

Report from the District Councillor Charles Flatman 2015/2016

Cllr Flatman reported that housing was a top priority for Mid-Suffolk as they were unable to supply enough council houses to meet the current demand. To help alleviate the situation Mid Suffolk were using funds provided by central government to develop the private rented sector. Mid Suffolk provided grants to private landlords to improve heating and insulation and home loans of up to £15,000 for renovation of properties for rental.

Cllr Flatman reported that Mid-Suffolk started off the year well as they had been awarded £200,000 from central government for innovative housing initiatives. Mid-Suffolk decided to use this money to incentivise existing council tenants to move into the private sector in order to free up council housing stock. Sadly this scheme was not successful and was abandoned at the end of the year.

During the year travellers visited the Parish and camped on the airfield. Mid-Suffolk did not take any action to move on the travellers from the airfield as they were located on private land. Cllr Flatman suggested that a permanent site needs to be found for travellers in the future.

Councillor Flatman shared the good news that he was able to allocate £5000 to organisations in Eye area because of the new Community Achievement Awards. Cllr Flatman with the support of the Town Council stated that he awarded grants to the following groups; Debenham Girls Group £1000, Headway Suffolk £450, Eye Town Moors £450, 1st Eye Scout Group £450, The Dove Players £450, Eye Works 4 U £1000, Friends of Eye Library £450, Eye Bach Choir £450, and Friends of Eye primary £300. He said that there were some very good applications and he expressed regret that he could not give money to everyone.

Cllr Flatman also raised the closure of the recycling centre at Brome and said that it would reopen in April 2016 with Mid-Suffolk making a contribution towards the running costs.

Organisation Reports For Eye Annual Town Meeting 2016

Name of Organisation	Eye Community Speed Watch Group
Brief description of Activities	To monitor the speed of vehicles in permitted areas of the Town and to submit reports to the Constabulary of any exceeding 35mph.
Key achievements in last year	Persuading the Constabulary, based on 2 years-worth of reports, to bring their speed camera van to two locations in the Town on 7 occasions.
Key Plans for the next year	To continue the work and expand the number of volunteers in the group.
Requests for help from the Community	Additional volunteers for the scheme would be welcomed.
Report submitted by	Robin Knight. Coordinator from February 2014 to February 2016.
Name of Organisation	1st Eye Scout Group
Brief description of Activities	Our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have enjoyed a varied programme of activities .One of the highlights of the year was 100 young people aged from 6 to 18 camping last summer and taking part in a great sailing adventure on the River Orwell. Also Scouts went to the Cairngorms where they did some hill walking, climbing and sledging. The Beavers raised £100 for Shelter by sleeping in cardboard boxes overnight
Key achievements in last year	Our programme includes many Challenges which enable our Beavers moving up to Cubs to gain the Bronze Chief Scouts Award, Cubs to gain the Silver Award and Scouts to gain the Gold Award. We are hoping that the new Explorers will be gaining the Platinum Award by Christmas.

	All members of the Group have enjoyed the challenge of the climbing wall and have undertaken sporting activities and muddy hikes during the year.
Key Plans for the next year	We now have 108 girls and boys in our Scout Group with many more on our waiting list wanting to join. Unfortunately we do not have sufficient Leaders to welcome more young people so our priority this year would be to attract more adults to become Leaders. Our Group summer camp will be in Thetford Forest where we will be doing some canoeing, climbing, archery and abseiling.
Requests for help from the Community	Our greatest need is for more adults to join us, as members of our fund-raising team or our maintenance team as well as volunteers to help with our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts.
Report submitted by	Joan Norman -Group Scout Leader
Name of Organisation	Eye & District Twinning Association
Brief description of Activities	The group of residents of Eye, and some of the surrounding villages, have continued to develop and further extend the links between Eye and Pouzauges, our twin town in the Vendee region of France.
Key achievements in the last year	Last May a coachload of twinningers, plus a group of cyclists who cycled from St Malo, spent a very enjoyable long weekend in Pouzauges. Some people were hosted by friends of many years, while those who travelled for the first time found they were given a friendly welcome: their initial worries of not being able to speak much French were quickly dispelled! A number of activities had been arranged, culminating in a grand dinner, and everybody pencilled in May 2017 for the French to visit Eye. The group continues to meet monthly, on the first Tuesday, and during the year a number of successful events have been organised. In August there was the popular BBQ, and there were fund-raising stalls at the Eye Show and The Duck Race & Country Fair. A Safari Supper, quiz, a True Or False evening, and a jumble sale all helped to spread the word about the Association. In order to keep in touch with members, and to encourage new members to join, regular articles are placed in the Eye Magazine, and events are also publicised on Eye To Eye.
Key Plans for the next year	Further social events and fund-raising activities will be held. We will be looking forward to the visit to Eye of our French friends, and plans will need to be put in place for visits, entertainments etc. 2018 and 2019 will mark the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Twinning, when the Charter will be renewed.
Requests for help from the Community	Visit the Association's page on the Town website, and get in touch with the officers, if you would like to become part of this friendly group. Families are especially welcome
Report submitted by	Merlin Carr
Name of Organisation	The Dove Players
Brief description of Activities	Amateur dramatic society that tries to provide opportunities for young and old to perform and entertain the people of Eye and surrounding parishes
Key achievements in last year	Took part in the Diss Arts Festival doing a rehearsed reading of The Contingency Plan Main achievement was the panto – three performances at Christmas of Calamity Jane Youth production was not able to run last year Part way through the two Contingency Plan plays
Key Plans for the next year	The second part of the pair of plays – The contingency plan – will take place on the 13 th May as a rehearsed reading at The Bank.

