

Aldringham cum Thorpe with Sizewell

Newsletter



Website:

www.aldringham.onesuffolk.net

April 2017

Cliff Collapse Tragedy

Many local parishioners will have their whereabouts etched on their minds when the sound of sirens and the rattle of helicopters broke the peace of an ordinary Saturday lunchtime on January 14th. Some dropped everything and hurried to see what was amiss, and whether they could help.

On the beach, around 50 people including local fire, police, ambulance, coastguard and lifeboat crews, were digging frantically – some with bare hands - to try to save the life of a dog walker from a village near Bury St Edmunds buried beneath tons of cliff, made unstable by weather and waves, which had crashed down on to him. Tragically, they were unsuccessful.

The inquest that resumes on June 1st may have recommendations to make, although protecting people against the forces of nature will always be an uphill battle. But in attempts to prevent any future tragedies, the landowner has had a fence constructed well away from the edge on the common land at the top of the cliff, and Norse is in the process of erecting warning signs on the beach at its base. Local people can play their part by ensuring that all their visitors are warned of the very real danger of further cliff falls.

The Parish extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the man who died, and sincere thanks to all who tried so desperately to save him.



New fencing being installed along the cliff edge on Thorpeness Common, March 2017

Parish Council Update

Parish Councillors

Eric Atkinson	Chairman	01728 830497
David Mayhew	Vice-Chairman	01728 452773
Pippa McLardy		01728 454565
Scott Squirrell		01728 833691
Maureen Jones		01728 453915
Mick Sturme		01728 452586
Alan Williams		07802 175184
Shirley Tilbrook	Parish Clerk	01728 830001

Parish Council News to mid-March 2017

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

With the new year we have started to look at the aspirations, ideas and concerns raised last year and how they can be taken forward and inform further consultation to be carried out during the coming year, before a questionnaire can be presented to the Parish. This will be an opportunity for everyone in the Parish to have a say as to how important particular issues are to them. There were a number of things raised that were not relevant to a Neighbourhood plan, but no less import to the parish, these items will be included in an updated Parish Plan which was first produced in 2006.

There is now a TAB on our Parish website for the Neighbourhood Plan, were the latest information on progress can be found.

Parish Matters

PC Vacancies

We still have two vacancies on the Parish Council and there is a chance to get involved with the Neighbourhood Plan. If you feel you would like to contribute to the community in either of these roles please give me a call or talk to one of the other councillors or a member of the NP team. Also, help is needed in Aldringham to work on the Parish Emergency plan. Are you interested?

Sizewell C

A number of us attended the numerous meetings and drop in events which were held during the Sizewell C Stage 2 consultation process before we submitted our response to the consultation at the beginning of February. The response gave a particular focus on legacy and benefit which seems to be largely absent from EDF's current thinking. Suffolk Coastal District Council provided their own response, emphasising their disappointment at the lack of information EDF have provided.

Coastal Path

Work on the route of the around England coastal path has now been completed in our parish and GPS mapping of the route is now being carried out before the details are published for consultation in the next couple of months.

Fly Tipping

We have had a number of instances of Fly tipping in the Parish over the last few months including garden waste, household items and builder's rubbish. Last year increased penalties were introduced as described in our August newsletter (available on the website). Fly tipping should be reported by calling Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444000, email scs@ncsgrp.co.uk or go online to www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/fly-tipping

Planning

The parish council has dealt with eight planning applications since the last newsletter one of which was not supported. Details of the current applications can be found via the Parish Website which links through to SCDC's website.

The results of the review of SCDC's Site Allocation and Area Specific Policies- Proposed Submissions Document have now been published confirming the inspector did not recommend any changes to the plan regarding the inclusion of Site SSP4 - the area of land in Aldringham east of Aldeburgh Road and South of the driveway to Aldringham House. This was despite strong representation from the Parish Council, and a number of Parishioners. The Site Allocation and Area Specific Policies has now been issued by SCDC. Although I believe in this fast-changing world SCDC are starting a new review of the Local Plan and its supporting documentation, which I am sure will lead to the identification of more houses to be built in the District over the next 15 years.

With regard to the land in Thorpeness west of Old Homes Road, as many of you will have seen, work has started on clearing the area and the developer tells me he hopes work will start on the ten new homes in April. Orwell housing have shown the Parish Council and residents at the Thorpeness Almshouse, an outline proposal to build an additional 16 dwellings in a similar style to the existing building at the back of the Almshouses where the gardens are currently located.

Traffic Matters

Proposals by Suffolk Highways for speed limit changes on the B1122 between Aldringham & Aldeburgh were submitted to committee on the 7th March. They voted unanimously to adopt the 40mph limit. There were 92 letters of support and four against.

It is hoped that the signs will be in place by June.

No Internet Access?

While parishioners are encouraged to visit our Parish Website for the latest information, I know not all of you have access to the internet. If you would like further information on any of the items raised above give Shirley our Clerk or me a call and we will do our best to provide any information you need.

