers and hospitalisations were increasing in Suffolk, extra Government support was given.

Mental Health Impact of Covid-19

Health professionals believe the effects on mental health of Covid 19 may be as damaging as the physical effects. Supported by Central Government, SCC is setting up a dedicated fund of £2.5m and the development of a cross-system group to support community wellbeing in Suffolk. The 2021 Annual Public Health Report for Suffolk, 'Better, Together: Public Mental Health in Suffolk' can be viewed at: <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/annual-public-health-report>

White Ribbon Campaign and Councillors safety

Organisations across Suffolk are supporting the international White Ribbon Campaign, running until December 10. Supporters wear a white ribbon to send a clear message that domestic abuse should never be condoned and to raise awareness of the help available for victim-survivors. Anyone who is worried that they, or someone they know, may be a victim of domestic abuse can call the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Helpline free of charge 24 hours a day on 0800 977 5690. Another Government initiative is a series of webinars giving advice to all local Councillors on staying safe while fulfilling their duties.

Your thoughts on future County Council Services priorities

Following the Chancellor's recent Spending Review and Autumn Budget, SCC will have the option to raise Council Tax by 2% and the Adult Social Care Precept by 2%. SCC is asking residents for their thoughts on prioritising its funding towards services in the coming financial year, alongside meeting the continuing costs of statutory care services. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/your-thoughts-on-council-tax-and-our-services-for-2022-23/>. The consultation closes on Monday 20 December 2021.

Alde Valley Academy Leiston

Has won Greenest School Award sponsored by Suffolk Group Holdings Ltd. The judges commented there was: "Great involvement from everyone with ambition for the future to drive to net zero carbon."

AONB

New funding available for farmers in Suffolk

A new Farming in Protected Landscapes programme will provide significant financial support for farmers and landowners in Suffolk and Essex Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) to help deliver projects relating to climate, nature, people, and place.

The programme, funded by The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), will see nearly £1 million invested across the Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs, with the bulk of funds targeted at farmers and landowners undertaking projects while protecting this exceptional spaces and communities within and near them.

The scheme will be led by Alex Dinsdale, newly appointed Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer, who has recently joined the AONB team after various roles in

precision farming, Agri-tech and with the National Farmers' Union.

Applications are invited from farmers and land managers located in both the Coast & Heaths Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

For more information, including detailed guidance and application forms, please visit

www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org, phone 01502 674630 or email AONBfarmgrants@suffolk.gov.uk.

Community Emergency Planning

This time of the year we are reminded about the dangers of seasonal flu and the precautions we should take to avoid getting it. The first thing to remember is that we need a 'flu jab' to reduce the risk of contracting flu and/or reduce the effects if you do catch it. If you haven't had your flu jab yet contact your GP surgery for an appointment or take advantage of the 'walk in' flu surgeries being run by local chemists (e.g. Leiston Pharmacy). Last year flu was all but eliminated because most of the winter months were spent in lockdown. This year will be different as the population is already mobile and many will be travelling to visit friends and relatives at Christmas. Additionally, the Christmas parties, crowded pubs and opportunities for foreign travel create the potential for a very serious spread of flu across the country.

Seasonal flu is a much more serious illness than a cold. Older people and people with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma) are most at risk of developing complications if they catch flu. This is why the seasonal flu vaccination is recommended to these groups of people each year.

The symptoms of flu include a high temperature (38C or higher); headache; tiredness; chills; aching muscles; sore throat and loss of appetite.

The incubation period (time between contact with the virus and the onset of symptoms) ranges from one to four days. For most people, flu is just an unpleasant experience but it can lead to serious illnesses in some, like bronchitis and pneumonia, which can be life-threatening.

How do you catch flu?

Flu is mostly caught by breathing in air containing the virus. The virus is passed into the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The flu virus can also be passed by touching contaminated surfaces. Flu is highly infectious and can spread very rapidly from person to person.

People are most infectious soon after they develop symptoms, though they can continue to spread the virus for around five days.

What should you do if you think you have flu?

- Don't go to work; but if at work go home immediately.
- Stay at home until you are fully recovered.

- Take medicines, such as paracetamol, to relieve the symptoms.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- For advice on treatment, call NHS 111 advice helpline.
- Only see your doctor if you get complications (e.g. chest infection) or a worsening of any existing chronic condition.

What you can do to protect yourself and others from flu?