	<p>A Shakespeare play will be the Youth Production this year at Eye Castle starting on Monday 8th August with rehearsals and performance on Saturday and Sunday (13 & 14th)</p> <p>We will be exploring whether to do a Murder Mystery Meal again and pantomime dates will be Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December</p>
Requests for help from the Community	We will be very pleased to see young and old joining us to help on stage or backstage – lots of different ways to be involved
Report submitted by	Simon Hooton
Name of Organisation	Eye Grammar School Fund
Brief description of Activities	<p>Eye Grammar School Fund gives grants to young people under 25 who live in the parishes of Eye, Athelington, Horham and Bedfield. The grants are intended to cover expenses not provided by the Local Education Authority. This might include the cost of books, clothing, tools and instruments, course fees for educational purposes, or preparation to enter a trade or profession. The grant should help further the career, education or learning of young people. The Fund also grant aids organisations in those parishes who serve young people.</p> <p>The Trustees meet quarterly, usually in January, April, July, and October.</p>
Key achievements	Grant aid of £1680 given to 11 different individuals or organisations.
Key Plans for the next year	To continue to publicise the existence of the Fund and to help young people achieve their aims and potential through grant aid.
Requests for help from the Community	If you know of anyone, or any organisation, who might benefit from a grant, please let them, or me, know.
Report submitted by	Sara Muldoon contact: sara.muldoon@icloud.com
Name of Organisation	Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford & District
Brief description of Activities	<p>We provide advice and information to the residents of Eye either at our weekly drop-in on Thursdays from 9/11 a.m. at the Health Centre or by calling into our Diss office. All our generalist advice is provided by highly trained volunteers supported by an experienced supervisor and all work is quality checked. Last year we recorded 76 clients who live in Eye who sought our advice.</p> <p>Our advice can be on any subject but is predominantly benefits, debt, housing, legal, discrimination, employment and immigration.</p>
Key achievements in last year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded government contract to provide Pension Guidance throughout Norfolk and Suffolk • Opening a new weekly session in Harleston • Adding another weekly advice session in Thetford • Introduced a stakeholder Newsletter
Key Plans for the next year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce an Advice Champion to provide additional support to our most vulnerable clients. • Adding a service in Eye Health Centre taking referrals from GPs
Requests for help from the Community	Any amount gratefully received.
Report submitted by	Jane Guy, OBE. Company Secretary and Trustee

Name of Organisation	Eye Town Moors Woodlands Trust
Brief description of Activities	Maintenance of the 14 acres of woodland beside the playing field so that the paths remain accessible whilst keeping a wide range of habitats to encourage local wildlife
Key achievements in last year	Felling and pollarding a series of old willow and poplar trees which were rotting and becoming dangerous.
Key Plans for the next year	To reinstate the “scouts bridge” where one support pole has broken and to clear up scattered glass from the paths on the dump. Keep paths clear of nettles and grass trimmed back. To plan improving the site drainage so that paths remain passable through the wet season!
Requests for help from the Community	Volunteers meet every second Sunday of the month 10:00 - 12:00 to perform maintenance work which includes pruning trees, cutting back nettles and cutting grass. More helpers always welcome, working with scythes, strimmers and hand tools
Report submitted by	Chris Willoughby 01379 870298

CINEMA AT EYE

Cinema at Eye is still going strong after over 10 years of bringing first rate films to the Community Centre, and not only gives people the opportunity to see films as soon as they are available (frequently before release on DVD) but also to enjoy the social interaction that the event allows, which is greatly enjoyed by the audience.

Audience size varies enormously, from a low of about 30 for The Third Man, to our latest film The Lady in the Van, which was enjoyed by over 80. The larger the audience, who pay £5.00 a time, the more money we can give to the Community Centre, and earlier this year, we gave them over £300!

We are thinking about showing more ‘niche’ films, appealing to a smaller audience, and are discussing this possibility with The Bank. This does depend on what is available on our next programme, but in the past there have been some interesting films which might appeal to a small audience.

I must pay tribute to Reg Snowling who helped start the whole thing off, and to Andrew Brown who helps on the technical side of things, as well as to Merlin who is invaluable in setting out the chairs, also Felicity and Shirley, who provide coffee in the interval, so that those who do not take advantage of the bar can enjoy chatting to their friends in the interval.

