

Eye Annual Town Meeting

**Tuesday 23rd May 2017
7.30 pm - Town Hall, Eye**

**Local Groups and Organisations
Reports Attached**

Contents:

- 3 Company of Ringers
- 4 Ability Net
- 4 Villages Voices Community Choir
- 5 Eye Magazine
- 6 Eye Town Moors Woodlands
- 7 EGG
- 8 Eye Plodders Walking Group
- 9 Hartismere Hospital League of Friends (HHLOF)
- 10 Eye Grammar School Fund
- 11 Eye Bach Choir
- 12 490th BG (H) UK Maintenance Group
- 13 The Dove Players
- 14 Eye Town Hall Improvement Company (ETHIC)
- 15 Eye Arts Club

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul: Eye Company of Ringers

Ringling progress report for the Annual Town Meeting Tuesday ay 23rd 2017

I am pleased to report that the Eye Company of Ringers now numbers 14 active members, 13 of whom have been elected members of the Suffolk Guild, including 3 young ringers now aged 14, who regularly attend practices and ring for services. Tied or muffled practices have continued to be held on Monday mornings from 9 to 9.45 a.m. and on Wednesday afternoons from 5 to 6.30 p.m.

The band has continued to ring regularly for services on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month as well as 8 additional weekday services. In addition the bells have been rung for 7 funerals, 1 wedding and on 5 other occasions including the Queen's 90th birthday, the inauguration of the Town Mayor and Remembrance Sunday.

Visiting ringers have rung at Eye on 3 occasions, the most recent being a Suffolk Guild practice attended by 10 band members and 10 experienced ringers on Saturday April 8th.

Thanks to the skill and expertise of Kevin Calver a new door has been made and fitted to the exit on to the tower roof, a damaged pulley box, chime hammer and tenor stay have been replaced and the tower roof has been made water tight. The band marked its appreciation of Kevin's prompt practical support which has enabled ringing to continue without a break, by making him an honorary member of the Eye Company of ringers.

An annual Spring clean and belfry check was undertaken by band members on Monday April 3rd.

The ringers are working hard at improving their skills and are aiming to ring on the full 8 for Sunday services.

St John Perry

stjan@echointernet.net

April 16th 2017

Eye Town Council – 2017 Annual Town Meeting

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.
- Using our Home Visit Request Form, via our website.

AbilityNet's website can be found at www.abilitynet.org.uk/at-home, for more information.

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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 in the Summer*

For further information, please complete the online form at:

www.thevillagevoices.weebly.com/contact-us.htm

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 430 editions. Throughout, the magazine has been supported by a loyal band of individuals and companies who have advertised in the magazine and a regular group of writers sending in contributions.

In March, Postprint (our printer for the past 12 years) succumbed to the general attrition on the printing industry and was forced into closure. Life was doubly difficult for me, in that the printer had been managing the advertising and finances of the magazine and the magazine had little money in hand, mostly committed to ongoing advertising.

Since then we have worked hard to establish links with a new printer, and Andrew Brown has been using his expertise to bring together the scripts from my contributors and the advertisements into a simple format to minimise compilation work by the new printer so that we can reduce costs and set the magazine on a more even keel. One upside of the printer change is that we will no-longer be a restriction on the use of colour, so we are aiming for a brighter magazine.

We need to boost income. Primarily this will be by recruiting more advertisers, but we will also be requesting donations from fund raising events for pages of publicity in the magazine to offset the estimated £30 per page that it costs us to print.

As an organisation we need to beef up the editorial team by recruiting a volunteer with selling/financial experience to develop the advertising revenue, and to help with the computer side of magazine layout. We also need to reactivate the management group to ensure that there is more careful management of the magazine. Anybody who feels that they would like to contribute in these roles should contact the Editor - Chris Willoughby at tollgate53@icloud.com.

Finally thanks to all the advertisers, contributors and the magazine deliverers (led by Eileen Noller) who distribute over 1100 copies of the magazine each month around the town.

We 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 2017

The Town Moors Woodlands is a unique area in Eye where you can walk through trees and enjoy the sounds and sights of nature. Like most other areas of land in this country it is not a totally natural place, but depends on the intervention of man to maintain the status that we like to consider “nice”.

Before the great storm of October 1987 the woodland area was not generally open to the people of Eye and had just one public footpath through the plantations of over-mature poplars and willows. The storm destroyed nearly all of the poplars, and local artist Ben Platts-Mills designed a woodland area stocked with many of the UK’s native trees in a range of artistic features, with ponds and paths and bridges over the ditches allowing the public access to the whole site.

It is common for dog owners to be asked to keep their dogs on leads in wild-life areas, and such was my intent, but following pleas from some dog owners I have decided not to try and enforce dogs-on-leads in the woods. This decision may be reversed if paths get contaminated by dog poo.

