



EYE TOWN COUNCIL

Eye Annual Town Meeting

**Tuesday 9th April 2018
7.30 pm - Town Hall, Eye**

Local Groups and Organisations

Reports Attached

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Eye & District Twinning Association -2018/19 Report

Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday 09th April 2019

It has been another successful year for the Eye & District Twinning Association, thanks to the hard work of all the members who have turned up to Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, to discuss a range of issues, and for putting in place the plans for a number of social and fund-raising events.

A successful Safari Supper was held in spring followed by the Annual Barbecue again kindly hosted by Andrew and Joy Evitt at the end of July which was well attended, and retains its reputation as the place to be, in the Eye social calendar!

Of course, the main event of the year was the trip to France, to celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary in Pouzauges between the two Twinning Associations. Each person who went on the trip, either by coach, bike, car or plane, has their own memories of what was organised for us visitors, which included trips to either the District Council offices or a packaging factory; a residential sheltered home for people with additional needs; two windmills on a chilly morning; an official ceremony full of celebrity appearances, singing and dancing and charter-signing; and a tasty meal for 300 people, which included a group of lively Spaniards, with the obligatory “dance of the brioche”. Heavyweight gifts were exchanged, and the coach headed off into the night, with thoughts of the return visit in 2019 not far from everyone’s minds.

On a departure from the usual Annual Quiz, a True or False Evening was organised this January by John and Carol Bourne and their crew, and although numbers were slightly down due to the clash with other Burns Night events held locally, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. This year’s Annual Jumble Sale organised by Joyce Tatum and her helpers returned to the Town Hall, and saw a large footfall and record takings, welcome after last year’s Jumble sale held at the Community Centre had seen reduced takings as a result of poor weather and increased overheads.

2018 AGM saw a changing of the guard as our Chairman and Secretary Merlin and Verena Carr headed north of the border, with their enthusiastic hard work and endeavours they will be a tough double act to follow and we are thankful for all their efforts on behalf of the Eye Twinning Association. Anne Smethurst has taken on the role of Secretary, with Julie Hammond filling the post of Chairman ably assisted by Bernard Tatum as Vice Chairman.

Planning is now well under way for hosting the Pouzauges Twinning Association Thirtieth Anniversary visit to Eye together with a small honorary contingent from Meitingen, Germany over the weekend of 24th – 26th October 2019. Trips and visits are in place for this special decade celebration, which highlights local businesses and organisations that we are proud of in and around Eye. We hope that as we celebrate this milestone occasion, we will see some new faces joining our Twinning Association, as we are always pleased to welcome new members.

Julie Hammond – Chairman
Email: hawes.cottage@virgin.net

490th BG (H), Eye 2019/2020

Our work continues to make progress on several fronts.

The Airfield Trail.

We have concerns about how much the new and upcoming road improvement on the A140/B1077 the two roundabouts and the access onto the B1077 alongside what Liberator Way is currently, will affect the trail route. The placing of two information and rest stops along the top perittrak are also now in question. This is entirely due to the danger of running a public footpath alongside of a road busy with heavy 20-ton trucks and advertising it as a recreational area for the family. The alternative, suggested by Highways and byways is to seek permission for a permissive route through the various businesses on the airfield. As this would mean accessing various car parks each containing the aforementioned 20-ton trucks manoeuvring into position, it would seem unlikely that permission would be granted (H&S). We are therefore taking it slowly. We are currently also working alongside the Eye Walking groups who are being very supportive.

