



**EYE TOWN COUNCIL**

# **Eye Annual Town Meeting**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018  
7.30 pm - Town Hall, Eye**

**Local Groups and Organisations**

**Reports Attached**

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## **The Church of St Peter and St Paul: Eye Company of Ringers**

Ringling progress report for the Annual Town Meeting 2018

I am pleased to report that the Eye Company of Ringers now numbers 12 active members, all of whom have been elected members of the Suffolk Guild and regularly attend weekly practices and ring for services.

The band has continued to ring regularly for services on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month during 2017 - 18.

In addition, the bells have been rung for 2 weddings and on 4 other occasions. These were a quarter peal rung by Mike Wigney from a wheelchair and a band from Barnes, the inauguration of the Town Mayor, Remembrance Sunday and the Hartismere Carols.

Gradual and steady progress is being made by the band which unfortunately has recently been hampered by illness. In addition to call changes, plain hunt and simple method ringing are now a regular part of weekly practices.

A preliminary meeting about bell restoration has been held by four members of the band with Peter Lee.

The main aim of the band is still to ring on all 8 bells for alternate Sunday services.

St John Perry (Tower Captain)  
April 2018

## **AbilityNet:**

AbilityNet's *ITCanHelp* volunteers provide free IT support to disabled and older people in their home anywhere in the UK. The volunteers are all disclosure-checked. They can help with all sorts of IT problems, from installing your first PC to sorting out viruses and most other technical issues.

You can request a home visit by:

- Calling our Freephone Helpline on **0800 269 545** (during Office Hours).
- Sending an email to [enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk)
- Using our Home Visit Request Form, via our website.

AbilityNet's website can be found at [www.abilitynet.org.uk/at-home](http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/at-home), for more information.

## **Village Voices Community Choir:**

We meet almost every Monday evening\* in Hoxne for a 90-minute practice. There are no auditions!

All adults are welcome to join us. We occasionally perform in a concert (e.g. Christmas).

We are all about:

- Enjoying ourselves.
- Creating a safe place for our singing voices to be explored and heard in an accepting and non-judgemental environment.
- Everyone who wants to sing with others having the opportunity to do so.
- Making sure no-one feels excluded if they don't read music, but equally using sheet music for those that want to.
- Building confidence in ourselves as singers and performers.
- Making the best and most beautiful sound and music that we can.

\* *except during the Summer*

For further information, please complete the online form at:  
[www.thevillagevoices.weebly.com/contact-us.html](http://www.thevillagevoices.weebly.com/contact-us.html)

## **2018 report on 490th BG Eye.**

Despite our ever diminishing numbers of volunteers, we continue in our efforts to commemorate the young airmen who served in Eye during WWII, and to remember the community of Eye who suffered so much during together during that time.

Our work on the heritage trail across the airfield is about 1/3 complete but is currently suspended awaiting further advice from MSDC and the final decision regarding the new road planned from the proposed new roundabout on the A140, across arable land to the B1077, at a point alongside Liberator Way. Because of the suggestion of this new road the location of the planned Memorial to the Black engineers who built the airfield is now in some doubt. We are considering the viability of re-routing part of the heritage trail to a quieter pathway thus allowing visitors (of which a good number visit each year from America), walkers and holidaymakers, the opportunity to enjoy the surroundings and pay their respects without the thunder of 40-ton trucks going about their business.

The 490th BG Eye are finding it more of a struggle to continue to raise the small amounts of money required to ensure the Memorial and roll of honour is maintained regularly. A recently planned quiz night had to be cancelled due to lack of interest and support from the local community. We are fortunate to have some real support from one or two groups and a few people in Eye and we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to them for their continued help and support. However, going forward, we may need to consider holding future fund-raising events at alternative local village locations.

On a more positive note we are expecting 50 visitors from the U.S in late May and a further 5 in early June. We are very much looking forward to showing them our lovely town, which will mostly be closed because of the Bank Holiday. However, this will not detract from them seeing the airfield and Memorial and the town clerk has kindly agreed to arrange for the Roll of Honour to be available to be viewed. The Eye Bank Arts Centre have also agreed to open free of charge to offer a welcoming hand and a small display of artefacts pertinent to WWII and Suffolk and more particularly the 490th BG.