Since 1987 volunteers have been pruning back the trees, clearing the paths and cutting back the stinging nettles which would overrun the place if left unchecked. We do our best, working for a couple of hours a month on the morning of the second Sunday, but a little more help (perhaps dog owners might feel obliged) would help us develop the area further and make it more accessible.

This year will be the 30th anniversary of the Great Storm and we are planning some kind of memorial event/guided tour in October: watch out for more information.

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

Report to Eye Town Annual meeting for EGG

Over the past few months some have people have been forming the idea of EGG – a network of like-minded residents of Eye and the surrounding villages who believe passionately in the potential for change and improvement in the quality of life for our community and environment.

By involving local people and developing support for projects and actions we can inspire a new environmental initiative helping Eye and the surrounding area to Go Green. As an open, inclusive group we feel that we can have a real impact by working with local residents and councils and openly sharing information and appropriate technology. We hope to empower our communities to enhance, treasure and safeguard the natural environment and quality of life for all.

We will be keen to involve all ages but especially young people. We hope to support our schools and youth groups in ensuring our children are respectful of the environment and understand how vital it is to keep it healthy. We are already discussing with them how they might help demonstrate an understanding of how to avoid waste through re-use and recycling as part of a revised autumn Green Fair.

It is early days and various ideas are being discussed but action has started. You should have seen the 'I shop in Eye bags' promoted by many businesses and there will be a showing of the documentary film 'Tomorrow' at Eye Community Centre on Friday 26th May

'Tomorrow' showcases alternative and creative ways of exploring food and energy production, economics, democracy and education. It features groups of people and communities across the world developing constructive solutions to the problems of our time by people acting locally to make a difference globally. Come and see the innovation of permaculture farms and urban agriculture projects, community-owned renewable energy projects, local currencies, creative schools and ambitious recycling projects.

If you would like to get on the email loop or gain further information then contact Penny McSheehy (870229) Gary Rowland (gary@grasstudio.com) or Simon Hooton (871494, simon.hooton@phonecoop.coop

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 an incursion into south Norfolk!

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

The only time the route has had to be changed mid-walk was in July, when plodders were confronted by a field of cows with a large, threatening bull, near Denton. An about-turn was needed, and an alternative route was found! In August the natives of Diss were friendly, as a circular walk was completed, and despite a threatening weather forecast, a group, with two dogs, kept dry in the Bedingfield area. The heavens did open, however, on the following month`s walk from Botesdale, so we are hoping for better weather when the route is re-visited this May.

Using the local bus service, there was an AwayDay plodd around Holywells Park in Ipswich, followed by the ever-popular New Year`s Day walk around part of the Eye Circular Footpath. Although the heavy rain was not welcome, the hot soup and rolls provided in the Community Centre afterwards was well received.

In the first part of 2017 there have been plodds in the Wickham Skeith, Wortham, Harleston and Burgate areas; the latter one starting after tasty refreshments in the Wortham Tea Rooms.

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 to be included on the emailing list.

STOP PRESS

Over the coming weeks, Eye Plodders will be in the forefront of the drive to achieve *Walkers are Welcome* status for Eye. This national scheme should benefit residents, businesses and visitors, by highlighting the large number of walks available; the thriving and historic centre of Eye; the chance to visit other areas by using public transport; and the friendly welcome that walkers will receive.

Merlin Carr

**Open Gardens at Hartismere Health and
Care**
June 10 & 11th 2017
Raffle, Games and Refreshments

Fundraising:

Summer Fete raised £789.65 Sale of Second hand books and plants and coffee and Lucky squares in reception raised £1123.05. Gift Aid bought in £204.34

Funds donated:

Physiotherapy equipment for patients with long-term health conditions: Swiss Balls and an Exercise Bike

Dove Project which specializes in Dementia care were provided with games puzzles and ‘Ski’ chairs which enable the person to move the chair safely and easily.

Eye Opportunity Group were given large weather proofed storage sheds to store equipment.

Girls Group for severely disabled girls and young women were given funding towards going to a Mamma Mia.

Eye Transformation Project

HHLOF continues to liaise with Andy Robinson and Andy Cooke on the future of Hartismere Health and Care. The continuing aim is to provide more services locally.

£100 was donated towards printing costs of EYE to EYE

Contact: Lindsay Hickey 01379 870707
EYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FUND

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, TUESDAY 23 MAY 2017

Eye Grammar School Fund is a charity and exists to give grants of money to young people and organisations in the local area - covering the parishes of Eye, Bedfield, Athelington and Horham. We are here to help the careers, education or learning of young people up to the age of 25.

In 2016 the Fund has given out over £1650 in 12 different grants, to both youth organisations and to individuals, and they really do make a difference.