Penny Mcsheeny

Eye Town Hall Improvement Company – Chairman’s report

The Ethic team continue to find ways of getting new uses for the Town Hall, raising a small but steady flow of funds to help with improvements and working closely with the Town Council to help people cherish this building.

The biggest change since last year has to be the marvellous transformation of the Foyer – redecorated and re-styled to make it a much more impressive entrance. We have also explored how the lighting can be changed in the main hall. There has been quite a lot of discussion seeking to find something that works and is affordable. Two experimental lights are now in place and the plan for the future has been identified.

Thank you to Paul Abbott especially for his perseverance on this.

There have been necessary repairs to leaks but also Cllr Richard Berry and his team on the buildings committee have managed to blend regular maintenance with improvements to matters like the main windows. The overall impression is now of a building that looks much more loved and is getting complimentary remarks.

Extensive discussions have taken place about what the next steps might be. Toilets and kitchen modifications are high on the list though sorting out the main roof to make it water-tight and better insulated are also in the mix. I am confident that in the coming year further progress will be made and thanks to Richard Berry, Cllr Caroline Byles and Liz Govan particularly in pushing forward.

Progress has also been made in widening the use of the Town Hall. The Town Clerk Roz Barnett working with the Mayor, Cllr Maria Ford were able to draw down a grant from Awards for All which really enabled us to equip the Hall with useful items from a flip chart and screen, digital projector and PA system, to new glasses and catering needs. That grant was also able to pay for a number of novel uses for young people which have included choirs, drama workshops, fitness sessions and support for Ethic in running its History Alive session in 10 days or so. It has been splendid to see so many new and diverse people in the building.

The events have often been fund-raisers. A cracker was the Mayor, Cllr Caroline Byles's Scottish Ball when many people enjoy good food and dancing to a splendid band and due to Caroline and John Walter's generosity it also put a good amount of money in the bank.

The cook book keeps selling and that must be helped by the team of cooks who produce samples from the recipes to sell at various events from the Town Show to the late night opening. Many thanks to Penny Mc Sheehy, Linda Cummins, Kathleen Knight, Felicity Williams and helpers for their input.

The new venture of a folk music day with the Waveney Folk collective also proved a success and demonstrated again how good the venue is for music. Thanks to Roz and Ralph Barnett for pulling that off along with Andrew Evitt and Robin Knight for their stints behind the bar. The event was so well received it is likely to be repeated in October. We've had the Bach Choir and Castleton Brass adding their sounds to appreciative audiences. The Heritage Weekend in September again opened up the building to visitors and demonstrated the wealth of history that Eye can show.

Many other events have attracted in a wide range of people from quizzes and the Pie Competition to the Open Garden Weekend and the new regular attraction of New Age Kurling. The Eastern Angles were here with their show 'Oysters' while winter Saturdays saw a steady procession of jumble sales and mid-week regulars of the country market and the slimming clubs all add their diversity. The Hall is now licenced as a wedding venue and the first wedding happened in July. Something we hope will become a regular activity and that brings us back to the need to sort elements like the toilets out.

All this activity cannot happen without the help of people. I've mentioned many in this report and there are others who put in their support. Annie Hopewell-Smith who donated money given for a look around her garden; Alistair Govan who showed his splendid film about life in Eye as a fund raiser; Trish Shepherd as our volunteer minute taker; and the team at McGregor Associates who look after the auditing and registration needs. They and others I warmly thank.

Of course under-pinning this activity is the team of Ethic Directors who come together regularly to add their energy and ingenuity in making things happen. My thanks to you all – we can't do it without you.

The year ahead has its challenges be it planning refurbishments and chasing the necessary funds, or avoiding being asked to help with the children's entertainment at History Comes Alive event! I hope we are all up to it.

Simon Hooton 8 March 2016

End of year balance: £7,699 Re- elected as trustees: Simon Hooton – chair, Paul Abbott – Secretary, Andrew Evitt – Treasurer Penny Mc Sheehy, Linda Cummins, Robin Knight, Liz Govan, Nick Ross

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Eye

Ringling progress report for the Annual Town Meeting April 2016

I am pleased to report that the Eye Company of Ringers numbers 12 active members, including 3 young ringers aged 13, who regularly attend practices and ring for services. Tied or muffled practices have continued to be held on Monday mornings from 9 a.m. The young ringers bell club continues to be held on Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m. followed by the main practice at 5.30 p.m. The band has continued to ring regularly for services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and on the occasional 5th Sunday in the month as well as for occasional weekday services. In addition the bells have been rung for 6 funerals, 3 weddings and on 8 other occasions to mark anniversaries and special services. A successful ringers dinner was organised by Adrian Beatty in May 2015 to which ringers from local towers were invited. The tower roof has been inspected as it is still not waterproof but the tower structure has been deemed to be safe for 8 bell ringing. Repairs to the tower walls have been carried out by Reade's of Aldeburgh after an inspection by Mr Brian Morton. The chiming hammer which is operated from the west porch was reinstated together with a new rope and pulleys by Mr Winston Girling in June 2015.

St John Perry

Verbal Reports welcome from any other organisations