

DRAFT MINUTES OF GREAT GLEMHAM ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH (APM)

held by video / audio conferencing at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 5 May 2021

Present: Cllr Beaumont, Cllr Benson, Cllr Cross, Cllr Debenham, Cllr Gathorne-Hardy (Chair), Cllr Lissaman, Cllr Mercer and Cllr Wright. There were 4 Members of the public.

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr French, Suffolk County Cllr Burroughes, District Cllr Cook and Mr & Mrs Nichols.
3. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of 20 May 2019 were approved and signed.
4. Reports were received and distributed from the following, and attached as appendixes where available. Authors of each report summarised them one by one.
Suffolk County Councillor Burroughes was in purdah due to local elections and was unable to provide a report.
District Councillor Cook's report was summarised by the clerk and is attached in full
The Parish Church
The School Trust
K6 Telephone Box
Non-Ecclesiastical Trust – Cllr Mercer confirmed he was now a Trustee of this village organisation but they still require another Trustee which only requires about 2 hours a year in time. See brief report.
Parham Composter Liaison Group
Great Glemham Emergency Preparedness – Mr Wilson suggested it was time for a younger person to take over this role from him. It was stated the District Council has statutory obligations as category 1, with responders like the Police, Fire Service, and St Johns Ambulance all Category 2 obligations.
Action: Clerk to query with both SCC and ESC as to contact details for emergency preparedness. Is there a modern-day equivalent of the old 'Z' card fridge magnet which opened up into a list of actions in the event of an emergency? It was noted that Suffolk Resilience may be the public face of this service.
Ladies Club
Village Hall
Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust
Bun & a Book Café
Village E-newsletter
NHS Scrubs
Alde Valley Players
Great Glemham Parish Council report by the Chair
5. The Chair acknowledged the work carried out by all the above Village Organisations and Individuals, and hoped that we will get back to sum normality in the not too distant future, including the recent Litter pickers. Everyone played an important part in making Great Glemham a great village to live in.
6. There were no other relevant matters notified to the Chairman
7. Next year's Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place on 11 May 2022
8. There being no other matters, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed 7.00 p.m.

Signed by the Chair

At the meeting on

Report from the Chair of Great Glemham Parish Council

As a Parish council we have played our part in what has been a very strange year. Previously I have taken the example of the first manorial holders at time of Domesday -Sparrowhawk and Starling and their playful village of Glem -but this year I think has been much more in the shadow of their overlord Edric of Laxfield, also known as Edric Grim.

A grim year but one that we have steered a path through as a community -all the usual markers cancelled and our community spaces largely closed the fete, church teas, the pub, the events around the phone box, the numerous organisations that usually fill the village hall.

Yet we have managed to keep going through all this -the brilliant work of the pub and its takeaways, the opening of the church and churchyard when it could for private prayer and the sterling works of Simon and latterly Ed keeping Butcher's field as an open and welcoming space. Great thanks must be given to the support team that sprang up in the first lock down and for all those who have kept the sense of village life and community going through this odd time.

Another key support has been the organisation euphemistically known as the Village Information Team but actually Lenni Lewis -Lenni and David's departure to Stradbroke has meant that Lenni has at last been able to pass on the key role in all this of the Village Communication Team to Richard, so again many thanks for taking on this important task!

Being a small village my list of people to thank is an equally small list of people who multi task from pothole monitoring to litter collections to form filling and now zoom attending. One skill at least we have all almost mastered over the last year.

As a result I would like to thank the Parish Council, my vice Chair and Clerk in particular and electors for all their efforts over this odd year, especially all those who remained willing to serve in the sometimes under appreciated roles that keep our community and Parish Council going.

In particular I would like to thank both those who have re-stood for election and also with a warm welcome to those who have joined us namely our new councillors Lindsey Wright and John Mercer.

In previous years we have sought to thank all those who work behind the scenes on the various events, clubs, charities and organisations that are behind village life -this quieter year I go back to an earlier list from my favourite Community Action document summarising our village in which we clearly punch well above our weight -

we have our arguably international Museum,

our Pub,

-the uncategorisable and certainly International Alde Valley Spring festival, growing in renown and reach,

our church and village hall art festivals,

a craft festival,

a flower festival,

the phone box which hosted a brief and possibly the smallest poetry festival in the country ...

and our churchyard teas and church, described by Simon Knott in the Last of England, ...this precious jewel nestling here, a touchstone to the past...

This list from two years ago underlines what has been missing in lockdown.

We are a small. but when allowed out, very vibrant community -and in anticipation of that we have much and many to be thankful for, particularly as thanks to the efforts of Cllr Debenham especially, new Quiet Lanes to walk out into.

