

Town Council Annual Report 2015/16

Once again the Town Council has had a busy year dealing with a wide range of issues from the building of 88 new homes and issues surrounding this work to running an event to commemorate the granting of a Fair.

When the new council was elected we decided to set up some working groups to take a lead on various issues around the Town. The main groups are the cemetery, events and highways all of these groups have done sterling work in moving things forward.

The events working party organised the event to celebrate the granting of the fair and it is great shame that the weather was so awful on the day but everyone that came said that they had had a great time. From the Chair all I can do is thank all those that helped to run the day and look forward to their next event which is to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

The highways working group have been working with Norfolk Highways to find ways of improving the flow of traffic through the centre of Town and it looks as if this is going to happen during the next financial year.

The cemetery working group continues in its work to make the cemetery both financially self sustaining and a place where people wish to be buried and just come and sit in a peaceful area.

Once again thanks to all those involved in this work.

The Council has also been in negotiations with SNC to take over the ownership and maintenance of the public toilets in the Town. This has taken some time but we believe that we have got the best possible deal for the Town.

You will have noticed in your Council Tax statement that the Town Council has increased the amount that we are asking for this year. We have to apologise for this but we have had some unexpected expenses due to the dire state of some of the trees around Town. You will have noticed that the large tree at the entrance of the Lincoln Hall has been felled and it's likely that the other large oak tree at the corner of the Attleborough Road will have to come down. In addition to this we have had to do work on trees at the Playing Field and work will need to be done on trees in the Church Yard. All this tree work plus more to come is very expensive and can't be avoided.

Finally I'd like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support of the year and an especial thanks to Ali Doe our Town Clerk for all the work that she has done to keep me on the straight and narrow and for supporting the Town in ways that are way beyond what she is paid for.

		DRAFT as per last available bank statements at time of preparation			
Bank Reconciliation		ANNUAL REPORT 01 APR 2015 - 31 MARCH 2016			
HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL					
Prepared by Alison Doe Clerk/RFO					
Date – 02 April 2016					
Approved by					
Date		TOTAL			
Balance per bank statements as at 31 MARCH 2016				£	£
Current account	(b/s-23/03/16)			£3,359.04	
Tracker account	(b-s -09/03/16)			£68,286.59	
High interest account	(b/s-29/01/16)			£12,144.13	
Business reserve account	(last statement available 28/03/12 called CAPITAL FUND)			£186.80	
					£83,976.56
Less: any unrepresented cheques as at 31 March 2016					
Cheque number:					
103531				£180.00	
					£180.00
Add: any unbanked cash as at 31 March 2016					
not shown on bank statements available - banked 31/03/16				£312.75	£312.75

Net bank balances as at 31 March 2016 (or as far as bank statement date)					£84,109.31

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book for the year 01 April 2015- 31 March 2016					
CASH BOOK					
Opening Balance (as per bank reconciliation 31 March 2015)				£85,405.16	
ADJUSTMENTS					
Cheque no: 103330 HPFA Tennis Club Grant Unpresented /cancelled				£1,000.00	
(ACTUAL OPENING BALANCE)					£86,405.16
Add Receipts 01 April 15- 31 March 16 (or as far as bank statement date)				£78,127.79	
Less: Payments 01 April 15 - 31 March 2016 (or as far as bank statement date)				-£80,423.64	

Closing balance per cash book as at 31 March 2016				£84,109.31	

REPORTS

Clubs, Societies and Organisations

1. Hingham Town Council – Working Parties
2. Hingham Charity
3. Hingham Education Trust
4. Hingham Good Neighbour Scheme
5. Hingham and District Community Car Scheme
6. Hingham History Centre
7. The Hingham Society
8. Lincoln Social Centre
9. Hingham Youth Café
10. Hingham Playgroup
11. St Andrew's Hingham Heritage Fund
12. St Andrew's Ringers (STARS)
13. Methodist Church – Bond Street
14. Hingham Gardening Club
15. Hingham Rectory Bowls Club
16. Hingham Tennis Club
17. Hingham Cricket Club
18. Hingham Playing Field Association (HPFA)

Other Reports

County Councillor Report – Cllr Margaret Dewsbury

District Councillor Report – Cllr Yvonne Bendle

Hingham Town Council Working Parties

Many thanks to all of the volunteers and Councillors who have given their time, energy and support in being part of the working parties

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS WORKING PARTY (EWP) 2015/16

Following the setting up of the EWP, the team hit the ground running and took advantage of the 750th anniversary of Hingham having been granted a Town Charter. They planned, organised, and over the weekend of the 12th and 13th December 2015, held a busy and successful Medieval Market in and around town, with many authentic touches. Despite the pretty miserable weather conditions everyone enjoyed the event and we received very encouraging reports. Again thanks to all for the donations both financial and of time, which made the event possible.

Our second event took place quite recently when we organised an Easter Market in the town Market Place. This was a small affair, limited to about six stalls, but we feel that we have made a healthy start on the road to engaging the local community in events in our town.