The Archive

Work has begun on digitising our archive. Suitable technology has been sourced and the work begun. As it is being undertaken at this point, by volunteers, progress is expected to be slow. When completely digitised it is hoped to obtain the services of an archivist to complete the project. Then our current concerns for the safekeeping of the collection will be relieved. At this time our Historians, Eric Swain and Clive Stevens and our administrators myself and Fred Astbury expect to be able to continue our work. However, it is inevitable that old age and infirmity will prevent us continuing ad infinite. At that point in time the entire collection will be handed into the safe keeping of the Suffolk Records Office. a shortened version of the presentation given by Clive Stevens about the airfield has been filmed and is now held in the new library. Visitors may request viewing which must be done on site via the library's computers or other suitable technology. No charge is made for this, it is our contribution to the community for the support they have always endeavoured to give us. Any loss or damaged can be easily rectified as we hold a copy. The film is of course held by copyright by the 490th BG, Eye. and cannot be leant or borrowed or otherwise taken from the library without our consent.

Visitors.

Last year over 100 visitors came to see the Memorial from the USA. Plus, an unknown number locally. We did, initially, have some difficulty accommodating the largest group (50) for the day but again members of the community stepped up and supported us. Making the day a huge success for the group of students who had travelled from Texas to visit Eye, only to discover it was closed.

2019

We are taking a very active part in this year's joining in with the Suffolk Walking Festival. An "on airfield" conducted walk, beginning at Castleton Way on the 12th May then later in that

month, 25th May a much bigger event around a walk between the Horham USAAF Hospital site and our airfield at the micro-brewery, Station 119. Who have agreed to play host and lay on a bar b que, beer of course. There will of course be plenty of old USAAF uniforms being worn, music played, and the aforementioned, short film of the old airfield shown all being well. Plus, a small display of military vehicles to return the walkers to their cars at Horham. NB. the 12th of May walk has already sold out. I understand a few tickets remain for the 25. it is intended that anyway the brewery will be open to the public so any non-walkers will be welcome to join us for a pint.

2020

Some thought is being given to whether next year's 75th anniversary of VE Day should be celebrated in Eye. Any thoughts or observations please to 490thmemorial@gmail.com.

Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest regrets at the passing of two outstanding members of the local Councils. Mick Robins and Michael Burke were both very supportive to us and will be very much missed.

Report for Eye Annual Town Meeting 9 April 2019
Eye New Age Kurling Club

Some 3 years ago, a group started to play kurling in Eye (not on ice, but on the polished wood floor of the Town Hall and using metal “stones” with steel castors). This group was organised by “ActivLives Suffolk” who helped to support this group and other local groups and paid for a leader/trainer. However, following the recent loss of some of its funding, ActivLives Suffolk decided to cease running the Eye kurling group and to concentrate their efforts on other local activities (including their strength and balance classes etc).

The playing members of the group, however, decided that they enjoyed their weekly activity and the social side of playing together regularly, and have therefore re-formed with effect from 1 January 2019 as the independent Eye New Age Kurling Club. We are having to be self-funding but are keen to continue playing kurling on a weekly basis.

We meet to play each Tuesday morning from 10:00 am till 12 noon in the Town Hall in Eye and membership is open to anyone over 55 living or located in the Eye area. Membership costs have been set at an annual rate, which is payable in advance, in two parts during the year. We aim to cover our costs but to be non-profit-making. We currently have 13 members and regular players (from whom we have elected a committee of 4).

For safety reasons and to ensure we all have a chance to play a reasonable number of times, we have set an initial maximum membership number of 20, however, we do have some spaces remaining and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining. We are happy to offer a try-us-and-see session free of charge, but please contact our secretary, Pam Cooke, for further information. Pam can be reached on 01379 678100 or by email on pamcooke130@gmail.com).