Eric Atkinson - Chairman, A c T Parish Council

District Council Annual Report

Move to Riduna Park

Suffolk Coastal moved into new purpose-built office premises at Riduna Park in Melton from the previous ageing offices at Melton Hill, Woodbridge. Downsizing to reduce the Council's running costs and to give staff more efficient and modern facilities to work in, the new offices provide a contemporary and comfortable environment and allow for improved flexible working for both staff and members. A one-stop shop at Woodbridge Library now provides the first point of contact for a wide range of enquiries regarding many Council services, including council tax, housing benefits, and tourism.

Merger

Appointing a joint Chief Executive in 2008 for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council has been key to making efficiency savings.

In January, Cabinets at both councils approved the proposals for a full merger at a cabinet meeting followed by a SCDC Full Council meeting on the 26th January, a day after Waveney councillors had voted in favour. Both Council Leaders recognised the significance of this decision. Plans were approved to create a brand new 'super district' council, delivering services to communities across east Suffolk, and the parties will now work with the Department of Communities and Local Government to begin the formal process of merger. With the Secretary of State's agreement, the new Council would then hold elections, and begin operations, in 2019.

By creating a new, larger and more influential council, w costs will be kept down down, enabling maintenance and improvement of the services that local people depend on. Working in partnership has already helped the Councils save over £16m since 2010. However, further savings cannot be made unless the partnership progresses further. A new, merged, council will be better placed to address the shared challenges that both face. Final ratification of the decision will be made by the Secretary of State in September 2017.

Protecting the tax payer

SCDC has vowed to develop a more commercial approach to providing services, in order to protect the local tax payer. At its Full Council meeting on the 23rd February, SCDC agreed its budget and set its portion of the Council Tax for the coming financial year. In order to continue to provide high quality services, the Council

decided to increase its part of the Council Tax bill for 2017/18 by 3.25%. In real money, this equates to an annual rise of less than £5 for people living in a Band D property, with the Council Tax on Band D increasing by £4.95 from £152.37 to £157.32 a year.....or by less than 10p a week.

SCDC Leader Ray Herring said joint savings (with Waveney) of £16m had been made since 2010, but steep reductions in Central Government grants (from ££7.4m in 2010/11 to £600,000 in 2017/18) would lead to a projected budget gap of £2.1m in 2018/19, so reductions in spending and increases in efficiency would be needed to make up the shortfall.

(Further details of Cllr Herring's statement is included in the full Annual Report available from Cllrs Haworth-Culf and Jones).

Leisure Centres set for transformation

SCDC has announced a five-year programme to update its leisure centres. Deben will be first to be upgraded, followed by Leiston. Disruption will be kept to a minimum, and local communities kept informed of progress.

Civil Parking Enforcement in East Suffolk.

There is mounting discontent about unpoliced illegal parking in the District, and Suffolk is one of few counties where enforcing parking regulations still falls to the police as opposed to the district councils. Implementing Civil Parking Enforcement would allow SCDC to take action, including providing options for on-street pay and display and provision of new car parking facilities. Income from ticket sales could make the scheme self-funding. Work is underway to implement the change, but in the meantime transgressors should still be reported to police.

Revitalising the Suffolk Coast

A new volunteer tourism project run by Wild Days Conservation Holidays has been established and aims to link volunteering with holidaying opportunities along the Suffolk coast. Supported by Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), three holidays have now taken place in Dunwich, Orford and Walberswick and four more are planned for this year. The development of these holidays is part of a wider 'Volunteer Tourism' project to help both local volunteers and visitors to pass on their passion for the Suffolk coast.

This links to the Suffolk Coast Greeters project to form the Volunteer Tourism Network which recruits volunteers to welcome visitors to the area who will share what they love, what they know and their personal experiences of the area. The Suffolk Coast website, launched in April 2015 by the The Suffolk Coast Ltd Destination Management Organisation (DMO) has details.

Four new walks with improved route marking and new guides have been developed for the four paths in Aldeburgh & Thorpeness, Rendlesham & Staverton, Sutton & Hollesley Heaths and Walberswick to enable people to navigate the routes easily and safely.

The AONB team launched the newly renovated coast path in Walberswick on 24th February, along with the collection of guides to link the best walks in the area.

Free Wifi and computer access mapped

There is now a digital map, the first of its type in the County, showing free PC and Wi-Fi locations in east Suffolk, including children's centres, libraries, Citizens

Advice Bureaux and Jobcentres. Each icon provides detail on the level of service offered at each location such as free Wi-Fi and computer access as well as access to IT training and support.

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/digital-map-for-east-suffolk/>

New noise service

There are around 500 complaints annually to SCDC's Environmental Protection Team regarding noise nuisance. Residents are asked to behave considerately, particularly during summer months when windows are open and people are enjoying their gardens. But if you are affected by exceptional noise nuisance, be it an incessantly barking dog, loud music, or noise from adjacent businesses, officers can be contacted through SCDC's weekend/evening hotline on: 01502 527132 or during the normal working hours on: 01502 562111.

Right to rent checks

Since last year all private landlords, including anyone sub-letting or taking in lodgers, are required to carry out quick and simple checks on new tenants to make sure they have the right to rent property in the country. Landlords should check and take copies of some among a wide range of identity documents, designed to accommodate different circumstances and not reliant solely on traditional identity documents such as a passport. For more information about making the checks go to www.gov.uk/righttorentchecks.