Funds from a cake stall at the Easter Market will be used to subsidise the cost of our next event, when the town joins in the national celebrations of HM The Queen's 90th Birthday. On Saturday 11th June there will be a tea party, games, children's disco, and activities spread between the Fairland, Lincoln Hall, and the Bowls Club. On Sunday 12th June there will be Breakfast on the Fairland followed by a service at St Andrew's church.

The plans for this event are well underway now and thanks to the continued support of Cllr Yvonne Bendle and South Norfolk Council, we are well on target to producing what promises to be another well-received community event. At the moment, this is still "Work in Progress"!

We are also hoping to run the Market in the Market Place event for the clubs and organisations in town to promote themselves and raise funds – the proposed date is the 9th July.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY (HWP) 2015/16

The Highways Working Party have been working hard and liaising with Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Constabulary to try to improve road safety in Hingham. Poor adherence to the speed limit through the Market Place and the accident potential at the B1108/Dereham Road/ Attleborough Road junction were identified as key priorities. Norfolk Constabulary undertook a speed survey in the Market Place which confirmed that compliance with the 20MPH speed limit was very poor. Norfolk County Council undertook a safety study of the market place and B1108 cross roads and have proposed a scheme of improvements which include changes to the road markings through the Market Place, making the road appear narrower which hopefully will have a traffic calming effect. It is proposed that the 20MPH zone will be extended to include the Fairland and the B1108 crossroads with new signage for the beginning of the 20MPH zone at either end of the town.

The HWP are also working on setting up a volunteer Speed-Watch group and are keen for more volunteers to come forward, including a willing volunteer to co-ordinate the scheme. It is hoped that this, along with the use of a SAM2 moveable flashing speed sign will bring about better awareness from drivers and greater compliance with the speed limits in the town.

The HWP will continue to look at ways that highway improvements can be made to enhance the town and improve safety for all. Although with continued County Council budget cuts, scope may be limited.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to join the working party and/or the Speed-Watch can contact the Town Clerk.

HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL CEMETERY WORKING PARTY (CWP) 2015/16

The Cemetery Working Party have been working hard to make the cemetery a peaceful, pleasant place to visit with the help of ongoing hard work and maintenance by the Town Councils "Handy Man" Mr Ramm.

Some of the gravestones in the old cemetery have been stood straight to ensure they are safe and some of the subsiding plots have been "topped up" with soil and re seeded.

There has been an area of the cemetery de-consecrated, to allow greater flexibility for families wishing to use the cemetery, and the new ashes area is now well established with young trees planted to give the area some identity. The Council have agreed that kerbing may be installed around plots (additional fees apply) at the cemetery and there is now provision for wider plots to be available should a casket burial be requested.

A lectern has been placed in the shed – which holds a record of interments in the cemetery. A water butt has also been installed at the cemetery for people to use.

Close liaison with funeral directors, the arrangement with the designated grave digger, pre marking of plots, along with regular checks and financial reports ensures the correct and smooth administration of the cemetery.

A new sign has been installed at the entrance to the cemetery and it is hoped that in the near future some planting will take place around the sign to further enhance the cemetery by providing colour and fragrance.

Now a suitable printer is available, the outstanding Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates will be printed, and over the coming year the cemetery records will be entered onto the electronic administration software, (time constraints has meant that this has not yet been possible).

Since April 2015, 7 interments and 4 ashes interments have taken place at the cemetery.

Hingham Charity Report to Parish Council. 2016

Hingham Charity continues to serve the community through a series of small grants made to help people of Hingham experiencing financial hardship. The money for these is raised from rents on land owned by the Charity. Several grants were made throughout the year and at Christmas 46 grants were made,

The annual Turf Meadow inspection took place in May and was attended by all those involved with its maintenance and Trustee members. It appears to be in a healthy condition apart from some nettles which have been cut down.

The Charity has employed South Norfolk Council to control the growing rat problem at the Mill Farm Allotments. After meeting with the tenants, it was agreed to levy a surcharge to cover the largest part of the cost, with the Charity covering the balance. This should greatly improve the situation. Tenants have been asked to take greater care with feeding chickens and with composting.

There will also be a rent rise this year to cover the ever increasing maintenance costs. Over the last few years tenants have requested smaller plots of land and so many of the allotments have been split up to reduce the size . It has also become necessary to categorise the plots into size bands to make the rents fit the plot sizes more accurately.

The Accounts for October 2014/15 show that the Charity receipts amounted to £5679 while payments were £4286 leaving a surplus of £1392. This has helped to compensate for the loss made the previous year.

Ruth Bateman (Clerk)

Report of Hingham Education Trust

The Hingham Education Trust was set up many years ago, when the Hingham Grammar School was closed. It was then decided that the money invested from the sale of the Grammar School endowments should be allocated in grants to those in further education in order to further their careers. The area of benefit is the same as the catchment area of the old Grammar School. The Board of Trustees includes representatives from the Town. District, County Councils and co-opted members chosen for their knowledge of the Education system. Its income comes from the rent of 24 acres of land on the east side of Dereham Road (previously Grammar School land) and from investments, mainly in the Charities' Official Investment Fund.

Last year nine grants were made to university students with three of them attending local colleges and two attending UEA.