Examples of the sort of things we fund include books, college equipment, educational courses, play equipment and tutoring fees.

The application process is very simple and straightforward!

If anyone here would like to apply or knows someone who could benefit, I have some application forms with me.

And - if anyone would like to take up the role of Clerk to the Trustees - my role - please see me afterwards too! I can assure you that it's a very rewarding thing to do - and the post carries with it a small honorarium.

Sara Muldoon
8 May 2017



Eye Bach Choir
Founded in 1974. Conductor: Leslie Olive

Eye Bach Choir Season 2016-2017 Report for the AGM of the Town Council

Eye Bach Choir started their season's regular Friday rehearsals on the 9th September 2016 when preparation started in earnest for the November performance of the Requiems by Gabriel Fauré and Maurice Duruflé.

The very lively and well-supported Singing Day scheduled for Saturday 1st October offered to a much wider group of singers from the surrounding area the opportunity to enjoy a taster day with EBC. We enjoyed the facilities of Hartismere High School where the students' artwork gave us extra pleasure. Although the two Requiem Masses were the main subjects for study, in the experienced hands of director Leslie Olive and well supported by the accompanist Will Bawdrey, a good deal of fun was had with the lighter numbers *The Omnibus Song* by Flanders and Swan as well as *Smoke gets in your Eyes*. We provided lunch for ourselves and our visitors in true Eye Bach Choir fashion as well as the opportunity to win some tempting raffle prizes.

In late November, joined by soloists, soprano Lisa Cassidy and baritone Malachy Frame and expertly accompanied on the recently rebuilt Binns organ by Ian Le Grice, EBC attracted a large audience to the church. They were keen to express their enjoyment of the high standard of singing and moving commitment of the choir and soloists.

EBC's next engagement was in the refurbished Town Hall where, as well as ourselves in Christmassy mood, the audience could enjoy the excellence of the prize-winning Castleton Brass Band. Our collaboration with them is much enjoyed by everyone and offers a fittingly festive start to the season of good cheer. This concert showcased the recently formed Harmoneyes, a young singing group who had been meeting on Friday evenings and trained by Ed Gerrie, himself a former member of EBC. Our newly acquired electric piano provided any accompaniment needed.

At the beginning of the Spring Term there was a pleasing group of singers wanting to join us as preparations for Haydn's *Creation* began. March 11th saw a memorable performance with support from Eye Bach Choir orchestra and soloists Cheryl Enever soprano, Dan Bartlette tenor, and Dhilan Gmandurai bass.

As I write we are but 2 weeks away from the last performance of the season. This is to take place in the parish church on Saturday 20th May when we welcome to Eye the world renowned virtuoso trumpeter, Crispian Steele-Perkins. We hope to enjoy his demonstration of the instrument in various pieces accompanied by Ian Le Grice on the organ as well as adding our own voices to the mix with performances of well-known choruses that offer the opportunity to be accompanied by obligato trumpet.

It has been a thoroughly varied year, I'm sure you will agree, and we hope to present an equally uplifting and entertaining programme in season 2017/18.

Founder Merlin Channon
Eye Bach Choir is a registered charity No.1114948

490th BG (H) UK Maintenance Group

Current position and future plans and ideas for the 490th BG (H) UK

On May 29th 2016 the 490th BG Memorial project reached its conclusion and that date saw the unveiling of our tribute to the very young men who travelled so far from home to help our fight for freedom and who died. Acknowledgement was also made to the people of Eye who welcomed and befriended them through such terrible times.

This day also saw the end of our original groups work on this phase.

A few weeks ago at our AGM it was decided that the 490th BG memorial project group would be dissolved, all of the committee standing down as expected and the group would be replaced by the 490th BG Maintenance group. It's new reason to exist is clear in its title. The contact details remain the same.

Our number is very small but we have managed to attract the practical volunteer help of 4 more people. We also, continue to receive a lot of support moral and otherwise from ETC, MSDC and Suffolk CC. Therefore in the short term we hope to complete the work on the Heritage trail, take part in the hoped for local town events, the summer fun day, the heritage weekend and the Christmas fair. We will also be making an appearance at the Diss Carnival in June and on May 29th one year from the unveiling of the 490th War Memorial be hosting a guided Heritage Walk (part of the Suffolk Heritage Walks) and a Sunset Parade at the memorial in Progress Way.

To which all are invited.

As with many, local community groups our future is uncertain. The majority of the volunteers at our events, travel many miles to help, this cannot be sustained ad infinitum.

Nevertheless, just as the young men of the 490th who fought alongside us so many years ago, we will continue until it is over.”