You will be familiar with the following recommendations having spent the last 20 months living with the threat of Covid. These will help reduce the spread of flu virus.

- Wear a face mask when out and about.
- Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when coughing and/or sneezing.
- Dispose of the tissue promptly, by bagging and binning it, then wash your hands.
- Clean hands frequently with soap and water or hand gel.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes and nose unless you have cleaned your hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently touched by hands.

Don't forget to look out for your neighbours and together we will get through the winter safely.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Roger Brown

roger.brown72@btinternet.com.

Uppen About – some Parish tales

Uppen: to mention, disclose or reveal - (a word 'much used around Aldbro' according to Edward Moor's dictionary of Suffolk Dialect published in 1823

Swiftly Speaking

Did you enjoy hearing the swifts screaming as they gathered around Thorpeness Meare this summer? They were a spectacular sight most early evenings. Many of you probably saw them streaming and screaming down Aldeburgh High Street too. Swifts live in family communities or colonies and love to nest close to their other family members.

But did you know that the Swift population has declined by 45% in the last 20 years? The two main reasons are habitat loss and lack of insect food.

Swifts love to nest in the eaves of buildings. As we repair and restore and rebuild houses we leave fewer and fewer spaces for the swifts to make their homes. Swifts like to return to the same nesting site every year. Nowadays

after their long flight of 14,000 miles from Africa in May they return to Suffolk to find that their old nesting locations have been blocked up or fitted with spikes to deter creatures.

But there is good news for swifts in this area. The Galloper Wind Farm Fund has granted our AONB, Suffolk Coast & Heaths, with nearly £3000 for a project titled Leiston Loves Swifts (which includes Thorpeness and Aldringham). The partnership project with Save Our Suffolk Swifts will provide hand-made wooden swift boxes that can be fitted onto appropriate buildings along with caller devices which emit the sounds of screaming swifts, so as to attract the birds to the new nest boxes. The boxes and callers will be provided free by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, the property owners will need to install the boxes and caller themselves.

Generally we would like property owners to install a set of 6 boxes with a caller speaker fitted under one of the boxes which is connected to a caller system that has to be plugged into the mains so the swift calls can be played. If there is an existing colony on a building adding one or two more boxes would be very helpful too (with no need for a caller). The ideal locations for these swift boxes are under the eaves or in gable ends of buildings or on high walls. They should be at least 4.5 metres above ground and can face in any direction (the swift boxes have white pvc rooves which prevent boxes overheating when facing South). Swifts are not messy like house martins or swallows as they remove all their droppings.

If you would like to provide nesting homes for these brief and fabulous visitors to our area in the first instance please contact: Alex Moore da Luz / Nature Recovery Officer / schaonb@suffolk.gov.uk

One We Saw Previously!



The emergence of our latest wreck this summer reminded one resident, Sydney Graham, of another occasion when a wreck was exposed. Syd is pictured on the far right next to her sister Rena, while the other two are another full-time resident, Gill Steadman, with her mother, Marion Thom. The year was around 1957.

Syd and her family were frequent visitors to Thorpeness in the mid 20th Century. She writes:- "We were staying at 2 & 3 The Headlands (in those days they were one house and slept about 15 in each house!) I really don't have any recollection of the photo being taken. The sea looks pretty rough behind, but believe it or not we swam every single day – rain or shine – rough or calm!"

From Orphan to High-Flyer

A young man from Aldringham, Philip Martin, was so inspired by the astonishing story of an RAF officer who came to live in the village that he persuaded him they should publish his life story. Sadly, Flight Lieutenant Denis Elliott died this Autumn. Here, Philip pays tribute to his heroic friend.

'On the 3rd of September 2021, the bright flame of one of Aldringham's most heroic residents, former RAF Flight Lieutenant Denis Elliott, was extinguished after burning brightly for over 97 years.

Denis moved to Aldringham in 2018. His move to our corner of east Suffolk came after a brush with death and a month of recovery. Behind his smile and sharp sense of humour was a man who had overcome incredible adversity to live a life of heroism and bravery.

Born in Croydon on July 11th 1924, Denis found himself in an orphanage at the age of three, with little more than a handful of memories of his mother and his half-brother Harold (who we learnt in May of this year was actually his full brother). The following four years were spent in an environment that resembled 'an army regiment'.