The Trustees have been very pleased to receive letters of thanks from recipients telling them about their studies and welcome this feedback

Application forms are normally available from early August and must be returned by 16th September.

HINGHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

We are now over half way through our third year. In the summer of 2015 we had a small article in the South Norfolk Link publicising our services. Then in the Autumn we changed our publicity in two ways. Firstly to include in the Hingham and District Community Magazine an A5 flyer of a colour photo of some of the volunteers. Secondly we changed from a mobile number to the landline number of two volunteers. Since then we have noticed a slight increase in the number of enquires to the scheme., although we still only take a few calls each month. We had a stall at the Medieval Market in December, which despite the poor weather was a very successful fundraising event for us, which we need for our annual insurance payment. We are keen to have contact from any members of the community who we can help, if you are aware of anyone, please do get in touch.

Thank you

Louise Reed / Secretary

HINGHAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME
Serving the communities of Hingham, Deopham and Hackford

ANNUAL REPORT
to the Hingham Town Council for 2015/2016

Introduction:

The Hingham & District Community Car Scheme supports people in our communities with essential medical journeys which cannot reasonably be made by public transport or where a person would have difficulty in using public transport. The Scheme is a member of Norfolk County Council's Norfolk Community Transport Association (NCTA) and is managed and delivered entirely by volunteers. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and are paid a standard rate for their mileage. They offer their time free.

The Scheme charges the passenger 50% of the mileage cost; the remainder is subsidised by SNDC (20%) and Hingham Town Council / Deopham & Hackford Parish Council (30%). Administration costs such as phone call charges and booking diaries are also reimbursed (50/50 SNDC and HTC).

SNDC make their contribution annually via a Funding Agreement. For 2015/16 this was £2,189, based upon previous year's grant. Hingham Town Council (and Deopham & Hackford Parish Council) pay quarterly in arrears in response to submission of a claim.

Review of the year:

With a new bank account established and Mr Geoffrey Divers kindly managing online payments directly into driver's bank accounts, the system is now working well and efficiently. We are now authorised to undertake DBS checks in-house through South Norfolk Council, so it is a less onerous task for drivers.

The Scheme undertook 688 journeys during the year. This is a decrease of 197 on last year. The majority of the journeys are to one of the three main hospitals (N&N; West Norwich and Spire) the next greatest number is to the Hingham Surgery. There are also regular visits to Physiotherapy, Chiropody, and Dental practitioners in nearby towns. With the changing methods employed by the Hospitals to deal with waiting lists, we now occasionally get requests to take people to hospitals further afield, such as Bury St Edmunds. We try to establish a reasonable rate for these, but in some cases it has proved too expensive for the patient and we have referred people to the Hospital Car Service.

Our type of clients range from the long term ill, residents in one of the two care homes in the Town, the housebound at home, or those who are independent but temporarily unable to travel alone. A lot of clients recover, a number sadly die. We have continued to offer a service to the Gt. Ellingham Post Office this year, but since the part-time, temporary PO was established in the town, this has involved only one person for some 24 journeys. With the imminent establishment of a permanent PO at Harrods, this service will be withdrawn.

The scheme is excellently administered by Mrs Nancy Playford, who receives requests by phone, matches them to available drivers and prepares returns showing scheme activities each month. Without her commitment and dedication the scheme would fold and I would like to thank her for her continuing support during the year. **May I remind people to give as much notice as possible when booking the service. It is very difficult to organise a trip for someone in less than 48 hours.**

New Drivers

I would like to thank our regular drivers for their unfailing support and generosity in continuing to give their time to this vital service. I would also like to thank Mr Alan Juby and Mr Ray Harris, who have both joined the Scheme as regular drivers during the year, bringing our number of volunteer drivers to six. This should help ensure that we are able to respond to most requests. However, we have experienced problems this year when drivers are ill, or otherwise unable to drive; so it would be good to have more drivers on our books, even if they only want to be called in an emergency. The personal commitment of both Dennis and Nancy Playford is exceptional, and they are still undertaking many more journeys each month than any other driver. The scheme would not function without their commitment and I would like to publically thank them for their continued involvement.

Plans for 2016/17:

With the continuing reductions across local authority budgets, there were concerns about the future of the scheme. Although we have not yet formally heard about the funding from SNDC, we hope a further funding agreement will be available shortly. HTC have kindly budgeted for continued support of the scheme in the coming year.

We continue to be involved with NCTA activities and try to keep abreast of all the rules and regulations which seem to increase each year. NCTA also support us providing opportunities to meet other schemes in order to share experiences and seek common solutions to problems. Increasing the number of volunteers is a general problem, as is parking at the two main hospitals in the county.

Despite many day to day issues, I firmly believe that this is a vital service to the people of Hingham & District, especially in helping those who can live independently in the community with a little support. I know that the Neighbourhood Scheme, the Lunch Club, the Churches and the Surgery are all fully aware of the services we offer and I thank them for their support. I know that our joint efforts will continue to keep Hingham a particularly friendly and supportive town to live in.