Raising funds

There are two sources of funding for local groups available through SCDC. The Enabling Communities Exemplar Programme (*no, still no idea - ed*) can make grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 for flagship projects or activities supported by a local councillor, and The Enabling Communities Budget is a set amount (currently £6,500) which an individual councillor can choose to spend where they see fit on local projects.

Cllrs T.J. Haworth-Culf and Maureen Jones

County Council

County Councillor Richard Smith MVO, who has served our Division of Aldeburgh and Leiston since 2010 with unflinching drive, expertise and good humour is to move to an adjacent Division, Blything, in time for County Council elections on 4th May. Suffolk born and bred, Richard was appointed as the cabinet member for finance in May last year, and has a particular interest in nuclear matters, having chaired the Sizewell A & B Stakeholder Group from 2005 until 2012. The replacement Conservative candidate for our Division is Russ Rainger, who lives in Snape, has recently retired from Sizewell A and is Deputy Chairman of Leiston Longshop Museum.

Website

There's a lot of useful information on the Parish website. As well as news and events, you can find details of useful services, local groups, businesses and much more. The site's regularly updated, you can read Parish Council

Meeting Minutes, check on Neighbourhood Plan progress, local Planning Applications, see responses to EDF's Stage 2 Sizewell C consultation and at times learn about other things that may affect our lives in the Parish.

If you're interested in the past, read histories of the Parish, of events that have taken place here, and hundreds of photographs, old and new, show you different aspects of the locality. The About the Parish pages describe the environment, help you find your way around and highlight places of interest.

Please let me know if you've got an event planned or a news item so it can be included on the website, or if you have any ideas or suggestions for additions or changes to the website

Email pc@aldringhamcumthorpe.suffolk.gov.uk or, if you don't have access to a computer please phone me on 01728 830039 with your news, event or other items of interest.

Louise Chadwick – website editor

Uppen about – some Parish News

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

Clarkes' clearance brought Christmas cheer

Have you noticed the improvements to Aldringham Lane? It is now possible for everyone, including wheelchair users and mothers with pushchairs, to use the footpath from Aldringham to Knodishall without hindrance from overhead branches or being forced on to the grass.

We were very fortunate to have had three members of the voluntary organisation 'The Chain Gang' from Leiston, Robert Clarke and his wife and son, working assiduously through December (even on Boxing Day), doing a wonderful job clearing the overgrown footway. Then, following continued pressure from ImpACT members, Suffolk Highways gave support by getting the trees cut back and the grass cut. Now walking to Knodishall out of daylight hours is no longer a perilous expedition.

We are sure that all Aldringham residents would like to give the Clarke family a hearty vote of thanks for all their efforts and Suffolk Highways for their response. We especially liked the tinsel on the bench over Christmas! Well done The Clarkes! (*and so say all of us – ed*)

ImpACT (Improving Aldringham Community Team)

Splashing out at The Dolphin

It may have been the low season, but David James at Thorpeness' outstandingly successful Dolphin pub has not been taking things easy over the winter. Work on an extension to the dining facilities is well under way, and will hopefully be finished in time for Easter ... "everything crossed and thumbs held," says David.

"This will increase the seating inside, with the idea of encouraging a drinking area in the snug, and we would

then have a private area for large birthday parties, celebrations etc.," he explained. Work has also been going on to makeover the shop, and this will reopen at the end of March, he added.

Beach Baggers march on

I felt a terrible sorrow when that unfortunate man walking on my beloved beach, with his wife and his dog, became buried in hundreds of tons of sand, rocks and debris. The event for a time left me feeling: "What's the point? All you are doing, Bill Crow, is fretting about a bit of flotsam and jetsam when someone has died. Get your priorities right". Well, as the commentators' jargon goes, I began to recalibrate. Walking the miles and miles of our beaches and paths in the weeks following the accident I still observed cans and bottles encrusting verges and brambles and groaned as ever increasing numbers of dog dirt bags seem to be dumped all over the landscape, some even hung on trees (why do they do that? Is it some kind of animal faeces fetish? If so it requires serious psychiatric research). Gradually I got it all back. It is insufficient to put my own selfish feelings in the way of doing what is obviously right. The best course to take is a Zen-like elimination of motive and get on with the job of keeping our environment clean and safe. There is no alternative.

So the Thorpeness Village and Beach Clean will take place again on Good Friday 14th April commencing at 10.30 a.m. at The Dolphin Inn. It will be organised by the Thorpeness 'Beach Baggers' an appellation conjured out of the air by Kathy Cook whose suggestion wins the Golden Litter Pick Prize for 2017. Thank you to all the other imaginative contributors. Some lovely ideas but Kathy's sort of catches the vision of intrepid Baggers trudging the shingle in a bitter easterly wind to bag the very last scrap of litter.

Russell Woby advanced some really creative proposals for what the Parish might do with the £200 awarded to the Baggers as prize money in 2016 and I quote: "THE OLD TELEPHONE BOX" "Take off door and turn into bus stop shelter with timetable and local news, suggestion box, etc, etc Put in a defibrillator. Turn it into a mini museum of the village, it could be kept illuminated all night with roof type photovoltaic panel". Wonderful stuff Russell - your ideas have been forwarded to the Parish Council for an assessment of fiscal practicality.