When Denis was seven, he and Harold went to live in Orpington, Kent, with his first set of foster parents. But this was not the family life he might have hoped for. Harold was soon sent away, and Denis was subject to a foster father who liked to drink and dole out physical violence on both his wife and Denis. After the authorities became aware of what was happening, Denis, aged nine, was sent to Farnborough to live with another foster family. It was a more normal environment, but with a stark lack of love and affection. Denis, by his own admission, was a frightened little boy with little confidence or self-esteem. But things were to change quite dramatically for Denis, when in 1939, Britain declared war on Germany. As he always stated, the Second World War changed his life for the better, when in October 1940 he joined the Air Defence Cadet Corps (later the Air Training Corps). In our book '*From Orphan to High-Flyer*', he said: 'Acquiring new skills, and the increase in confidence, led me to look forward to what the future had in store for the first time in my life.'

In October 1942, Denis was called up into the RAF and soon boarded the *SS Rangitiki*, bound for South Africa, moving on to South Rhodesia where he earned his pilot's Wings. A trip across Africa ended in Palestine flying a Vickers Wellington with his newly formed crew. India soon beckoned, and a posting flying the B-24 Liberator for 159 Squadron, then at RAF Digri, 65 miles west of Calcutta. Over the following four months, he completed 23 operations against targets in Burma, Malaya and Thailand, including the legendary 3000 mile roundtrip

raids on Penang harbour - at the time, the longest RAF bombing or mining run in history. Returning to Britain in 1946, he left the RAF in '47 before re-joining in '49 to fly the iconic Avro-Lancaster bomber. A period in RAF Luqa, Malta, where he was with 38 Squadron, was followed by five years in Cornwall. After leaving the RAF for the final time in 1957, he got married in 1962, living with his wife Ruby in London and Norfolk until her death in 1992. He moved to Suffolk soon after, arriving in Aldringham in 2018.

Though his presence will no longer be felt at the coffee caravan on the village green or the villager's lunch at The Parrot, Denis's legacy and example will forever live on. As a nation, we were very fortunate to have been able to have called upon his generation in our hour of need, and as a village we were truly privileged to have been able to call him one of our own.

He was a true hero in every sense of the word, and for me, he was the greatest man I have ever met; it was truly the greatest privilege of my life to have spent the time with him that I did'.

Philip Martin (read more and order the book on: <https://www.fromorphantohighflyer.com>)

Tuked In for the New Year



Emily is the most unusual, cheerful little vehicle on our roads hereabouts! More usually seen in Thailand than Thorpeness, this tuktuk has come to live with Duffields in

Lakeside Avenue, and will be out and about raising smiles again come Spring!

Seaching for sailor Samuel and his Thorpeness bride

A young naval officer stationed in Aldeburgh Martello Tower on watch for Napoleon Bonaparte's threatened marauding forces met a young woman from Thorpeness in the course of his stay, and in 1808 they were married in St Andrew's Church. Samuel Bromley's bride was one Elizabeth Westrup – a surname still well known around these parts!

Lieutenant Bromley was part of Nelson's fighting force who routed the French Emperor Napoleon's navy during the Battle of the Nile in 1798. Having begun naval life as a Captain's Servant, he moved up swiftly through the ranks and went on to serve in many more naval skirmishes and expeditions, being wounded several times. He retired from the navy sometime after 1812.

Moving on some 210-odd years, their three-times great-grandson Anthony Carthy from Lichfield has been researching his past, and unbeknown to him at the time, took a photograph of his forebear's grave during his second visit to the church in 2020 (his first foray was in 1983). Unable to return at present, but eager to know what the inscription read, I volunteered to see if I could decipher it.

Sadly, the gravestone marks not only the death of Samuel in 1845, but also of one of his sons, William, who passed away four years before his father. Elizabeth seems to have ended her days in Cambridge, where she is buried. This little inscribed verse on the St Andrew's gravestone hopefully offered some comfort to William's grieving parents:

'Dear Parents wherefore do you mourn
since I to early rest am gone
I am free from sorrow, sin and pain
and rest where Christ forever reigns'.