Alison Lys
Scheme Co-ordinator

Anyone wishing to book a Community Car journey should contact:

HINGHAM HISTORY CENTRE

The Hingham History Centre has had another busy year and, yet again, has made a healthy profit to go towards our aim of acquiring a building to house our collections and preserve them for future generations. We were fortunate to receive a grant from The Norfolk Community Foundation to enable the replacement of our digital projector.

We continue to hold our “Mardles” every month and have an average turnout of 4. We have carried on producing Calendars and books and giving talks to interested groups.

This year our annual visit from Taverham Band will be held on the School Playing Field on 22nd May as a “Proms in the Park” event with a bar and barbecue arranged by the Friends of Hingham School. We have also arranged a concert in September in the Church by the St Thomas Academy; this to be in conjunction with St Andrew’s Heritage.

During the summer we hope to hold a garden party and a quiz night as well as working on the next books; “Hingham Then and Now” and a collection of stories about the characters from the town. In the autumn we would like to start holding monthly Sunday afternoon teas with either a talk or film about local events and places.

Carol Harris

Chair

The Hingham Society

Report for Parish Meeting, April 2016

The Hingham Society was formed in 1972 and its objective is to “improve, protect and preserve the parish of Hingham”. It is managed by an elected committee and is affiliated to the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). We monitor and comment on any planning applications which affect the town’s appearance. We try to ensure that new developments are in keeping with the surrounding buildings. Our programme of evening meetings and outings provide opportunities to discuss topics of local interest and to increase everyone’s knowledge of issues that concern them and the town.

This year our monthly programme began with a town meeting to plan the Beating the Bounds project to take place later in May. Representatives of clubs and societies were invited to discuss how they could participate. To arouse interest in the event and encourage participation, David Berwick gave a talk later in March on Beating Parish Boundaries – ancient rites and rituals. The event itself took place on May 9, led by Rector Colin Reed and involving over 100 people from a range of clubs and societies. All thanks to landowners for granting permission to walk their lands.

Meanwhile the AGM took place in April, and the existing committee was re-elected. We organised a town litter pick in April and this will now be a regular event. We received a grant of £200 from district council and used the money to plant native daffodils on the Fairland. In May we marked the district elections by inviting the local candidates to a hustings meeting at Lincoln Hall, where they made their pitch and took questions. Later in May Graham Shingfield invited us to Frost Row farm where he gave a lively talk on the challenges of modern farming. He will be giving a follow-up talk this May. In June we had a talk on the history of Dragon Hall by Rod Spokes, and in July Karen Mackie led a tour of three local churches.

After a break in August Tom Cowin led the annual footpath walk in September. Our fourth quiz took place in October and was a great success. We shall repeat this year. In November Carol Harris gave a talk on the changing face of Hingham and we organised carols again in the Market Place with St Andrews Church in December, raising £71 for the St Andrews Heritage Fund. We also raised £227.56 for the Marie Curie daffodil charity in March. We put up a renovated noticeboard in the market place in November.

We have continued to monitor planning applications and have written on several occasions to SNDC and other bodies seeking clarification or making criticisms, particularly over the application to build new houses on the Norwich Road.

Finally we would like to thank all those who have supported us over the past year, and look forward to their continued support in the coming year. Please remember to renew your annual subscription – still only £1 plus any donations you care to make.

Tom Cowin Chairman



Lincoln Social Centre

Report for Annual Town Meeting.

The Committee continues to work hard to maintain the running and upkeep of Lincoln Social Centre.

Improvements have been made including new flooring, and the purchase of new chairs.

Externally, the gable end has been repaired and the structure of the building pronounced sound. Some pointing has also been carried out.

Internally, the disabled toilet has been improved, and maintenance work carried out on the other toilets.

A new caretaker has been appointed, who is in the process of renovating the sheds so they can be used for storage.

The booking secretary works tirelessly to promote the hall, and bookings are steady, but the committee is always trying to encourage new groups and events to be held in the hall.

This year the hall has hosted the Post office, and has been used by Breckland Cycling Club for the first time. It has also been used successfully for a wedding reception.

Hingham Youth Cafe

Thank you for the invitation to attend your meeting of local organisations. I apologise that I will not be able to attend the meeting, but am sending you the following report about the Youth Cafe's activities over the last year.

Hingham Youth Cafe was established in March 2012. We are run by around 10 volunteers and meet monthly during term time, usually on the second Friday of the month, usually in Lincoln Hall with 2 summer sessions at the Sports Hall. The evenings (from 7:30- 9:30pm) provide a safe place for young people in schools years 7- 10 (aged 11- 15) to meet their friends. Mostly the young people appreciate having a space to meet, talk and "hang out" with their friends. They can play table tennis, video games, table football, board games and do craft activities at Lincoln Hall and also have the opportunity to play football, badminton and dodgeball when at the Sports Hall. We feel it is important that we give young people the chance to be active and for this reason the 2 sessions we hold at the Sports Hall are really valuable.