Argus Gathorne-Hardy

Annual Report to Town and Parish Councils from Cllr Maurice Cook, ESC May 2021

The year of 2020/21 will only be remembered for the advent, duration and effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The main recollection may be the terrible death toll with very few among us not having lost close family members. However, it is also worth remembering the way in which the Country and its people responded to the challenges of dealing with the fatal virus. Not since the second world war has such a response from our health and emergency

services, our County, District, Town and Parish Councils, our many charitable organisations and individual residents and neighbours been witnessed. Communities came together to protect and support each other and that was never more the case than in this Framlingham Ward.

From the outset the Town Council and all of the Parishes took completely voluntary responsibility for their own communities and the Hour Community in Framlingham deserves special mention for the quite magnificent service they have delivered to our residents.

East Suffolk Council's primary function was to maintain as many services as humanly possible whilst, decamping from offices to working at home, dealing with lockdown and social distancing and shortage of staff due to illness or isolation.

The Council also became the Agent for the Government to deliver financial support to the thousands of businesses across the district forced to close under lockdown restrictions. Details of individual grant schemes have been regularly reported and, in all, over 18,000 payments have been made to businesses large and small totalling over £104m. The Economic Development and Finance Teams continue to provide both Government funding and additional support from our own reserves as we emerge out of lockdown and back into business.

The Council's Communities Team has also played their fundamental part in looking after the wellbeing of our residents. Implementing Home but not Alone schemes, contacting every individual vulnerable resident to ensure they have basic support, providing means of communication, such as with the distribution of Grand pads, providing financial support through Hardship Funds to make sure everyone got the provisions and medicines they needed during isolation and, latterly, providing our EAST wellbeing bags.

The Framlingham and Wickham Market Community Partnership now absolutely proved its worth in helping to deal with Social Isolation, Creating Opportunities for young People and creating a new rural transport initiative. Whilst the introduction of the 'Katch' dial and ride rural bus pilot scheme between Framlingham and Campsea Ashe rail station has been delayed by the pandemic, the partnership has been able to provide extra financial support in tackling youth issues, helping to deal with mental health issues amongst the young and providing local grant schemes for a host of opportunities. Of probably more significance is the Partnership bringing together multiple stakeholders with similar interests and providing a forum for mutual co-operation to achieve common goals.

It is to be hoped that the year ahead can see us all emerging from a dark time into a brighter future. It may well be a different kind of normal from that which we recall. 2020/21 will certainly not be a year we will be able to forget. Stay safe and well.

Maurice

Report from Great Glemham All Saint's Parochial Church Council

Firstly, the PCC would like to thank the Councillors for their support in making a grant from the Solar Panel Fund towards the repairs to the drainage system of the church. It is much appreciated.

Since my last report I am pleased to say that the eagerly awaited comparison of tenders has arrived from the Architect and will be discussed at the next PCC meeting. The quotes came in at £70,585.20 or £87,121.50 including VAT (£58,821 and £72,601 without VAT). The next stage will be to apply for grants.

I believe we are given these projects to strengthen our patience and persistence!

The PCC have met to receive the 2020/2021 Accounts and Annual Report and these will be presented at the Annual Meeting on 18 May at 6.30pm in the Church. May I take this opportunity to remind villagers that this meeting is open to the public and we would welcome everyone who would like to attend.

Jill Pascoe – Churchwarden, On behalf of Great Glemham PCC

Great Glemham School Trust - Annual report for 2020-2021

The trustees were Nicola Redman, Jill Pascoe, and Duncan McIver.

The Revd Rachel Cornish, Rector of Alde Valley Benefice is Ex Officio.

Grants were awarded to: One child starting primary school. Three children starting High School. One individual educational grant was awarded. One community grant to Great Glemham PCC.

The 2020-2021 Report of Accounts has been presented and examined.

Church Lands Trust Non-Ecclesiastical Branch

It was decided to hold the organisation's annual meeting by email. It was reported that the current balance is £278.

The trustees would like to thank Kerry Ferrar for her contribution to the work of the trust. Kerry was a trustee for a number of years but has now moved from the village. There is now a vacancy for a trustee. In view of the change in trustees we are not inviting applications for grants at present.

I also feel it is time for me to resign from the trust. John Mercer has kindly agreed to become a trustee and take over from me.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees over the years.

Nicholas Redman

Report on Parham Composter Plant

As a consequence of the COVID 19 restrictions there has only been one meeting of the composter liaison group since the imposition of restriction in March of last year. The regular meeting of the composter liaison group planned for June 2020 was delayed until October and then held on-line, with disappointingly few participants.

There is little to report from that meeting, only to say that the Environment Agency expressed satisfaction with the conduct of operations at the site, with only minor complaints having been received, none of which from Great Glemham residents. Pleasing news from the operator (Biogen) was that its staff had not been adversely affected by the devastating fire at the nearby Hatcher Components factory last August, as the direction of the wind blew the plume of smoke clear of their site, nor had any of their staff been affected by the COVID19 pandemic.