The 490th BG standing committee would also like to extend our thanks to the Town Councillors of Eye, who also voluntarily donate their time and energies to our community. It is much appreciated.

## **Eye Town General Meeting 2018: Eye Magazine**

The Eye Magazine was started by a management committee under the auspices of the Parish Church in July 1978. We have now produced 441 editions, under the guidance of about 12 different editors. Throughout, the magazine has been supported by a loyal band of individuals and companies who have advertised in the magazine, a regular group of writers sending in contributions and most importantly a group of volunteers (led by Eileen Noller) who distribute the magazine to over 1100 houses each month. April was the first month that the magazine has been available on the Eye Town Website, to make it more accessible to visitors to Eye.

Working with Andrew Brown as local magazine designer was extremely successful through to February this year, with Andrew setting the standards for presentation that I hope we can continue. His intervention also saved us a lot of money by reducing the Printer's time for laying out the magazine, allowing us build up a working cash float. However, Andrew has had to step back from the treadmill of monthly commitment to the magazine, so we are now dependent on the Printer for layout... and the costs have gone up considerably. If anybody has skills in magazine layout/Publisher and can commit to working for free and the fun of it, please contact the editor - me!

When I look back through all the documents filed (or misfiled) in my computer I am amazed at the cumulation of e-mails/articles and invoices. If anybody fancies joining the management group as business manager controlling the advertising revenue, then just say the word...please!

Despite the trials and tribulations of running the magazine solo, I continue to enjoy my role as editor and hope that the people of Eye will continue to enjoy the magazine and will contribute items of interest and support the advertisers by using the local services that they provide.

Chris Willoughby  
Editor, Eye Magazine  
tel: 01379 870298  
e-mail: tollgate53@icloud.com

## **Eye Town Moors Woodlands 2018**

The past year has seen a minor upturn in the fortunes of the Eye Town Moors. Presentations at the Eye Goes Green Meeting and later to the Eye Gardner's group resulted in an increase in the number of volunteers helping to manage the woods, whilst a contribution from the MSDC community fund will pay for the insurance for another year.

We have seen more storms this year, taking down numbers of the old poplars and willows that survived the 1987 storm, and ash die-back is causing us problems. We have been very fortunate to have Mike Smith, an experienced tree surgeon, working with us, providing time and expertise to take down dangerous trees and to cut up fallen trees where the timber is too large for our hand saws. Bernard Tatum, with his little orange tractor has also been a great help mowing the major paths and we hope that the mowing can be extended to the front area of the woods to create an open grassy area.

Losing trees is not a totally bad thing for a woodland as the open spaces created encourage new growth and we have planted over 200 new trees, including hornbeam, wild cherry, service tree and birch to replace areas where we've lost trees. We have also cleared round the South Pond to create a new walk and let more light into the pond.

This spring has been very wet. We spent time working on the ditch along the road and the central ditch - now running like a babbling brook on wet days, but still need to install drainage pipes under the main path to help this to try and dry out their path so that it can be mown more easily.

As spring arrives, the nettles and comfrey start to grow, so we will be starting the regular trimming back to keep paths open. Come and join us for two hours in the morning of the second Sunday each month. You will feel better for it and your help will be much appreciated by us and by the walkers who use enjoy the woods.

Chris Willoughby  
Chairman, Eye Town Moors Woodland Society  
tel: 01379 870298  
e-mail: tollgate53@icloud.com

## TWINNING NEWS

The Eye & District Twinning Association has gone from strength to strength over the past year. The number of people involved in the activities organised by the Association has increased, and an enjoyable time has been had by all.

The committee meetings- which are open to everyone who has an interest in furthering links with our friends in **Pouzauges**- have been held regularly, on the first Tuesday of each month, and the Officers are thanked for the interest and enthusiasm that they have shown, during a busy year.

Also, a number of people have worked hard to organise the social events, that have raised much-needed funds for the Association.

The Safari Supper brings people together for the usual gastronomic delights.