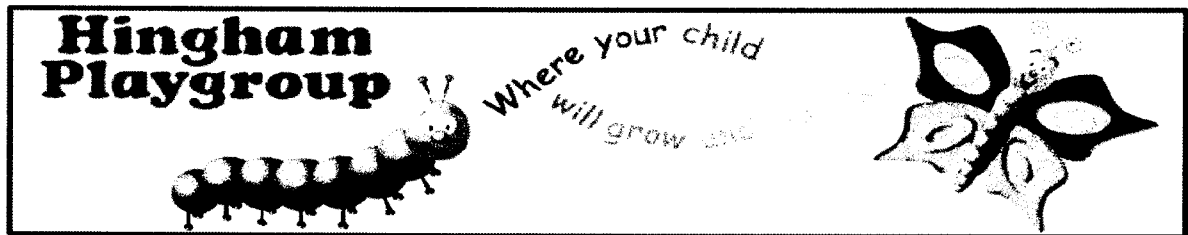
We usually have about 40 young people attending and a minimum of 5 volunteer helpers. Given the different places that young people in Hingham go to secondary school the Youth Cafe provides a good opportunity for young people to meet up with others they might not see at school. We have young people attending from Attleborough High, Wymondham High, Wymondham College, Northgate and Wayland High. We also have young people from the villages surrounding Hingham attending- including Cranworth, Carbrooke and Wicklewood. We feel Youth Cafe allows young people from our local area to get together in a positive environment. This year 6 of our oldest young people have been made "young leaders" and given extra responsibilities such as running the tuck shop. Our young leaders were pleased to be able to help out at Hingham's Medieval Market and will also be helping serve teas at the Queen's birthday celebrations.

This year we have been really pleased to have received funding from the Town Council, which not only allowed us to buy a new table football set (very popular!), but also ensured we could cover our insurance costs. Youth Cafe costs are covered by a small charge made on the door. We are able to cover the cost of hiring the Lincoln Hall or Sports Hall this way. Paying our insurance is the main overhead which we have and we hope to be able to secure funding for this soon so that we can ensure Youth Cafe will continue next year.

Thank you to the Town Council for your continued support of Youth Cafe.

Zoe Jones

Hingham Youth Cafe.



19th April 2016

Hingham Pre-School Playgroup Report for Town Council

Hingham playgroup has had another successful year. Our numbers are continuing to increase. We provide sessions morning and afternoon every week day apart from on a Thursday afternoon. We are able to provide 2 year old funding for families in need and 3 and 4 year old funding.

We have been continued to provide events to engage with the playgroup Families. We had a family Easter egg hunt and are planning a family event for father's day. We will also be holding a summer sports day.

The committee have continued to work hard to enable the smooth running of playgroup by sorting out the business, legal matters and practical issues involved in running a setting such as this in our own purpose built building. As always I would like to thank Nicola Hindle and her staff team for all their hard work in making this such a brilliant playgroup.

Rebecca Mitchell - Chairperson Hingham Playgroup

ST. ANDREW'S HINGHAM HERITAGE FUND CHARITY NUMBER 1071172

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The first meeting of the newly formed committee took place on 11 May 2015 and they were happy to continue with plans already outlined. The Open Gardens, pamper day, curry lunch, Dixiemix jazz band and market stalls last year all did well.

I would like to thank a good friend of the Heritage fund who died last July after a long struggle. Steve Vince used to donate trays of produce to sell at the market stalls and this accounted for between 50 and 60 per cent of our takings. He also helped when we had activities in the Lincoln Hall. We will always remember his quiet nature and generosity.

We have put together a varied list of fundraising activities for 2016, starting with light lunches with music in Church on 20 April (these will continue every month until September). A barn dance is arranged for 2 July and The Academy of St. Thomas orchestra will be performing in September.

We would be delighted to see you there!

Geoff Young 852332

Annual Town Meeting : Tuesday 19th April 2016

St Andrew's Ringers ('STARS') Annual Report

The handbell group has now been going for 4 years and continues to thrive. There are currently 13 members in the group and we meet once a week. Most of the original members still play. We have played out a number of times during the last year – to local care/residential homes, at the Medieval Fair and in February the Salvation Army invited us to play at a 'musical' evening they were holding which was very enjoyable.

During the last year we purchased some new foam pads for the tables and some new music and we hope to purchase more music in order to widen our repertoire.

METHODIST CHURCH BOND STREET HINGHAM

We are a friendly bunch and enjoy welcoming new friends to our Church every Sunday.

We have a service at 10.30 till 11.30 am followed by tea and coffee.

Our services are traditional with a more 'relaxed' feel.

We have a different visiting Lay Preacher each week giving a good variety of preaching styles.

Our Minister, Rev.Eleanor Reddington Takes a Communion Service once a month.

Fortnightly, on Monday morning at 10.00 am we have a small

Bible Discussion Group, looking at how the Bible is relevant to our lives today.

ON THE 'SOCIAL SIDE'

We hold a 'COFFEE SHOP' on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10am to 12noon. It is a MARKET with a CAFÉ, serving tea, coffee, homemade cheese or fruit scones - for under £1.

We have stalls selling Nearly New Clothes, Books, Jigsaws, Bric-a-Brac, Jewellery, Homemade Cakes and Preserves.

Also a Crafty Corner to keep the children busy while you browse.

COME AND HAVE A LOOK!