Pam Cooke
18.02.2019

Eye Town Council Report – The Forge Community Church in Eye

The Forge launched in Eye 2 years ago at Easter in 2017. Since then we have looked to play a growing part within the Eye community through looking to be known involved and helpful to individuals and organisations in the town. We are a church that meets every Sunday at Hartismere School at 4pm and look to be a church that unchurched people love to be a part of. Over the past year we have been honoured to be able to do the following in Eye:

- During our #ForEye weekends where we looked to help the town in practical ways, we had 42 volunteers, filling 91 different volunteer roles. As part of this:
 - We painted some of the exterior of Hartismere School
 - We built raised beds for the residents at Elizabeth Court
 - We re-painted the play park at Oak Crescent
 - We had teams of people to wash the towns road signs.
 - We had volunteers partake in community litter picks
 - We pruned the hedge in the play park at the community centre – a request bought to us as it was a place believed to be used by drug users, putting off parents from being able to bring their children.
 - We practically helped other organisations such as The Bank, The Community Centre, Dream On, The Vine Church and the HSCC.
 - As part of the Forge Church network we were able to give away £12,000 through our hardship fund to people in need across mid Suffolk.
- The Forge has a furniture bank run by John Collison who is part of Forge Eye who looks to buy, collect and restore furniture so that we can give it to those in need.
- We ran a summer holiday club that saw nearly 40 kids come along.
- Our most recent Away in a Hamper project sent out 116 hampers to families across Suffolk, ensuring that 466 people in need were able to have a full Christmas dinner on Christmas day.
- Our Moses project delivered 80 Moses baskets to families in need this year, ensuring that new mothers had all the essentials that they needed once giving birth.
- We ran a lunch and sing along for the residents of Elizabeth Court.
- We were able to get involved with community events such as, The Christmas Late Night Shopping and The Eye Family Fun Day.

We love being part of this community, and in the coming year we are seeking to be able to finally launch The Base. A detached young people's drop in that The Forge has already seen success with at its other location in Debenham and Thurston.

Organisation : Eye Local District Social Badminton Group

Contact Details :

Where & When : Hoxne Village Hall – Tuesday Mornings 9:30am to 11:30am

Background

The group is run by two Badminton England registered coaches and its primary aim is to provide badminton for beginners, returners and intermediates for both social and health purposes.

It's a relatively new group which started in September 2018 and takes place at Hoxne Village Hall. We are looking to expand participation by either providing more sessions at the current venue or finding an alternative facility, depending upon member/new member preferences.

In a recent health survey, badminton was highlighted as one of the best sports for prolonging life and improving health and fitness, above swimming, cycling and running.

So why not give it a try, age is definitely not a barrier, all that is required is enthusiasm (oh, and a pair of trainers). Refreshments provided both during and after the session.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

John & Steph

Eye Women's Institute

Eye W.I. are a very happy group, not too formal but every visitor who comes to a meeting says, what a delightful welcoming W.I. and a pleasure to visit. We are proud to be part of the Suffolk East Federation of Women's Institute.

At present we have 32 fully paid up members and three more will be joining in April.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, October till March held in the Eye Bowls Club and then from May till September in the Scout Hut, Wellington Road, Eye. In July we have that meeting in a member's garden which is titled a Cream Tea and Croquet!

At each meeting we have a speaker, the talks sometime have slides, film, photographs to illustrate the talk. We had a talk about The Titanic, her story from Launch to Loss. (even had one welcome gentleman at this talk!). A Mr Gordan Paley who knew, Roy Orbison, Mandela gave an excellent lovely talk, Zentangle drawing, Reflexology, Birds of Prey with two beautiful Owls looking at all the ladies, Art of Photography, Transportation of Suffolk Criminals, Royal Year, and even more.

Two ladies provide the refreshments (which of course includes cake!) Posies are given if a member has a birthday in the month.

We have competitions in association with each talk and a cup is presented at the end of the year to the winner of most competitions.

We go on a Theatre visit to Southwold in the summer. There is a Luncheon Group held every eight weeks which will be a visit to a local pub or restaurant, a swimming group, a Knitting group and a monthly Book group held in the Eye lovely new library. Many W.I. ladies have joined the Exercise and Fitness classes held in the Scout hut every week.