For the time being we need to be a bit more prosaic so I'm pressing for the purchase of some outdoor loud speakers that can be deployed in all weathers for the Beach Clean, Village Fete and events at the Pavilion.

Bill Crow

Hop along to an Aldringham Easter Egg Hunt

Following a well-attended carol Service on the Green and a very wet, but successful, New Year's Day walk, you are now cordially invited to come with us on a leisurely circular walk of your village starting on the Green at 10.30am on Easter Monday April 17th.

It will be approximately two miles in length and will suit children, dogs, parents and friends of all ages. We will return to the Green at approximately 11.30, where there will be hot drinks and refreshments. We recommend outdoor clothing, stout shoes or boots and hopefully, an unused umbrella.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and other activities, such as Easter Bonnet-making for the children, and a second hand book stall for the adults. All are welcome, so please come and meet your neighbours - it will be lovely to see you. Bring some food if you feel inclined, it would be greatly appreciated. RSVP Christine on 01728 833662 or E-Mail chrislaschet@hotmail.com
If you could contribute some books please contact Helen on 01728 833608. Further information will be coming through your door before the event.

ImpACT (Improving Aldringham Community Team)

Second Thorpefest July 8th

Tickets go on sale at the end of March for the second Thorpeness Music Festival at the County Club on July 8th (subject to licence). Tickets are £12 (£6 5-12 year olds, under 5s free) available through Facebook. Part of the proceeds will go to East Anglian Children's Hospice.

Local Groups and Clubs

St Andrew's Church

Isn't it wonderful to see through the dull murkiness of winter hints of things to come? Little clusters of bright white snowdrops, followed by glorious golden and purple crocuses and now lemon yellow daffodils, are a sure sign that spring, the season of new growth, is upon us. The churchyard at St. Andrew's, probably like your garden, is beginning to renew itself.

No matter how bad the winter or whatever conditions the weather extremes like 'Storm Doris' throw at us we seem to be able to overcome most situations and carry on. The church building of St. Andrews is a bit like that, there were times in the past when it became a roofless ruin with its tower fallen and the only regular visitors were cows using it for shelter. Then spring came in the form of the Gannon family and others who enabled it to be rebuilt and refurbished to virtually what we see today.

Whilst on the face of it the church seems to be doing well, we do have a problem that is quietly nagging away at us. We have lost, through unavoidable personal reasons, some very key members of our congregation, namely our three elders. These people worked incredibly hard helping take services and in the general day to day running of the church, and whilst we will hopefully in time have new elders it is becoming increasingly obvious that we are not having new people join our congregation. We try to offer an 'across the board' selection of services ranging from the traditional to the more modern and as a result of a meeting we held recently we will be looking into providing even more different types of worship. Not all services are

held within the body of the church. Some services, like our Sunrise service on Easter Sunday start on Thorpeness beach and end up in the Country Club, while our Animal Service, usually the first Sunday in August, takes place in the churchyard - a most beautiful setting. Once a month on a Sunday afternoon we enjoy a tasty snack of tea and toast whilst discussing all sorts of current and relevant issues. The venue for this is The Ogilvie Pavilion, idyllically set on the sports field in direct view of the iconic 'House in the Clouds and windmill, about as far from a church building as you can get. Yet this is still a form of worship and outreach.

But what we really need is YOU! We have many friends at the church who do so much for us but who don't wish to be in the congregation. If we aren't offering the type of worship you would like, come and talk to us. I'm sure our priest, the Revd. Mark Lowther and his assistant priest the Revd. Sheila Hart will be only too pleased to listen and discuss with you your thoughts and needs. We are always here for you!

We have a very special day coming up on Saturday the 15th July. The Bishop of Dunwich, Bishop Mike, is coming to consecrate our new burial ground. It will be a day of great celebration and we would love you to come and share it with us. This is a true sign that our church will be a part of the community for years to come, and there is NO CHANCE of St. Andrews becoming neglected and its only visitors a herd of cows seeking shelter. Perish the thought!!!

Sue Atkinson - Church Warden.

The Friends of St Andrew's Church



Membership subscriptions in 2016 raised £555. From our fundraising and donations, we raised £3250 for the Fabric Fund. Four new members joined the Friends in 2016 and we currently have 67 members.

Current Committee Members:-

Revd. Sheila Hart (Chairperson), Mrs A Goldstone (Financial Advisor), Mrs Anne Norton (Membership Secretary), Mrs Angela Chandler, Mrs Fiona Gimson, Mrs Budge Little, Mrs Janet Poll.

We need more Committee Members. If you would like to join our Committee, we would be pleased to hear from you. The Committee meets between 6 and 8 times a year.

Our events are advertised in the Parish Magazine, the local press and posters displayed around the area, the Aldringham cum Thorpeness village website and this Newsletter (See What's On page).