** In our courtyard there is a bin for you to recycle all your plastic lids from milk bottles, fizzy drinks, washing up & washing liquid bottles 'soft spread' and ice cream cartons etc. Please put all tops into plastic containers(you can make a slit in a plastic milk bottle and insert them into it) before putting into the bin. Thank you.** NO COFFEE JAR LIDS or METAL

Forthcoming Events

Friday May 20th 2016 Beetle Drive 7pm at Hingham Bowls Club

Saturday June 18th 2016 6pm Pudding Evening Schoolroom Methodist Church

July 16th 2016 Hingham Garage & Yard Sale 10-2pm

October 22nd 2016 Old Tyme Music Hall at Lincoln Hall

For more information on any of the above please contact Heather Parle 850997 or Heather Juby 850228



HINGHAM GARDENING CLUB

Hingham Gardening Club has had yet another successful year with very successful shows in April and September, and a plant stall in May, which will be repeated this year. The club took the decision early this year to cancel the Spring Show as many daffodils had already bloomed and died – the main exhibits at the spring show are of course spring flowers.

Two evening visits were organised last year to Dale Farm in Dereham and to Desert World at Santon Downham. These were enjoyed by all who attended and are well worth a visit if you get the chance (Dale Farm opens for the National Gardens Scheme.) Other speakers have included Jim Paine from Walnut Tree Nursery – Gardening in the winter, Simon White of Peter Beales Roses – Chelsea and Hampton Court, Trevor Harrison of Creake Plant Centre – late colour in the garden and Dr Ian Bedford of the John Innes Centre talking about Gardens Bugs; cohabit, conserve or control. We also had a Christmas party with a visit from santa.

A trip to Waddeston Manor was arranged but had to be cancelled as too few people wanted to travel with us. We're trying again this year with a trip to Hyde Hall. Anyone wanting to join us, please contact the secretary (Carolyn) on 850213. The trip is arranged for 23rd July and the cost is £14 for members and £17 for non members.

This year's speakers include Jane Lister from Hoecroft plants (February) with an evening visit to the nursery on 13th September, Delphiniums (March), Irises (April), Never a dull moment (May) – what plants you could grow in a small garden, A-Z of Nature (August), Butterflies (October) and of course a Christmas party in December.

Come and join us, we are quite friendly and we always have a cup of tea and a biscuit at meetings. Member numbers are quite low at present but we are still here – even though the rumour mill says we will soon be closing down. We need committee members and helpers so please do come and join us.

Carolyn



Secretary - 850213

HINGHAM RECTORY BOWLS CLUB

Report for Town Meeting

Hingham Rectory Bowls Club enjoyed a successful season in 2015 with membership up on the previous year. Four teams competed in the English Bowls Association, [finishing second in the league], Federation and Ashill leagues on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and in the Age UK league on Thursday and Friday afternoons. An internal Australian Pairs league is played on Saturday evenings at the Club. If you would prefer not to play in a competitive environment, the green is open at any time for a small fee for all members

We continue to support the community by letting out the club and bar for events and are pleased to playing our part in the HM The Queen's birthday celebrations on June 11th by providing bar facilities and opening the green to the public.

The green opens on 23rd April and the first league game is on the 27th.

New and prospective members are always welcome.

Contact: Colin Harris

01953 850938

April 7th 2016

In a nut shell...

For those of you who haven't been reading the Hingham Magazine or read our leaflet that went to every home and business in Hingham a couple of weeks ago, we're here to tell you a little about something new and exciting that's coming to Hingham this summer.

It's still hard to imagine that a casual conversation between three friends about trying to do something to renovate the dilapidated tennis courts by the sports hall in the summer of 2014 led us to being successful in being awarded a £75,000 National Lottery Grant and raise a further £15,000. If you haven't yet noticed, the courts have been completely rebuilt and the 'Tennis Hut' building courtside is up and about to be fitted and kitted out. There are new floodlights too, allowing play all year round.

The club will be home to a vibrant sporting facility, offering you the chance to enjoy sport, socialise and meet new people. There will be a full programme of coaching and club events, regardless of age or ability.

Hingham Tennis will be fully integrated into *Hingham Playing Fields Association's* Sports Hall site, giving us access to an indoor space, ample parking, changing rooms, showers, kitchen and social club with bar.

We are offering very reasonable annual membership rates as well as the option for anyone to 'Pay & Play'. If you do decide to become a member, you will get **Unlimited FREE use of two courts** all year round, from 7:00am - 10:00pm, **Swipe card** access to the **Tennis Hut** to view play and relax with friends, we have a coach delivering a full programme of weekly events, the club will organise & run **social events** for members of all ages throughout the year, members over 9yrs old can opt into the annual *Hingham Tennis Wimbledon Ticket Ballot*, we've set up a **Player Colour Code** where all adult members will be invited to be assigned one of four colours by our coach, which matches their level of tennis skill (think skiing e.g. green run beginner / black run advanced), **Online bookings** to reserve a court or book and pay for any of our timetabled coaching sessions, and much much more.

We'd like to take this opportunity to publically thank the local community for rallying behind us with their support and encouragement for this project. We're really excited and look forward to seeing you all courtside very soon...

Hingham Cricket Club

2015 Season

Hingham cricket club had a poor season last year with the first team being relegated and the second team having to be disbanded because of lack of players.