Seeking Mike with his Mark 9 Jag

A Parish Councillor from Heveningham is looking for help to find a friend he made when Sizewell A was being built in 1967. All Ian Macfarlane can remember is that his name was Mike, he drove a Mark 9 Jaguar and lived in the house called Bramfield in Aldringham. If you remember Mike and know where he is now, please email Ian on waltermacf@outlook.com

Local Groups

St Andrew's Church

Our Rector, The Rev Mark Lowther, retired in September, and together with his wife Ro and spaniel Coco, set sail for a 'gap year' in France. Mark served six and a half years as Rector of the Alde Sandlings Benefice, and more than 50 parishioners gathered at a Garden Party held in the beautiful gardens of Churchwarden David Copp's house to mark the retirement. He was presented with a

specially prepared, bound photobook featuring many of the events, services, and other occasions that have taken place during his time with us.

Also in September, our intrepid cyclist Janey Blanchflower from Thorpeness completed a 38 mile bike ride on our behalf in the Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride event. Our thanks and congratulations to her.

In November, a very moving Remembrance Day service was led by Revd Sheila Murray. The rain held off and the temperature was mild so we were able to gather around the War Memorial and remember those from the armed forces who died in conflict. Revd Murray reminded us that conflict very much still exists in many parts of the world and that we must not be complacent but continue to pray and work for peace.

Since the first publication of our Christmas programme (as above), it has been decided that there will be no service at Aldringham, or elsewhere in the Benefice, on Sunday 26 December. You may already have a printed programme showing a service on 26/12 but this decision was taken too late for the printers.



Christmas at St Andrew's, Aldringham

The times of services during Advent and the Christmas Season are:

Sunday	28th	November	6pm	Candlelit Advent Carol Service
Tuesday	30th	November	6pm	Patronal Festival Service
Sunday	5th	December	11am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday	12th	December	11am	Morning Praise (CW)
Sunday	19th	December	11am	Carol Service
Friday	24th	December	11.30pm	Midnight Service of Holy Communion (CW)
Saturday	25th	December	11am	Morning Praise Family Service

Do please come along, you can be sure of a very warm welcome

The Clergy team, the Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council

Wish you a Very Happy Christmas
and Peaceful New Year.

Friends of St Andrew's

A Quiz Night was held on Friday 19th November. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions we were only allowed a maximum of 60 people in the hall including the Quizmaster, Scorers and Kitchen Crew which meant only

nine teams could take part. The winning team was Dick Reeve's team.

Thanks go to our Quizmaster Revd. Christine Brooks, and Scorers, Sue and Eric Atkinson, the Kitchen Crew led by Angela Chandler, those who provide the refreshments and those who helped set up the hall. Thank you all the teams taking part. Together we raised £428 for the Church Fabric Fund. Thank you all for your support. Save this date Friday 18th March 2022 when we propose to hold our next Quiz Night in Knodishall Village Hall. This will of course depend on the Covid 19 regulations at the time.

Mrs Anne Norton Membership Secretary 01728 830519
anneenorton@btinternet.com

Pilgrims Together

Hello All, Pilgrims Together wish you much joy and happiness during this Christmas season. The birth of any baby is cause for great celebration and no other birth is more celebrated than that of Jesus - 'He is the reason for the Season'

The Pilgrims Together group continues to meet weekly on Zoom on Wednesday evenings to worship and pray. We hope to start some face-to-face worship gatherings again in the Spring. We look forward to this whilst still making it as Covid safe as possible for those attending. Earlier this year two of our members, Richard and Sue, ran a successful Zoom Bible Study group. This proved very popular and as I write this, they are just completing hosting a second course.

We have been busy, too, with other tasks. Our visits to our new neighbours on the Sandpiper development in Aldringham with an information pack and a prayer plant gift are now nearly completed with only a few homes left to be called upon. The new homeowners have welcomed us; it can't have been easy moving house during lockdown but we hope they are now enjoying being a part of our village.

During the Christmas season we are helping out with numerous village activities, firstly on Dec 4th at The Thorpeness Village Fayre where we will have a table of children's games. We have been asked to provide the music for 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' on Mill Hill and also, by landlord Chris, at The Parrot on the afternoon of Sunday 19th Dec.

We are pleased to announce that we are starting up a monthly breakfast cafe at The Parrot in the New Year. Called The Good News Breakfast Cafe, it will be on a Sunday morning between 9.30am and 10.30am; dates will be available soon. As the title suggests we will be focusing on Good News in all its many forms, something we have all been a bit short of in recent times. Our intention is to bring a bit of shared happiness and joy into people's lives. Our sincere thanks as ever to Chris for helping to make this possible.