Anne Norton- Secretary anneenorton@aol.com 01728 830519

Thorpeness Art Group

The current series of lectures on the artists of the Bloomsbury and Camden Town groups finishes on Wednesday 12 April 2017. The series has been a bit of a blockbuster as far as the Tower Room in the Thorpeness Almshouses is concerned with the place jam packed for every lecture. I suspect it is not my expertise as an art historian and lecturer that is pulling in the crowd but more, much more, the shenanigans of the members of the Bloomsbury Group who as they say 'lived in squares, drew in circles and loved in triangles'. I will have done my very best to balance the interest in terms of the visual arts.

The next series of lectures will take place in November 2017 and I shall announce the outline programme around August 2017. Currently I am researching the visual arts of Vienna at the beginning of the 20th century including the work of Egon Schiele, and Gustav Klimt as well as other artists of the Vienna secession. A hugely exciting period and creative and intellectual environment.

Other Thorpeness Art Group events included a Venetian lunch at The Dolphin Inn - a superb gourmet occasion cooked up for a score or so enthusiasts. It is hoped that this will be followed by a Bloomsbury Cookbook lunch in June. Date to be advised. Regrettably you must be a member of Thorpeness Art Group, or spouse, or partner to attend.

Thank you to all Group members who have constantly shown marvellous support and loyalty.

For further details of everything related to this programme contact Bill Crow at wjcrow@aol.com, www.billcrow.co.uk

Bill Crow

Tel: 01728 454641

Aldeburgh Photography Group

AcT readers whose artistic bent favours camera lenses over paint brushes will find a warm welcome at Aldeburgh Photography Group. APG was established three years ago, and during that time membership has risen gently so there are now nearly 40 members enjoying an entertaining and instructive programme, frequently being addressed by visiting speakers aided by their own photographs, on a diverse range of photographic subjects.

When APG was founded it was a principal objective that it should not be a keenly competitive group but the aim was to assist members and visitors to improve their photographic skills by better understanding their camera settings and how to use them. There is quite a range of skills among the membership so beginners are as welcome as those at more advanced levels. Despite the name of the group we welcome new members from the surrounding area, and exploratory visitors to our meetings are welcomed.

APG meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7.30 until approx. 9.30pm, apart from July and December. The venue is the Aldeburgh Community Centre which offers good acoustic and projection services. There are

often outdoor practical sessions with cameras in hand, assisted by a photographic professional.

For further information, and to see our 2017 programme visit website www.aldeburghphotographygroup.org.uk or telephone our chairman, Peter Brown, on 01728 454034

Roger Searle

Good Neighbours

Since renewing the offer of transport to hospital, 16 requests for journeys to Ipswich medical centres have been carried out, and an enquiry was made concerning trips to James Paget Hospital as well. This has now been approved. The suggested donation will be £25 for a round trip to Ipswich (£50 if separate volunteers are used for trips to and from the hospital), and £30 to James Paget. The volunteer should feel justified in keeping this payment to cover the basic cost of fuel and wear and tear. Where the charge for a medically-related journey would cause financial hardship to the passenger, the volunteer driver can apply to the GN Steering Group for payment. Pro rata payments (at approximately 45p per mile) will be applied for other journeys.

Any volunteer prepared to make the journey may apply to the Steering Group for a Volunteer Parking Permit at Ipswich NHS Hospital. These are specific to one vehicle. Contact the GN helpline for a renewal form.

The AGM and social get-together is at 7pm on Weds 26th April in The Pavilion, and The Dolphin has kindly agreed to host the next Good Neighbours' Grub on Friday April 28th.

If you have a small task you would like a Good Neighbour to help you with the number to ring is:-

07521 047 843

Pippa McLardy - Chairperson plmclardy@hotmail.com
01728 454565

Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group



This could be a landmark year for the Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage group (TAHG). For a while now we have been having talks with SCDC regarding the use of a piece of scrub land in the car park near to The Meare which we would like to lease. Our hope is to erect a small building in the style of a fisherman's hut on this waste land that will enable us to have a presence in the village. We want it to be a small visitors' centre, a place of information for those who want to know more about Thorpeness, Aldringham and their surroundings and also about their fascinating and unique history. This small building will precede a larger one that we want to erect on some adjacent land which will eventually house a more permanent home for us.

We have another four interpretative boards almost ready to be put up around Thorpeness, and along with existing boards these will create a walking trail. We are hoping that these will be in place for the start of the holiday season. These are a popular amenity with visitors and locals alike.

Fundraising is going ahead for our first-stage building, the next event being 'Cocktails at Sunset', an idea offered to us by TAHG member Mr. John Smith of West Bar and scheduled for the evening of Saturday 6th May. Members will see Thorpeness from a totally new perspective, high up in the tower at West Bar, from where there is a 360-degree view of the coast, the village, and all its surroundings. To make the occasion extra special, there will be cocktails and canapés to the accompaniment of live piano music. If you like the sound of this then please join our membership (details below) so you receive early notice of ticket availability.

Funding for our main building will be sought out by Chairman Arthur Day just as soon as confirmation on the lease for the site has been given. This Visitors and Information Centre will undoubtedly be an expensive venture but one we hope to accomplish as quickly as we can with your help.