Jackie Aling - 490thmemorial@gmail.com

The Dove Players

The Dove Players, the local amateur dramatics group, continues to do well. In reading this you will have just missed the Murder Mystery with cream tea – so let's hope the crime has been solved. The summer's youth production at the castle was one of the best with good crowds being entertained by the young folk who rehearse and perform within the week. This will be repeated again this August with the hope that we might tour the performances to other venues as well as the castle over the weekend of 19/20th August.

The pantomime at Christmas was a specially written piece that included knights performing a joust on space hoppers as well as a good stock of jokes, silliness and an excellent band. Again the panto allowed a wide range of local talent to get involved as there is much that needs to go on behind the scenes to be able to make the entertainment happen. Our thanks to the Community Centre trustees for putting up with us as a set and wires descend on the place. In 2017 the panto will be on the 8th & 9th December and this year we expect many more adults to be involved with our up-and-coming youngsters providing the chorus and smaller parts. The Players are always happy to meet people who might like to get involved – on stage or behind the scenes. We hope that with the growing number of adults involved we can be even more adventurous and put on more productions – so keep an eye out.

Simon Hooton

ETHIC
(Eye Town Hall Improvement Company)

People have been fundraising for improvements to the Town Hall since at least the 1980s but this was formalised in 2005, as at that time certain grants were not available to statutory bodies, which meant that the Town Council could not apply for grant aid and so ETHIC was founded, incorporated as a company and registered at Companies house. Since 2005 we have had a total of 24 officers, 16 of whom have resigned through pressure of other work

ETHIC was tasked with ‘the provision of facilities for the use of the inhabitants of Eye and the immediate surrounding area including use for meetings, lectures, and classes, and other forms of recreational and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving life for the said inhabitants’

No-one had really done anything to structure of the building for as long as anyone could remember, apart from remedial works. For instance, on at least two occasions chunks of the Council Chamber ceiling fell down and so emergency repairs were essential.

As the building was then of grade 2 rating, later upgraded to grade 2*, we had a duty to look after it in spite of those who would have preferred to demolish the whole thing!

One of the first major projects for which we had grant funding was complete restoration of the pictures when they were sent away to Cambridge for cleaning and repair of both paintings and frames – we had to do quite a bit of research on both artist and subject which unearthed some interesting history!

The biggest task we undertook was repair of the roof over the Council Chamber, which cost £25000, and necessitated scaffolding around the whole building for quite a long time. We have also contributed to a new heating system, new lighting, refurbishment of the floor in the main hall, well as repairs on at least one occasion to the clock tower, complete refurbishment of the clock, improvement to both the entrance hall and the kitchen. I am quite sure I have omitted some things, including the several occasions when we had thought that we would get the grant, only to fall at the last hurdle but we haven’t done too badly, on the whole – grant applications are usually both very long and very complicated, as well as being extremely competitive

Of course, as well as the grant aid, we have contributed quite a lot of money by direct fundraising ourselves and have organised numerous fund raising events, as well as benefitting from sales of our very own cookbook, ‘From Soup to syllabub’ sales of which are ongoing so you see us at some more events, such as late night shopping in December

We had decided at our last meeting that now was the time to say goodbye to ETHIC, particularly now that the Town Council are able to apply for grant in their own right and it is great news that we have been awarded some further money to continue the good work

Penny McSheehy

Eye Arts Club (Charity number 1061143)

Contact details: Liz Waugh Mcmanus lizwaugh@btinternet.com

Eye Arts Club has run two projects over the past year with 7 to 17 year olds with and without additional needs. The first "Tick Tock!", carried out May to June 2016, was a multisensory performance including beautiful songs, dance, interactive projections and sensory activities. Tick Tock! was developed by Eye Arts Club from an original Greenfingers Production show toured by professional actors 2013 to 2015, to present for residents at Hartismere Place Care Home in Eye. In the weeks leading up to the performance, Eye Arts Club tutors ran two craft and movement sessions at Hartismere Place. The young people first presented the show for family and friends before doing the main performance, which was warmly received by the residents at Hartismere Place.

The second project November 2016 to to March 2017, was in conjunction with Dance East when Eye Arts Club had the opportunity to take part in a very special large-scale community dance project called The Inkwell- The District Project 2017. Alongside other community groups and schools from Babergh, Mid Suffolk, and Forest Heath, participants from Eye Arts Club created a one-hour show with people of all ages and abilities. The premiere took place at Dance East's building, the Jerwood DanceHouse. Eye Arts Club's section included puppetry and animation as well as dance, and was based on The Lost Thing by author/illustrator Sean Tan. It was a fantastic opportunity for Eye Arts Club to perform in a professional venue with all the benefits of staging, theatre lighting, large scale projection equipment and so on.

Eye Arts Club has been grateful to receive funding from Activities Unlimited, the John Lewis Foundation and Eye Grammar School Fund.