We are continuing to hold our local monthly walks, weather permitting, which will include a breakfast. If you would like to join us, details can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Pilgrims-Together-925268094321475/>

Last winter, whilst still in lockdown, we organised several quizzes and social evenings on Zoom. These went down

very well and we have been encouraged to do more this winter. Our first Zoom Quiz was well attended in November and we will continue with them and the social evenings in the New Year. A diary of dates will be posted on our Facebook page.

Once again, may we wish you all the joy of the Christmas season, and much happiness in the year to come.

Please do be in touch: Email:

pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com 01728 830497

Sue Atkinson

On behalf of Pilgrims Together

ImpACT (Aldringham Community Team)

Again Christmas comes around, just like last year, with rising Covid cases, new variants arriving, Storm Arwen rattling our windows and threats of another lockdown beckoning.

Locally we are awaiting the verdicts on the two huge energy schemes which, if passed, will affect the lives of the people in this area for the next ten years and we feel it has been part of them for the last five.

Scottish Power, and the various energy firms that will follow them will be the schemes that will affect us most. They are planning routes that would carve their way through the Parish to a misguided siting of a massive substation at Friston. It will seem that as soon as one set of excavators and cable layers finish and backfill their works, yet another, with a different set of logos, but with the same maps and presentations, will hove into view to carry out a similar plan of actions as they all try to force their way through the gap that they seem to favour in Fitches Lane.

Throughout this year, ImpACT members have written and voiced submission after submission, to the various Planning bodies that will officiate over the outcome of the Scottish Power and Sizewell Inquiries and now the start of National Grid's Nautilus Interconnector Scheme. These Utility firms have seemingly endless resources as they repeat the processes, yet all we can do is put pen to paper in a Sisyphean 'cut and paste' operation, as have other local groups. At times it feels that we need to check which scheme we are opposing. We will all know over the next six months, though good news is not expected. Their aims are all laudable, but the execution of their individual landfalls and location of connections in this unspoilt area, one after another, leaves a lot to be desired. This could mean this might be our last Christmas for a decade without the turmoil about to be unleashed on us.

The Annual Singing of Carols on Aldringham Green
On a lighter note, you will be pleased to read, the Annual Carol singing of Carols will be held on Aldringham Green on December 8th. ImpACT members have, as ever, been organizing the event with our new Curate-in Charge, Revd. James Marston and help from the Pilgrims Group, after last year's highly successful Covid – free event. There will be a collection of readings to complement the carols, followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the Parrot and probably further singing. This will be James' first year leading the occasion, after the retirement of Mark Lowther to the warmer climes of France, so we wish him well.

We, at ImpACT, would like to wish all those in our lovely

parish a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Bill Seale -- ImpACT

ALDEBURGH PHOENIX CLUB

(Formerly Aldeburgh Festival Club)

Do you enjoy dining, with the added bonus of meeting new friends and interesting talks?

Are you or your neighbours new to the area and would like the opportunity to enjoy friendly meetings?

The Phoenix Club could be for you.

We meet in the evenings, twice a month (2nd & 4th Thursdays) from October to April; normal format is an evening meal with friends, followed by talks or other diversions. There is no obligation to attend every event. We have been running since June 1948, although the format has metamorphosed with the times.

Membership is only £17.50 per year.

Please visit our website:-

www.aldeburghphoenixclub.org.uk

If you are interested in joining us then contact:-

Alan Eklid 01728 635556 or alaneklid@ymail.com

Forthcoming topics include:

- ♣ Jane Austen – Mark Mitchells
- ♣ Liz Trenow – Local author
- ♣ Bruno Peek – Pageant-master
- ♣ “Joyspring” jazz quartet.
- ♣ Laurence Edwards – Local sculptor

We look forward to welcoming you.

Why not try us for an evening ?

Good Neighbours

Helpline Number 07521 047 843

The Good Neighbours have been as busy as ever over the past four months helping with a variety of tasks . As many of you will remember we had a number of temporary volunteers during lockdown and are delighted

to welcome three of them onto the steering group. Ten new volunteers have now joined the Good Neighbours permanently, six from Thorpeness and four from Aldringham. Several are in the younger age group, which brings welcome new blood and ideas.

At our last Steering Group committee meeting we decided to change the phone's network provider and take out a monthly contract with Giffgaff. I think we will all find this much easier as it means the phone can be used for both incoming and outgoing calls without having to use our own phones.

