

Annual report of Bedfield Parish Council

17 May 2023

I am pleased to present this report for the year ending May 2023, a year of volunteering as you will see from this report. Volunteers are vital in our thriving village, **thank you** to all those who give up their time to enrich our community.

As ever, the residents of Bedfield (and wider communities) have had access to a wide variety of activities, groups and clubs including the Church Community, Friends of Bedfield Heritage, the Gardening Club, Friends First Friday, the Art and Craft Club and Our Club.

A new group has been very successfully established during the year and I congratulate Bedfield Sunday Football team and their management team in achieving promotion in their first season. The team gets very good support for home matches at the Hub and I'm sure that is appreciated by the players.

The village has an active church community with Reverend Chrissie Smart and the PCC which has organised many successful fundraising events throughout the year, a beetle drive last month was enjoyed by many at the Hub.

I was pleased to meet Enid Pow, newly appointed as the priest in charge of the Four Rivers Benefice at a special service earlier in the year.

Most recently, Friends of Bedfield Heritage with support from the Community Club organised a weekend of activities to celebrate King Charles III Coronation. The Coronation was streamed live in the Hub and enjoyed by those who attended, there was also cake and waffles. The weather improved for the Sunday activities, and it was great to see many families enjoying their picnics in the sunshine and cake. Several children, young people (and some adults) had fun modelling their crowns and providing the event with Karaoke. The Morris Men performance was enjoyed towards the end of the afternoon. Coronation mugs were also available for the first 40 households. The events were free with funding raised by the sale of cakes and drinks being used for the composting toilet at the Church.

The Art and Craft Club has produced a very fine wall hanging to be a permanent commemoration in the Hub of the Coronation.

On the Bank Holiday Monday, volunteers gathered together for the big tidy at the church. Photos of the events are on the website.

[The Coronation 2023 » \(onesuffolk.net\)](https://onesuffolk.net)

Last year's Fete was a great success raising over £3,000. The weather certainly helped it to be the best yet in terms of fund raising and of course the many volunteers who got involved. The Community Club Committee and volunteers are currently well under way again with the planning for this year's Summer Fete which will take place on Saturday on 8th July, as ever, we're hoping for similar weather conditions.

The Community Club Committee is grateful for the support it receives from volunteers, it really does make a difference. Last year the Club organised a 'painting

party' on a couple of weekends in August, with great success. In exchange for a bacon roll and coffee, volunteers gave up their time to give the building a much-needed coat of paint. Thanks to Nigel for organising the materials and Lisa for organising the volunteers.

The Hub now has internet access which enabled the live streaming of the Coronation and could facilitate other similar events, any volunteers? Thanks to Vince for the loan of the projector.

During the winter months the Club hosted a warm space for three days a week, staffed by volunteers. Although it wasn't attended as hoped, it demonstrated yet again, the strength of the volunteer community. Evidence shows Bedfield wasn't alone in seeing such low uptake.

The Coffee Shop continues every Tuesday and has also welcomed the Monk Soham monthly coffee morning on the first Tuesday of every month.

The Community Club Committee is currently working with an architect to improve the facilities at the Hub and is holding a 'Hands on Exhibition' on Monday 22 May from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. to gather information about the ideas. More information can be found on the welcome page here: [Welcome » \(onesuffolk.net\)](https://onesuffolk.net)

Many of the Community Trees planted (by volunteers) in 2021/22 have thankfully survived the drought conditions they were subjected to last summer. Helped by receiving additional watering by yet more volunteers.

Many residents have commented on how good the phone box looks now it has had a makeover, thanks to John Ellam for his dedication to detail.

The Play area continues to be enjoyed by children and families but currently has an issue with the tunnel. The grass on the top of the tunnel has eroded and artificial grass looks like being the solution. Help is required to get the task completed before the Fete on 8th July.

The management of the tennis court has come back to the Community Club, and decisions must be made on the way forward regarding membership and maintenance. The Club would welcome anyone interested to join them to help advise on the way forward and to help with its future organisation.

As a result of concerns expressed by many residents about the speed at which some drive through the village the Parish Council has purchased a set of speed warning signs. We are very grateful for the generous donations from the PCC and some residents towards the cost of the signs and to both Matthew Hicks for a grant and the Community Club.

We are currently waiting for the County Council to provide confirmation of the exact sites they will be positioned.

During the year Keith Frost has stepped down from both the PC and the Community Club Committee. Both organisations will miss the contributions he has made over many years. I'm sure everyone will join me in thanking Keith for his dedication 'over more years than he can remember' (his words). Even although, he has stepped down, he is still supporting the Hub and the Club is pleased about that.

Similarly, Geoff Robinson has also stepped down from the Community Club and I thank him for his contributions. It's great to hear that he has already offered to remain involved in the Fete.

It has been a challenging year financially for everyone including the PC, as costs of almost everything have increased. Therefore, decisions will need to be made by the PC for next year regarding the possibility of increasing the precept.

Finally, The Parish Council (PC) works hard to keep all residents informed using the improved website: bedfield.onesuffolk.net

My thanks to Lisa Crane for her work on an almost daily basis uploading Parish Council information and Community event news. She has also established new ways of communicating for example, through Facebook. The Bedfield and Monk Soham Newsletter is also successful, and I encourage everyone to make use of it by both subscribing and sending articles for publication. bedfieldmonksoham@btinternet.com

I am aware that there are residents who do not have access to the internet, so newsletters and PC information is regularly available on the village and Community HUB noticeboards.