We held our first event of 2017 back in February at The Kitchen, Thorpeness with a talk about the RNLI from coxswain of the Aldeburgh lifeboat, Steve Saint, who was accompanied by his very popular dog, George. This was followed by a quick AGM and a supper of tomato soup and homemade bread - delicious! Thanks to The Kitchen for all their support.

All tickets for our events are sold by Mrs. Elizabeth Tipping of 5, Peace Place, Thorpeness and are offered to our members first. On rare occasions when any remain unsold, they become available to the general public. So please don't run the risk of not being able to get tickets for an event or talk that you're interested in. It's easy to join us; simply contact me at the address or email below and for a small annual fee of £5 for single membership or £10 for a family membership, you can be a part of it all! You will receive early notice of tickets to forthcoming events and a twice yearly newsletter which will include articles of local interest written by the committee and some of our members. An email address is essential if you wish to join, if you don't have one maybe a friend or family member could help out. Hope to hear from you soon!

Sue Atkinson - *Membership secretary*
 Logwood, Aldeburgh Rd., Aldringham, Leiston, Suffolk,
 IP16 4QH or emailing info@tahg.org.uk

The Ogilvie Pavilion and Sports Ground

As I write this article the sun is shining, the sky is blue and there's a real feel of spring in the air, so it must be time to wake the pavilion up from its winter snooze. The War Gamers and Tea and Toast have kept things ticking over during the winter but it is in the warmer summer months that the place really comes into its own. Set well back off the road and with its recent exterior revamp on view it's looking better this year than it has for a long time.

We are hoping to have a date from the original Margaret and Alexander Ogilvie Trust after their next meeting as to when the pavilion and its assets will be transferred over to our new charity but in the meantime, we are not standing still and will be holding our AGM on Sunday 2nd April at 1.30pm at the Pavilion, all welcome.

We have three car boot sales planned for this this summer, one each in June, July and August. Not quite as many as last year but to compensate for that the very popular 'drinks and nibbles' on Sunday lunchtimes will increase to every Sunday lunchtime during the whole of July and August, please keep your eye on local notice boards for start dates and times. Our popular Classics at the Pavilion will be back for a third time on 27th August 'Bank Holiday Sunday' and again do please keep your eyes on village notice boards for details. The fortnightly quizzes run by Wendy will be returning to their 'summer home' at the pavilion hopefully during April so again see local notice boards for latest info, this is a very informal quiz with the emphasis on fun! Even if you haven't got a team come and join us and we will find one for you to join. We are looking forward to the return of the 'Coastal Fun Run' organised by the Rotary Club which is on Sunday 30th April 'May Bank Holiday weekend' it is always a busy and popular event with food being available and we do open the bar that day for anyone who likes to finish their run with a pint of beer or glass of wine, other drinks are available!

We have caravans booked for four weekends this year, we feel that is enough as we want to keep the pavilion and sports ground available as much as possible for village events.

So it looks like we will be having another busy summer this year. There is always room for a few more activities so if anyone would like to book the field, or pavilion or both please ring Wendy Sturmeay on 01728 45258

Sue Atkinson - *secretary*

Classic Vehicle Rally, Car Boot and Autojumble

We were blessed with a better weather outlook last year and received significantly increased attendance from both exhibitors and visitors. We continue to welcome all classic vehicles - not just cars, but motorcycles, scooters tractors and traction engines. You don't have to book your vehicle - just turn up from 10am onwards. If you have some spares to sell bring them along.

This year (August 27th) we want to encourage craft and exhibiting stalls plus a sideshow or two, in the hope of providing something for everyone. Thorpeness Croquet Club are hosting an open day to enable people to try the game. There'll be a bouncy castle, and catering will include tea and coffee, a barbecue of burgers and bacon rolls and the licensed bar will be serving draught real ale, a selection of canned beers and soft drinks all at low prices.

This event isn't run for profit but to encourage local people to come and take time out in this picturesque rural environment. As a society, we are divided by our busy lives and separated lifestyles, and we must make an effort to be sociable and to support events which are put on for people to enjoy.

This event does raise cash for upkeep of the Pavilion etc but it's important that local people get involved not just those connected through a club .

So if you have a stall or sideshow you'd like to run ,feel free to get in touch. We charge £5 for a stall or pitch for the car boot sale.

Francis Byrne – Trustee 07775 791441
byrneengineering@uwclub.net

Thorpeness Croquet Club

Our first year in Thorpeness at the Pavilion Sports Ground was very successful with many members playing regularly on Club days and some competing in interclub tournaments.

Croquet is an increasingly popular sport enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels and one of few games where men and women play on equal terms. Even if you have not played for years, or ever, there is now an opportunity to see whether you might enjoy playing at Thorpeness. You are welcome to come on a Club Day – Wednesday, Friday and Saturday afternoon or arrange another time that suits you and can have two free Taster Sessions, with coaching, before deciding whether you would like to join.

We have our own clubhouse with ample free parking and access to the nearby Pavilion and all the equipment you will need to get started.