As we now have some new phone holders (and some old phone holders who have found the phone quite difficult to use at times), we have decided to have a meeting specifically to remind each other exactly how the phone works. This will be held on Tuesday, the 11th of January at 6:30pm in the Pavilion in Thorpeness, followed by a Steering Group meeting.

Anyone who feels they want further training with the phone please do come along - you would be most welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all the Steering Group committee and also thank you to all good neighbour volunteers who give their time and energy to helping their neighbours.

Merry Christmas to you all stay safe and have a great time with your loved ones.

Jill Hubbard –

chairperson

Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground

With the relaxing of the Covid rules we have now started using The Pavilion once again for small groups. We held our AGM there on November 7th, which worked well. We have taken the opportunity to do some work during the quiet period. By far the most important task was the installation of a defibrillator, positioned on the outside wall of the pavilion and now commissioned and available for use.

The bar is being completely revamped with a new layout and flooring. New flooring has also been laid in the corridor to the changing rooms, as well as in the three repainted toilets. New lighting has been installed, and the main room will hopefully have been decorated by the time you read this article. Some of this work has been carried out by a small group of our trustees in order to help keep costs down whilst at the same time improving the facility. We are very grateful to another one of our trustees, Bill Seale, who oversaw total replacement of the water pump, situated near the croquet lawn. Following installation, Bill and his wife Venetia went on to totally revamp the pump house. This work has greatly benefited the cricket and croquet clubs as it has speeded up watering time for both groups. Well done and thanks are extended to Bill and Venetia. All work has been carried out using grant money our chairman obtained for us from the government, awarded to help to get places up and running again after the long Covid lockdown.

The next major task we are undertaking is to improve the entrance and splay by the gate. Along with new signage, a flagpole and fencing, we will be putting in a new crossover road surface. The original has been steadily

deteriorating in recent years despite being patched up. Unfortunately, while this remedial work is being undertaken, the contractors have told us that vehicular access via the entrance will be completely blocked for about 10 days. We are sorry if this will cause disruption to anyone, but hope the end result will be worth it.

During August and into September we opened up a part of the field to provide extra parking during Thorpeness's busiest period. This worked well with most people using the honesty box by way of payment, and we hope it relieved some of the gridlock in the village during the main holiday season. We want to do this again next year and hopefully for a longer period of time.

Plans are now taking shape for an Open Day next Spring; more about that nearer the time so do please keep an eye on the village noticeboards and website for more information.

The Trustees for the Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground wish you all a

Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Sue Atkinson on behalf of the Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground.

PLEASE NOTE that if you wish to book the pavilion and/or field please use the contact details on our new website - www.ogilviepavilion.org or by emailing Ogilvie.booking@gmail.com

Croquet Club

Thorpeness Croquet Club, based at the Thorpeness sports ground, has had a very successful season with lots of games being played and several new members joining us.

The croquet lawn has greatly benefitted from the new water pump (the old one was quite an antique!) installed by the Pavilion and Sportsground trustees. Although the main playing season is during the summer, we are fortunate that we are able to continue to play in the winter when the weather is favourable. With the lovely mild autumn there have been lots of opportunities, with the main roll up days being Friday and Saturday afternoons.

We are delighted to welcome anyone who would like to give the game a try (or anyone who has played before) – it's probably best to ring our Chairman Gerald Lomax first on 01728 768846. We will be holding an Open Day on Easter Saturday 16th April, to coincide with the Sportsground Open Day. A date for your new diaries!

Angela Clark Secretary Thorpeness Croquet Club

Ukelele Club

The Uke-n-Smile ukelele club have been very pleased to get back to our regular Wednesday morning face to face meetings at the Pavilion, after 18 months of virtual Zoom meetings.

We have played at one evening event in Sweffling village and are busily practising for a December booking at The Parrot and Punchbowl where we will be featuring a number of Christmas songs.

Steve White

steve_white_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group



Many of you will have noticed that the Heritage Centre is now closed for Winter, although the benches and seating area are still getting a lot of use. We will be reopening around Easter time 2022 at the start of the holiday season. The exact date will be posted on the noticeboard by the door.