John Bourne and his team organised the popular quiz, which has now become a highlight of the year for quizzers; and Joyce Tatum and friends made sure that nobody went away empty-handed from the annual Jumble Sale in February. Andrew and Joy Evitt once again kindly played host for the Barbeque, and although the weather on the day in September was cool, I am sure that this event will be back by popular demand this summer.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the visit to Eye of our friends from Pouzauges, from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May until Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>. A great deal of hard work went into the planning for the visit, and thanks are extended to all those who were involved. The Bowls Club hosted a friendly and relaxed reception, which included the assured input of Sam Mabbitt and Jeffrey Plater- sixth form students from Hartismere- as translators for the Eye speech-givers. The trustees of the Eye Playing Field Association are thanked for stepping in at the last moment to offer the car park at the Community Centre for the parking of the French coach over the three days.

The trip to Felixstowe was enjoyed by everybody, especially as the weather was warm and sunny. After a visit to Landguard Fort, and a tasty buffet lunch at the Felixstowe Ferry Inn, guests and hosts were able to stroll along the prom, ice cream in hand, and one or two brave souls even showed the French how to paddle in the sea whilst keeping a smile on one's face!

The finale to the visit was the Dinner Dance held in Eye Town Hall. Anne Fiddy, of Bakewell Caterers, provided a very tasty meal, and an hilarious game of Bingo was followed by dancing and general merriment. One of the highlights of the evening was the involvement of the **young people** present, and it is to be hoped that with the involvement of the teachers at the local schools, and leaders at 1<sup>st</sup> Eye Scout Group, the association can focus on attracting more young people and their families to twinning in the future.

During the visit a joint committee meeting was held, partly to discuss plans for our visit to Pouzauges in 2018. It was decided that we will travel over during the October half-term holiday, to encourage families with children to take part, and enjoy everything that will be part of the celebration of **thirty years of twinning**.

The actual dates are **25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October**. It will be an occasion not to be missed and will lead onto a similar grand event in Eye in 2019.

To keep twinning in the public eye, regular social events are planned for the next few months, and beyond.

Chairman: Merlin Carr



### **EYE PLODDERS walking group**

During the past year, Eye Plodders- the group for Sociable Strollers- have been out on regular monthly walks, exploring the countryside of North Suffolk. And, there was even a walk close to south Norfolk!

Walks usually take place on the third Sunday morning of each month, and cover between five and six miles (8 to 10 km). The pace varies to suit those taking part, and dogs on leads are welcome.

In May we returned to Botesdale to repeat the walk that was affected by bad weather the previous year. This time, walkers enjoyed the warm and sunny weather. In June everyone met at the Billingford windmill. After slapping on sunscreen, everyone enjoyed a walk that took in part of the Angles Way, but boy was it hot!! Perhaps we need to walk it again, in cooler weather!

The walk in August started from The Pennings, and 22 people, with four dogs, had a gentle stroll to Denham Street and back. In October, the plod became one of the Countryfile Rambles for Children in Need, and money was raised for this worthy cause. The route took in Eye Town Woodlands, where there was a guided tour to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Great Storm that devastated the area. Thanks to Chris Willoughby and his team for organising this `bonus` walk.

In November we journeyed close to the border with Norfolk, to complete an enjoyable circular walk from Hopton, which included the edge of Hopton Fen. The Pre-Pudd Plod in December ended at The Bank for tea and cakes, and on New Year's Day the sixth Annual Circular Walk attracted 43 people and ten dogs. Thanks again for all those who catered for the Soup Lunch in the Community Centre at the end of the walk.

Because of all the rain that fell at the start of the year, it was thought prudent to stick to the lanes for the plod in February, so an enjoyable route was devised from Fressingfield. Most weekends in March seemed to be badly affected by heavy snowfall, so the next outing took place in April, and started and finished in Mendlesham. Even then, it was pretty soggy in places!

New walkers are always welcome, particularly young people, so that the regular young plodders have something to chat about other than pension planning and the state of the world today! Contact Merlin Carr on [merlin\\_carr@hotmail.com](mailto:merlin_carr@hotmail.com) to be included on the emailing list.

### **WALKING NEWS OF THE YEAR**

At the beginning of January 2018 Eye became a **WALKERS ARE WELCOME TOWN!** This national accreditation is a feather in the cap for Eye and is down to the hard work of a small number of people on the steering committee. Thank you very much! It is hoped that over the next few years more people from Eye will walk the footpaths around the town and beyond, more walkers will visit the town and spend more money in the shops, and more people will join the team and spread the word about what Eye and north Suffolk has to offer.

**THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF EYE WALKERS ARE WELCOME TAKES PLACE ON THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018, AND THERE WILL BE WALKING EVENTS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE 23<sup>rd</sup> AND 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Merlin Carr

## EYE WI

Last year's talks included Medical Detection Dogs and how they detect cancer, a member's illustrated trip to Antarctica, Sheep to Shawl - from a fleece to spun wool, a flower arranging demonstration, Yoga for Hands & Shoulders, Gardening for Wildlife, Ancient Trees and Exploring Suffolk By Bus Pass, this by the very entertaining Pip Wright. We also had a very successful Flower Arranging workshop morning. Our six monthly Group meeting at Eye Bowls Club was a talk on how an incredible 60 year old lady moved her house from Hertfordshire to Wells in Norfolk – brick by brick – she died in her 80s with her task unfinished!

In July we had our annual Cream Tea & Croquet afternoon, hosted by Tricia Brown, skill in playing croquet not essential, nor playing compulsory! We also had our usual Harvest Supper in September and Christmas Buffet.

We had two outings the first being to Earsham Hall, in July (through Invitation to View) followed by an enormous afternoon tea. In September we had a day out in Southwold, with lunch on Dunwich Beach and a matinee performance at the Summer Theatre.

We're not a large branch, around 35 members, and I like to think that we're very friendly and would certainly welcome more members.

Liz Power  
President  
01379 678338

[lizandpeterpower@yahoo.com](mailto:lizandpeterpower@yahoo.com)

## **Annual town report for Eyes Open CIC/The Bank**

We would like to report that The Bank, operated by Eyes Open CIC, is alive and well though still in recovery. After a period of difficulty due to a lack of financial oversight, a new set of directors have got it back on its feet and we are trading again. A very successful art auction using a wide array of donated art raised over £13,000 which cleared the debt and gave us a small cushion to re-open trading. For that we give our huge thanks to those that donated artwork or responded to the T.W. Gaze and Sons auctioneer and were very generous with their money.

That means the café is open from Wednesday to Saturday serving its super coffee, tea, cake and light lunches. Throughout the week there are a series of classes covering subjects as diverse as life drawing, Spanish, pottery and shamanic reiki. The place is also being used for events from plays to concerts. Eyes Write have 4 plays on June 8<sup>th</sup> being performed and after a successful evening by Klezmerise we are doing some outreach and using the community centre for another concert to allow in a bigger audience and room to dance.

A new art exhibition will be up for the open garden weekend and onwards further demonstrating the place is starting to buzz. Of course, as we get busier we need people to help us. We are really keen to add some new people to our rota of volunteers to help run the café and provide back up to events. Drop in and pick up some information of what we are looking for.

Eyes Open CIC seeks to boost community well-being and endeavour in Eye and surrounding villages through art. That also means we are very happy to listen: to your feedback, needs and ideas. If people would like to offer skills and experience to help others, or ideas on what they would like to try themselves then again drop into The Bank and pass it on. The current directors are Penny McSheehy, Ursula Halton, Peter Brooke, Christopher Parr and Simon Hooton with Nick Roche as financial manager.

## **Dove Players**

The Dove Players had another successful year. In May we held a murder mystery afternoon tea in the Town Hall with 55 people enjoying the humour and the tea. The pantomime, Dick Whittington, in December was very successful and received some very pleasing feedback. With its mix of young and old – the age ranges from 9 to over 60- the panto gives a wide set of opportunities to people who want to act, sing, play music or tackle the technical side. Those people have a range of abilities and our desire is to welcome all. We are also supported by others who believe in our community approach. The Community Centre team were amazingly supportive and gave us splendid help. A large number of business provide sponsorship with the main supporters woven into the script and we thank them all.

In the coming year we hope to join in activities at The Bank and will be heading to another pantomime on December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be an introductory meeting for those wanting to get involved on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June – and in this way we can create a script to suit those who want to get involved. Newcomers, on stage, behind the scenes or as musicians and technicians are very welcome to get in touch.