The club are however looking forward to the new season with optimism and have a squad of enthusiastic players who are keen to take the club back up the league again. New players are always welcome and it is hoped with new people moving into the town some may be interested in Cricket, please ring Alan Juby (01953 850228) for further details.

It is hoped that with the new grass cutting contractors the outfield in early season will be kept short enough to cause no problems and complaints from visiting teams.

Finally we would like to thank all our sponsors for their continuing support and look forward to seeing more spectators at the Watton Playing Field during the forthcoming season.

A J JUBY Treasurer

**REPORT to the HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL from
Hingham Playing Field Association (HPFA) for 2015/2016
Charity No: 286060**

Introduction

The HPFA manages the play and sports facilities on behalf of the town. The HPFA is a charity, run by 5 trustees, volunteers who might not be involved in any of the Clubs. The HPFA Committee is made up of the these volunteers, a representative of each club, and representatives of other village interests, such as the Town Council, District Councillor, Team Rector, RBL, etc. The Committee meets monthly and club representatives attend when they can. There is a small voluntary fundraising committee which meets less frequently, and arranges two or three fundraising events per year. We have one self-employed Bookings Manager/Caretaker (Mr Nigel Matthews) and a cleaner (shared with the Social Club), paid on an hourly basis.

The HPFA's job is to manage and maintain the fabric of the Sports Hall building; the two children's play areas and the playing fields as directed by the lease with the Hingham Town Council. HPFA pays £100 per year rent to the Council under the terms of the lease for the Sports Ground, last signed in September 1999 for a period of 50 years. The Play Area in Hardingham Street (The Wellcome Space) and the buildings and structures on the Playing Fields are owned by the HPFA.

HPFA income is received solely from fees charged to the Social and Sports Clubs and other users of the Sports Hall. All other income is either from Section 106 money paid by developers to South Norfolk District Council (only able to be used on community recreation and leisure activities), or funding applications that we make ourselves to the Council, South Norfolk District or other funding bodies. This accounting year we have made an operating loss of £3,159.92. This reflects both the number and costs of urgent refurbishment and maintenance work and the purchase of new items of equipment as detailed below. Our reserves are £17,804.

The Sports Hall and Playing Fields are used by 14 clubs and other groups, accounting for around 1,500 visitors each month. The balcony has attracted new users and the meeting room is used by clubs and other groups regularly.

Maintenance Activities

The Sports Hall Floor: Following the repairs to the crack in the floor last year, we are disappointed that the crack has reappeared and we have been working to identify how best

to maintain it in the medium term to ensure that it is safe and playable. We are grateful to our clubs for their patience while we try to find a longer term, affordable solution.

The Car Park: The resurfaced car park has improved the site, but we are having problems with large lorries using the area for turning, or parking up for long periods. We have also had a spate of youngsters testing their 'doughnut' skills – which digs up the gravel and requires time consuming raking to avoid new potholes. We are currently seeking funds to install external HD cameras to cover the entrances, car park and building.

Grass Maintenance: Our clubs and parents continued to report insufficient cutting and no picking up of grass mowings on the Playing Fields and Welcomme Space during the year. We invested in a modern cutting machine and submitted an unsuccessful bid to deliver the grasscutting service for the town, but going forward we will use the machine to supplement the work of the contractor if necessary. This investment was funded from a private funding charity and our own reserves.

Electricity / Photo-Voltaic Panels: The panels generating electricity have been on the south facing roof of the hall for 4 years now. and so far the PV has returned £6,376.72 in FITS repayments. However, It must be said that our use of electricity has doubled since the installation in 2012, and this year cost £4,688.09. We have therefore begun a programme to upgrade our lighting to LEDs, which though expensive initially, uses less electricity, provides better light and lasts longer than neon strips. So far we have done this in the main changing room which has dramatically improved the whole look and feel of the space. We will continue this across the building as funds allow.

Kitchen Improvements: This year we have replaced the fridge with a fridge/freezer, through a 50% contribution from Norfolk County Over-60's Bowls Club, and replaced the oven through a 75% contribution from the South Norfolk Neighbourhood Fund. We have also replaced the hot water boiler.

The Tennis Club: We have been particularly busy supporting the Tennis Club with their redevelopment of the Tennis Courts and establishment of a Tennis Hut. As HPFA must own all the permanent buildings and structures on the Playing Fields site, the Sport England capital grant has had to be managed through the HPFA. Progress has been swift, and I must thank the Tennis Club team who have worked on all the detail with such enthusiasm. It has been really thrilling to be part of a new young group of families in our community who have such vision and determination. HPFA are proud that these new facilities will soon be available.

Dog Walkers: There is an ongoing problem of aggressive dog walkers, and those who fail to pick up their dog's poo while using the Playing Fields and the Welcome Space. We know this is an issue more widely across the town and we are working with Hingham Town Council to find solutions.

2016 Annual County Council Report

Council Tax

Following a public consultation on ways of reducing Norfolk County Council costs each committee considered the responses relevant to its department and made recommendations for consideration by the full Council when it agreed its budget in February. This enabled the Council to find savings of £42 million for the next financial year. This is part of a total of £100million which it needs to save over the next three years.