The Centre has been quite busy during its first summer with many visitors and locals coming in to look at all the information boards and photographs. Our chair, Maureen, has organised a rota so we can be open three days a week, on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 11am and 3pm. All who visited seemed happy to follow our Covid guidelines and when necessary waited on the outside picnic benches to allow those before them time to look around safely. The only downside was back in September when we had a break in. The perpetrators haven't yet been found but there were some similar break-ins in Aldeburgh, so they may be connected. We are so grateful to local businessman Paul Fryer who made sure, very quickly, that we were made secure by replacing the lock, and to one of our members who has kindly covered all the cost for this work for us. No money or anything of any value is ever left in the Heritage Centre overnight thank goodness, so let's hope word gets around that we're not worth burgling!

Fundraising is getting started again and we have been very fortunate in being awarded some of the profits from the Thorpeness Village Fayre held at the Dolphin in the beginning of December and also to TAHG members Joy and Hazel who have organised a festive event and draw on the 6th December with all proceeds coming to TAHG. We thank you both for this and for all of you who supported it.

During the winter we will be working on some projects to continue the good work already completed. A trail around Aldringham is high on the list of priorities as is our Grand Opening next spring.

Despite Covid our membership seems to be holding steady - there always seems to be someone new showing an interest. If you would like to become a member please email me, Sue, on: info@tahg.org.uk and if you can spare a few hours and would like to help out by stewarding the centre please contact our chair, Maureen Jones, Old Thorpe House, Thorpeness or phone 01728 453915, she would be very pleased to hear from you.

On behalf of the TAHG committee we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sue Atkinson

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On behalf of TAHG

Thorpeness Halt Restoration Group

Well, it's all been very quiet on the Halt front, spring and summer came and went, time just slips away, and now it's almost Christmas - oh my!

Earlier in the year Tim and I were in contact with Natural Britain to try to get charity status. Unfortunately the person we spoke to didn't really seem at all interested in our plan, telling us the platform is covered by the SSSI and SPA rules, which to be honest seems rather strange. Tim and I are aware the wood to the west of the pathway to the waste water site, (Anglia Water) was the SSSI site but not the platform etc.

So what we need to know is, can we do anything to clear and clean up the Halt site, without incurring the wrath of the powers that be - now would be the ideal time to get in there and start clearing the overgrowth and tidying the place up.

WE NEED HELP WITH THIS SITUATION, PLEASE. It seems such a tragic waste to allow this historic site to left to destruction, which is happening as we speak. So much history has already been lost to all sorts of activities. We have the manpower, we need your contacts and influence so that we can preserve this lovely historic Suffolk feature.

Bob Alexander

bobinnovator100249@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

"As Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in the area, I should be pleased that I have little to report, as life in our villages seemed to have been relatively, (since the summer) and happily quiet. I do hope this is the case, and it's not just that I haven't been made aware of any untoward happenings.

Do be aware of cold callers. Be aware that somebody, purporting to be from the Gas Board, has been cold calling - not in this area at the moment, but as we are expecting gas work to be carried out in the not too distant future, this could be an area for an undesirable to target. To discourage such people, do email tradingstandards@suffolk.gov.uk with your name and address, and they will provide a "No Cold Calling" sticker. Keep house doors locked, sheds and garages too. There have been many thefts of cycles and motor cycles from sheds and garages - not in our area fortunately - but we mustn't become complacent, especially at this time of year.

Keep well, enjoy a happy and peaceful Christmas, and may we continue to be a relatively safe area to live.

Evelyn Rumsby evelynrumsby@aol.com 07809 840924

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Aldringham cum Thorpe Parish Councillors

Maureen Jones	01728 453915
Alan Williams	07802 175184
Eric Atkinson	01728 830497
Pippa McLardy	01728 454565
Bill Seale	01728 832306
Shirley Tilbrook	Parish Clerk 01728 830001

District Councillors

Tony Cooper	01728 830181
Tony.cooper@eastssuffolk.gov.uk	
Russ Rainger	
russ.rainger@eastssuffolk.co.uk	
Work No:	07825 720522
Tom Daly	
Tom.daly@eastssuffolk.co.uk	

County Councillor

TJ Haworth- Culf	07955 434442
tj.haworth-culf@suffolk.gov.uk	

Police - Suffolk Constabulary**Always Dial 999 for Emergencies, including Coastguard**

Non Urgent Issues	101
Community Engagement Officer, Halesworth Locality, Halesworth Police Station	Simon Green (PC 187)
ceohalesworth@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Aldringham – Maria Chapman-Beer	
tribunegang@gmail.com	
(Aldeburgh Rd and roads off except Aldringham Park, to borders with Leiston, Aldeburgh, and down Thorpe Rd towards Thorpeness)	
Thorpeness – Evelyn Rumsby	07809 840924