## **Simon Hooton - Vice Chair**

### **EGG**

EGG, that can be translated into Eye Goes Green, is a new group seeking to empower our communities to enhance, treasure and safeguard the natural environment and quality of life for all. We are based in Eye but seek to work with the surrounding parishes as well, through providing information, ideas and practical action to lessen our adverse impacts on our planet.

A very successful autumn fair brought many people into Eye to buy recycled and green products and learn about ways they can help the environment. We have supported the idea of helping swifts with new nest boxes going up and will seeking help to identify where they are nesting this summer. We've championed local food and started exploring options for community owned renewable energy. With locality money from the District Councillor we are planning a series of events for residents to learn about our wildlife, lessening waste, tackling climate change as well as swift awareness. There will also be a series of after school events for young people designed with their help. All our meetings are open, and newcomers are very welcome with our first AGM being held at The Bank on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Simon Hooton- Chair**

## CINEMA AT EYE

When we started the Cinema at Eye about 15 years ago, it was a much more amateurish set up than it is today, and a really professional group now run the organisation. Then we had a stand- alone screen which took a couple of people about 20 minutes to erect – now we have a larger screen which amazingly drops down at the touch of a button. We also have surround sound which makes the whole event even more enjoyable. Then we had rather dull advertising posters done in Word on an elderly computer –now we have wonderful advertising and posters done by technical members of the team. We still get our films through Moviola, a registered charity which deals with all the troublesome bits such as arranging the licences, liaising with the distributors etc. They supply films to many community and other not for profit groups - we are associate members as their home ground is in the Dorset area, but they are immensely helpful to us, and the discs arrive by post a few days before our showing. We show at Eye Community Centre which is run by Eye Playing Field Association, and they run the very popular bar, while we serve tea, coffee and biscuits and fabulous ice cream in the interval, as well as having a really good raffle, and these help with the finances.

We now increased our shows from one to 2 films a month and recently been having had a matinee on the Sunday following the Friday showing, but have reluctantly decided that at the moment we cannot afford to continue with these, because of recent financial constraints.

We have a core group of supporters and we would like to think that is because it makes for a very and cheap social evening out and where else would one see a good section of up to date and interesting films without having to travel if you haven't been yet, come to Paddington 2 on Friday May 25th (this film replaces The Darkest Hour, which will now be shown in June, on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>)

**Penny McSheehy**



## Eye Rainbows Annual Report

Year ended April 2018

Eye Rainbows have had another busy and successful year. We were joined by an new adult leader and a new young leader, both of whom are working towards their respective leadership qualifications.

Over the last year the Rainbows have taken part in a range of activities. In the Summer term we completed a *Get Messy Challenge*, and great fun was had by all. We made our own bubble mixture, bobbed for apples, painted with marbles, made armpit fudge and to end the term we made some fairy doors and miniature gardens.

The Autumn term saw us join with Roydon Rainbows for our now annual sleepover which was held at Stoke Ash Guide Centre for the first time. Nearly 30 Rainbows enjoyed taking part in a Firework Challenge, focussing on safety and fun crafts. The girls were very pleased to be able to use sparklers outside. During this term we invited someone to talk to us about bat, it was too cold to see any at Stoke Ash but we hope to invite him back in the summer term to see if we can locate any. We also took part in the Eye Remembrance Parade and at the end of term celebrated Christmas with the rest of Eye District at a party in Debenham.

This term we have completed the Rainbow Seasons badge and been looking at the seasons and how things change over the course of the year.

Last year the Rainbows celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday by taking over Bewilderwood. Over 600 Rainbows from Norfolk and Suffolk spent a day at Bewilderwood taking part in activities just for them. The girls had a wonderful time and the leaders also enjoyed playing on the slides etc!

We currently have a long waiting list, therefore if parents are considering putting their daughters name we would ask that they do so as soon as possible. We have had girls on the list from the age of two. To register your daughter's interest in joining Guiding please visit the following website.

[https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get\\_involved/volunteer/register\\_your\\_interest.aspx](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer/register_your_interest.aspx)

Helen Soper, Unit Guider

March 2018.

[helenj.soper@talktalk.net](mailto:helenj.soper@talktalk.net)