If you want some exercise and a bit of mental challenge croquet could be the game for you. For more information please contact:

Andrew Paris andrewparis@tiscali.co.uk : 01728 833673
 or visit www.thorpenesscroquetclub.onesuffolk.net

Cricket Club

I'm pleased to report a turnaround in recruitment last year which meant an increase in the number of cricketers available. We have a weekly net which starts at 1pm every Sunday - it has to be raining to stop our practice. Anyone is welcome to come along and it's free.

Fixtures so far:

Thurs 25th May V Kings Head Orford 6pm at Thorpeness

Thurs 22nd June V Middleton 6pm at Thorpeness

Thurs 27th July V Kings Head 6pm Orford Sudbourne Hall

Thursday 17th August V Middleton 6pm at Middleton

Francis Byrne 07775791441 byrneengineering@uwclub.net

Rifle Club

The new Rifle Club is not yet in operation, the three containers which will form the new range have been purchased over the summer and autumn as funds allowed. They have been altered, welded together to suit our requirements, bullet catcher from the old club range has been installed and the end of the container sealed and made bullet proof. The trench for electricity has been

dug and new cable has been laid and electricity has been connected by Graham Westrup.

The next phase will be to install an extractor fan and the whole building to be insulated and lined with 27mm ply. The cost of this ply wood will be considerable, but it has to be done to get our safety certificate from the Home Office, after an NSRA inspection. We hope to be shooting league cards again sometime in the summer.

In the meantime some of the club members have been shooting their league cards (Suffolk) at The ALDE BLACK POWDER CLUB range at Great Glemham.

Tony Ralph – srarsax109@hotmail.co.uk

A Brief History of Thorpeness Almshouses

Thorpeness Almshouses have been administered by the Margaret Ogilvie Almshouses Trust since they were built in 1926 to a design by W.G.Wilson. The central arch with a common room above, an attractive wood-panelled tower room, was completed two years later. The 12 one-bedroomed houses were built as staff residences, especially for older Ogilvie employees.

They were improved in the mid-1960s when bathrooms were built, and again later when en suites were added. In 2005, management of the houses was taken over by the Orwell Housing Association, and a considerable refurbishment followed. This included rewiring, secondary double glazing, insulation, converting bathrooms into wet rooms and the reroofing of the whole structure.

Early maps indicate that the Almshouses are on the site of a mediaeval chapel, possibly known as St Mary's. This was situated immediately to the east of the houses, and some villagers can remember some standing masonry near the position of The Matron's House. Perhaps the road running through the Almshouses is named Pilgrim's Way due to the proximity of the chapel. There has been some evidence of burial activity in the area, with human bones including skulls being found when footings for the Almshouse extensions were dug.

Currently, consternation is being felt by residents over early-stage proposals suggesting the construction of a number of new dwellings to the rear of the existing building.

Mick Sturmeay - (Heritage Group Committee Member)

Foot Note

Healthwatch Suffolk finds out what local people think about NHS and social care services and has powers to influence and improve them for the future. It is putting feet in focus this month with the launch of its latest research report, which is about the experiences of diabetic patients in Suffolk. It found that 32% of its respondents are not always told about their risk of developing complications. This is an important finding as some people with diabetes develop foot ulcers or infections that are one of the leading causes of amputation in the UK.

Visit www.healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk. call 01449 703949 or email info@healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Aldeburgh cum Thorpe Parish Councillors

Eric Atkinson	Chairman	01728 830497
David Mayhew	Vice-Chairman	01728 452773
Pippa McLardy		01728 454565
Scott Squirrell		01728 833691
Maureen Jones		01728 453915
Mick Sturmeay		01728 452586
Alan Williams		07802 175184
Shirley Tilbrook	Parish Clerk	01728 830001

District Councillors

TJ Haworth- Culf	01728 451933
terry-jill.haworth@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk	
Maureen Jones	01728 453915
maureen.jones@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk	

County Councillor (until May)

Richard W L Smith MVO	01728 602714
richardsmith4@suffolk.gov.uk	

Police - Suffolk Constabulary
Always Dial 999 for Emergencies including Coastguard

Dial 101 for Non Urgent Issues
 Aldeburgh Police Station, Leiston Road, Aldeburgh
 Leiston Police Station, 34 Kings Road, Leiston

Action Fraud

If you have been a target to attempted fraud, by person or online get help from **0300 123 2040**

Power Cuts 105 (free number)

Connecting Communities Transport 01728 635938

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

If you'd like to join, contact:
Aldringham - Tony Woods - 01728 832043
 (for Chandlers Way, Mill Hill and Mill Lane, and West Hill)
 Aldringham – Maria Chapman-Beers
 Email tribunegang@gmail.com
 (Aldeburgh Rd and roads off except Aldringham Park, to borders with Leiston, Aldeburgh, and down Thorpe Rd towards Thorpeness)
Thorpeness - Bill Crow - 01728 454641

Hospitals

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

Doctors' Surgeries

Church Farm, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh	01728 452027
Main Street, Leiston	01728 830526
Lambale Meadow, Saxmundham	01728 602022

Dental Surgeons

Aldeburgh Dental Practice 167 High Street, Aldeburgh	01728 452884
The Dental Surgery Crown Street, Leiston	01728 830790
High Street Dental Centre 98 High Street, Leiston	01728 832133
Saxmundham Dental Surgery 9 High Street, Saxmundham	01728 602537