The Government then stated that Councils could increase their tax by up to 2% and could also increase by another 2% to cover the increasing cost of Adult Social Care, so, Norfolk County Council agreed to increase Council Tax by 3.9% which includes 2% specifically for Adult Social Care. This is an extra 88p per week for a Band D property.

As funding from Government will be decreasing over the next few years it has allocated the Council an extra £4.6 million, for this year only, to cover one-off funding towards 'invest to save' initiatives that will contribute towards the budget in the future.

Acknowledging the public response to the consultation, the Council decided not to close any recycling centres, libraries or fire stations as part of the cost cutting exercise.

Fire Service

Having investigated ways of further reducing costs the Fire Service are sharing some station premises and as they have begun working more closely with the Police Service some of their management teams have moved into Police Headquarters in Wymondham.

Re imagining Norfolk

Each department is looking for ways of delivering the same services more economically.

The customer website has been reviewed and updated to make it easier for local residents to report problems and track their progress, access information or contact a specific department.

Highways

This year we have agreed 122 Parish Partnership Schemes which will enable villages to put in safety schemes such as flashing signs, footpaths, trods, wig-wags, bus shelters, etc.

There will also be a new £1.5 million fund for small projects and potholes.

It has been acknowledged that there is a problem with the tarmac used on roads in some areas and the company concerned will be covering the cost of resurfacing those areas.

Due to the mild winter the Council saved £350,000 of the funding allocated for gritting the roads.

Work had begun on the Northern Distributer Route which will run from Postwick to the Fakenham Road and should be completed by 2018. A Wensum Valley Final Link committee has been set up to look at how this road might be connected to the A47 to make another ring road around the outskirts of Norwich.

Education

Ofsted has judged 82% of Norfolk primary schools and 77% of secondary schools as 'good' or better.

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

This last financial year has seen many changes both in Local and National Government. Following the election in May 2015 South Norfolk Conservatives were returned for another 4 years with an increased majority of 40 out of 46 Councillors. This mandate from the public supported our policies over the previous 8 years to grow the local economy and enhance the environment while still making sure that those who are in need receive the help they are entitled to quickly and efficiently.

Our social agenda has delivered nearly 300 affordable homes to rent and buy in the last year both in our market towns and our rural villages, more than 30% of the total built in the District. We have been recognised nationally for our ground breaking work on focusing the housing register on those needing the greatest help and preventing homelessness. Our Housing register is continually less than 1000 families which ensures most that qualify to join are able to find a home to rent in less than a year. Next year we hope to be able to help even more families in need of Aids and Adaptations using extra funding available through the Disabled Facilities grant scheme. Indeed some of the work being pioneered at Long Stratton is acknowledged as best practice and is being copied throughout the Country.

We are working on a project to revise the current refuse routes to ensure the service is as efficient as it can be. Whilst last October our work on the 'Give and Take' reuse events throughout the District won the Local Authorities Recycling Advisory Committee award for Best Waste Minimisation or prevention project.

The collaborative 'Early Help' hub pioneered at Long Stratton continues to grow and its success means that it is currently being rolled out to every District in Norfolk. This single point of contact has been extended to include Mental health services, whilst the South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board life skills programme for young people is being adopted by 3 other Districts. We have recruited 6 Community Connectors who work in our market Towns and villages by working with vulnerable residents least likely to approach us for help. Additionally the new 'Forget me Not' grants are available for people living with Dementia and our extended 'Handyperson Scheme' enables them to keep their independence and prevent or delay the need for admission into residential care.

We have started building new homes and businesses on land that we owned at Poringland and Long Stratton, and the improvements to our Leisure Services in both Diss and Wymondham have been subject to a £4million investment. This is part of a plan to build a service where residents can have access to the facilities to get fit and healthy at a price they can afford, with further improvements planned at Long Stratton. The golden principle to our success has been to retain critical capacity whilst running services in house for both ourselves and other Districts both within and outside Norfolk to improve our resilience.

The South Norfolk Local Plan (Site Specific Policies and Allocations Document) was approved and adopted last year and is the blueprint for both Housing and Business growth from now until 2026. We continue to examine planned new developments on their merits and insist on infrastructure requirements to facilitate growth in a co-ordinated manner. Work has already begun on the next Joint Core Strategy with our partners in Norwich and Broadland, to ensure that growth is properly planned between now and 2036.

Locally here this year in Hingham and Deopham, Clubs and Societies have once again benefitted from our various Grant schemes. I have helped local clubs in Hingham and Deopham from my ward grant scheme, whilst I have helped secure larger grants of £1000 towards a new Cooker at the Hingham Playing Field Association, and £7000 towards the essential maintenance work on the gable end of the Lincoln hall. I have also been pleased to enable the Hingham Town Council to obtain grants of nearly £1000 towards the events programme that has been so successful in the town over the last year.

We look forward to continuing the work in 2016/17 and always aim to improve the quality of life for all our residents.

***Cllr Yvonne Bendle, Hingham and Deopham Ward
Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Early Intervention
Vice-Chairman Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board
Tel: 01953 850306***

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