Hospitals

Aldeburgh & District Community Hospital	
Park Road, Aldeburgh	01728 452778
Ipswich Hospital Heath Road	01473 712233

Doctors' Surgeries

The Peninsular Practice	
Church Farm, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh	01728 452027
The Surgery, Main Street, Leiston	01728 830526
The Surgery,	
Lamsale Meadow, Saxmundham	01728 602022
<u>Non-emergency</u> health problems advice	111

Power cut line 0800 31 63 105 or simply call 105

Dental Surgeons

Aldeburgh Dental Practice	
167 High Street, Aldeburgh	01728 452884
Saxmundham Dental Surgery	
9 High Street, Saxmundham	01728 602537

Pharmacies

Aldeburgh Pharmacy	
125 High Street, Aldeburgh	01728 452763
Leiston Pharmacy	01728 832231
East of England Coop Pharmacy	
High Street, Saxmundham	01728 602051

Veterinary Surgeons

Aldeburgh Vets	
Hall Farm Lane, Saxmundham Rd, Aldeburgh	
contact@aldeburghvets.co.uk	01728 598111
Leiston Veterinary Clinic	
1d Eastlands, Leiston	01728 833566
Fromus Veterinary Group Fromus House, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham	01728 602599

Thorpeness Croquet Club

Gerald Lomax	01728 768846
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<u>Good Neighbours Group</u>	Help Line	07521 047843
Chairperson Jill Hubbard		01728 830778

Local Heritage Group

Chairperson Mrs Maureen Jones	01728 453915
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Rainbow Tots

Ms Anja Shaw	01728 453295
Every Tuesday 10am - 11:30am Aldeburgh Community Centre	

St Andrew's Church

Churchwarden David Copp	01728 635816
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Ogilvie Pavilion

Eric Atkinson	01728 830497
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Thorpeness Cricket Club

Mr F Byrne	01728 830834
Email: byrneengineering@zohomail.eu	

<u>Connecting Communities Transport</u>	01728 635938
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WHAT'S ON – December 2021 to March 2022

Month		Place	Event
December			
Sat 4 th	12 noon	Dolphin Thorpeness	Christmas Fair
Mon 6 th	10.30am – 12-30pm	22 Lakeside Avenue, T'ness	Mulled wine and mince pies
Wed 8 th	6pm	Aldringham Green	Carols Round the Tree
		Dolphin Thorpeness	Quiz and supper
Sun 12 th	3pm-5pm	Parrot, Aldringham	Ukulele band
Fri 17 th		All SCC Schools	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM
Sun 19 th	3pm-5pm	Parrot, Aldringham	Church Carol singing
Sun 19 th	11am	St Andrew's Church	Carol Service
Fri 24 th	from 6pm	Dolphin Thorpeness	Carols and live music
Fri 24 th	11.30pm	St Andrew's Church	First Communion for Christmas
Sat 25 th	11am	St Andrew's Church	Morning Praise Family Service
Sun 26 th		CHURCH SERVICE CANCELLED	
Fri 31 st	11am-6pm	Dolphin Thorpeness	Open for lunches only (food 12noon until 3pm)
January			
Tues 4 th		All SCC Schools	Start of Spring Term
Mon 10 th	7pm	Pavilion, Thorpeness	Parish Council Meeting
Tues 11 th	6.30- 8.30pm	Pavilion, Thorpeness	Good Neighbours phone training followed by Steering Group Meeting
February			
Weds 2 nd		Waterloo Centre Leiston	Dentaid visiting the area
Mon 7 th	7pm	Pavilion, Thorpeness	Parish Council Meeting
Fri 18 th		All SCC Schools	End of first half of Spring Term
Mon 28 th		All SCC Schools	Start of 2 nd half of Spring Term
March			
Mon 7th		Pavilion, Thorpeness	Annual Parish Meeting
Fri 18th	tbc	Knodishall Village Hall	St Andrew's Quiz

Every Wednesday 6.30pm on Zoom – Pilgrims Together weekly worship followed by get-together

Every Sunday – St Andrew's Church Services 11am

Last Wednesday of every month – Community Coffee Morning at the Dolphin Thorpeness