Pharmacies

Aldeburgh Pharmacy 125 High Street, Aldeburgh	01728 452763
Coopers Pharmacy 20 High Street, Leiston	01728 832231
Lloyds Pharmacy 62 High Street, Leiston	01728 830545
East of England Coop Pharmacy High Street, Saxmundham	01728 602051

Veterinary Surgeons

Leiston Vet Clinic, 1d Eastlands, Leiston	01728 833566
Fromus Vet Group Fromus House, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham	01728 602599

Thorpeness Croquet Club

Andrew Paris	01728 833673
Patrick Skinner	01728 603254

Good Neighbours Group

Chairperson Pippa McLardy	07521 047843 01728 454565
---------------------------	------------------------------

Local Heritage Group

Mrs S Atkinson "Logwood", Aldeburgh Road, Aldringham	01728 830497
---	--------------

Rainbow Tots

Ms Anja Shaw Every Tuesday 10am - 1:30am Aldeburgh Community Centre	01728 453295
---	--------------

Tea & Toast

Mrs E Tipping	01728 454165
---------------	--------------

Thorpeness Cricket Club

Mr F Byrne Email: byrneengineering@uwclub.net	01728 830834
---	--------------

WHAT'S ON – March 2017 to end July 2017			
March			
Sunday 19th		St Andrew's Church	Amici Concert
Monday 20 th	12.30pm	St Andrew's Church	Lent Lunch
Friday 24th	7.30pm	Knodishall Village Hall	St Andrew's Church Quiz
Monday 27th	12.30pm	St Andrew's Church	Lent Lunch
April			
Sunday 2nd	11.30am	Ogilvie Pavilion	Sunday Nibbles – Followed by -
Sunday 2nd	1.30pm	Ogilvie Pavilion	Pavilion Charity AGM
Monday 3 rd	12.30pm	St Andrew's Church	Lent Lunch
Monday 3 rd	7.00pm	Check noticeboard	Parish Council
Wednesday 5 th	8.00pm	Tower Room Thorpeness	Fun Quiz (Every two weeks) see below
Tuesday 11 th	2.00- 4.00pm	Mill Hill Aldringham	Rural Coffee Caravan
Wednesday 12th	10.00-12.00pm	Peace Place Thorpeness	Rural Coffee Caravan
Good Friday 14 th	10.30am	The Dolphin Thorpeness	Beach Clean
EasterMonday17 th	10.30am	Aldringham Green	Circular walk and egg hunt
Monday 24 th		Aldeburgh Church Hall	St Andrew's Bridge Drive
Tuesday 25 th	4.00pm	St Andrew's Church	Annual PCC Meeting
Wednesday 26 th	7.00pm	Ogilvie Pavilion	Good Neighbours AGM
Friday 28 th	12 noon	The Dolphin Thorpeness	Good Neighbours Pub Grub
Sunday 30 th		Ogilvie Pavilion	Rotary – Coastal Fun Run
May			
Saturday 6 th	10.00–12.00pm	St Andrew's Church	Coffee Morning
Saturday 6 th	7.30pm	West Bar Tower Thorpeness	TAHG Cocktails at Sunset
Monday 9 th	7.00pm	Ogilvie Pavilion (probably)	Annual Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 9 th	2.00 - 4.00pm	Mill Hill Aldringham	Rural Coffee Caravan
Wednesday 10 th	10.00-12.00pm	Peace Place Thorpeness	Rural Coffee Caravan
Friday 12 th	Times Below	Aldringham & Thorpeness	Mobile Library
Thursday 25 th	6.00pm	Thorpeness Sports field	Cricket v Kings Head Orford
June			
Friday 9 th	Times Below	Aldringham & Thorpeness	Mobile Library
Tuesday 13 th	2.00 - 4.00pm	Mill Hill Aldringham	Rural Coffee Caravan
Wednesday 14 th	10.0-12.00pm	Peace Place Thorpeness	Rural Coffee Caravan
Monday 19 th	7.00pm	Ogilvie Pavilion (probably)	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 22 nd	6.00pm	Thorpeness Sportsfield	Cricket v Middleton
July			
Saturday 8 th		Thorpeness Country Club	Thorpefest
Tuesday 11 th	2.00-4.00pm	Mill Hill Aldringham	Rural Coffee Caravan
Wednesday 12 th	10.00-12.00pm	Peace Place Thorpeness	Rural Coffee Caravan
Saturday 15 th	TBA	St Andrew's	Consecration of new burial ground
Thursday 27 th	6.00pm	Sudbourne Hall	Cricket v Kings Head Orford
Monday 31 st	7.00pm	Ogilvie Pavilion (probably)	Parish Council Meeting

Mobile Library times: Thorpeness:- Almshouses 10.10 – 10.25am

Aldringham:- Ogilvie Homes 9.45 -10.05am Church 10.30-10.45am Mill Hill 10.50-11.05am

Fun Quizzes: Every other Wednesday (in Pavilion during warm weather – Tower Room otherwise)