This year is our Suffolk East W.I. Federation Centenary and many events are planned. From June to September a small Windmill made by our Treasurer will be on display in the Eye Hardware shop, (symbol of the W.I.) and all the ladies from Suffolk will come and see it and have a wander around Eye and spend money in our local shops! We send teams of six to various W.I. clubs in Suffolk area for Quiz competitions and our teams represent Eye very well. Members were in attendance at the burial of the Time Capsule. The capsule contained a W.I programme and a photograph. We have many more talks to enjoy this year and hopefully even more new members.

Ginny Parmenter.
Secretary of Eye W.I.
01379 309038
eprmnr@aol.com

Eye Town General Meeting 2019: Eye Magazine

The Eye Magazine is produced 11 times a year “for the people of Eye and District” and is now up to the 451st edition, having started in July 1978. 1100 copies are distributed around town direct to letter boxes while others can be collected from various shops/library/church and the magazine is also reproduced on the town Web-site. The Town Council has recently voted me a small grant towards costs of the magazine. The money and the words of commendation for the magazine were much appreciated.

Originally run by a committee of about 4 the magazine is now very much a one-man-band and therefore vulnerable to collapse if I should collapse. I would welcome volunteers to assist with managing the advertisers and finance and learn the ropes of putting the magazine together. I’ve now done about 50 editions and hope to have another 50 in me, but it would be good to be able to share the load and to start training a successor. We have a dedicated team of distributors, a number of regular contributors to the magazine and about 50 advertisers who effectively pay for the magazine and enable me to produce it each month. Social groups and charities organising fund raising events now make small payments for their major events posters, whilst reports are printed free.

Organisations and individuals are encouraged to submit articles to the magazine to publicise forthcoming events and to keep track of what’s going on in and around Eye, but copy must be with me by 10th of the month preceding publication. I try to fit everything in, but to optimise your chances of publication please limit articles to about 500 words (one page). Photos (as high quality as possible) can be useful to make point and to help with optimising page layout. Since Peter Hawkins died a couple of years ago, I have had to scratch round for good front cover pictures - does anybody fancy taking on the role of photographer/roving reporter?

I plan to be editor for a good while yet 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 2019

It is now about 50 years since the ownership of the playing field and woodland area passed from the Borough Council to the Community Council, with the Woodlands splitting from the Playing Field/Community Centre group about 35 years ago. Since this time, and especially since 1987, the woods have been managed by volunteers so that the people of Eye can access the area.

Trees planted in the post-storm years 1988-1990 have now reached maturity. Poplars and willows which survived the storm of 1987 are now over-mature and are starting to get damaged or blown down in extreme weather conditions. Sadly, many if not all, of the ash trees planted between 1984 and 1990 are affected by ash die-back and will either have to be felled - if likely to obstruct paths or allowed to fall where this is safe. The creation of more open space has allowed us to start replanting programs with a mixture of trees planted in spring 2018 and more trees planted in what has been the willow circle for the past 30 years. We have already obtained some small trees through the Woodland Trust and the Suffolk Tree Wardens and are starting a fund to purchase larger, specimen, trees for planting where special gaps appear. We are hoping that the natural deaths of some of the trees in the front meadow area will result in the area developing into more of a wild flower meadow, as originally envisaged by Ben Platts-Mills in his 1987 design.

The "Moors" has always been a wet area but seems to be getting wetter as water from the farmland to the south comes onto our land and our ditches are full all the way to the Dove. We need to do more ditch clearing work to dry out the land and allow us to grow a greater range of trees without their roots being waterlogged. We are hopeful of procuring some financial support for ditch digging but will probably have to match funding, either with hard cash or with hard labour. Offers gratefully received.

Volunteer turn-outs (2 hours in the morning of the first Sunday each month) have been good, despite some pretty wet days, and with Bernard Tatum doing most of the mowing for us with his little orange tractor and Mike Smith providing professional tree surgeon skills we have managed to keep most things in order. More volunteers are always welcome, especially now we have the new trees to manage and keep weeded.

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