The next meeting of the liaison group had been provisionally planned for April or May 2020 but, as yet, no date has been set.

Patrick Wilson - Vice chairman, Parham Composter Local Liaison Group.

Report on Emergency Preparedness

Concerning agenda item 4, Reports, section: Emergency Plan, it is important to clarify that the PC does not have a formal, written, plan for its preparedness for the unexpected, nor does it have an appointed official, but does operate a policy of good neighbourliness in looking out for the welfare of the village's residents. The network of support for local residents instigated by members of the PC, bolstered by a number of volunteers together with the services of the "Crown", throughout the period since the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic demonstrates the effectiveness of this policy.

In 2007 I undertook a review of emergency planning legislation on behalf of the PC and provided a memorandum outlining its position, summarised as follows: - Current legislation appears not to place any duties relating to emergency preparedness on parish councils and to the best of the writer's knowledge neither the county, nor the district, council has placed any requirement on parish councils to undertake any such duties. Since then I have accepted the role of advisor on the matter and kept a watching brief on legislation, reporting to PC as and when required. Throughout the intervening years there have been no substantive changes to the legislation affecting the position of this Council.

For completeness I append a copy of my 2007 memorandum, the concluding recommendation of which, today, I would make unchanged, One aspect that may well have differed significantly since 2007 is the warning about insurance cover (see the inset paragraph in italic script on page 3, below) as the current version of the Community Emergency Plan Template is worded quite differently and is more specific about the limitations of indemnity provided by local authority insurance.

Harking back to the effective support network quickly established at the beginning of the "lockdowns" I was sorry, and embarrassed, not to be able to contribute to the community support network, owing to age and clinical status requiring our "self isolation / sheltering". It is hard to face the fact that passage of time and accompanying loss of capacity over the night on four decades since taking on the role of Community Emergency Advisor that I have to admit to being unable to fulfil the requirements of the job. It is probably in the best interests of the Parish Council that it seeks a new, younger, candidate for the position of emergency advisor.

Patrick Wilson

APPENDIX ATTACHMENT FROM PATRICK RE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Considerations pertaining to Local Arrangements for Emergency Preparedness:
Brief for the meeting of Great Glemham Parish Councillors 16th November, 2007.

Summary

Responsibility for emergency preparedness lies with the county and district councils to provide this service as and when they deem it necessary.

Current legislation appears not to place any duties relating to emergency preparedness on parish councils and to the best of the writer's knowledge neither the county, nor the district, council has placed any requirement on parish councils to undertake any such duties.

Should the Parish Council (PC) assume any emergency preparedness duties members should be aware of likelihood of on-costs, e.g., additional insurance cover, which would fall on the Parish Council. Members may also wish to consider any potential personal liability issues (financial and criminal) that might arise.

Members are invited to note the contents the accompanying Community Emergency Plan, Parts 1 & 2, and Suffolk Resilience Self-help Guidelines documents.

The following background information together with its conclusions and recommendations are based upon information provided by Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) Emergency Planning Officer, as interpreted in the light of the writer's more than two decades professional involvement in health and safety roles, including emergency preparedness.

Background

Councillors may remember that in the nineteen eighties that as a result of a number of major incidents, accidents and emergencies both at home and abroad newly enacted legislation imposed greater statutory duties on County Council (SCC) and SCDC for the protection and welfare of the public. This prompted SCC and SCDC jointly to establish, through parish councils, a network of Community Emergency Advisors (CEAs) to assist them in fulfilling their duties and to go some way to filling the gap created by the disbandment of the one-time civil defence organisations.

In response three residents volunteered to be CEAs to the PC, which (formally) enlisted them in the County and District Councils' network. Training for CEAs was primarily organised and funded by SCDC and was overseen by the County Emergency Planning Officer. These arrangements continued in operation until the end of the cold war when SCC, in conjunction with SCDC, deemed them needed no longer and formally wound the network of CEAs up. At the closing ceremony, held at County Hall, it was formally declared that should reinstatement of such arrangements become necessary then SCC and SCDC would exercise their authority to do so.

Since then there have been a number of revisions to emergency preparedness legislation, which up until recent times have had little impact on parish council affairs. Even the Civil Contingencies Act, 2004 (which seems to have been the catalyst for SALC to recommend its member PCs to appoint Emergency Officers) does not appear to alter the status quo.

The 2004 act, together with its supporting regulations and statutory guidance establishes a clear set of roles and responsibilities for those charged with duties of emergency preparation and response at the local level. In Suffolk all local authorities (with the exception of Ipswich Borough Council) have agreed to pool resources to fund a Joint Emergency Planning Unit to aid those authorities in meeting their obligations. The Unit has promulgated a Community Emergency Plan (CEP), a copy of which accompanies this document.

It is significant that the CEP clearly shows parish councils falling below the level of any body having responsibility for providing emergency response (see pp 6 & 7 of the plan) and it is concluded that parish councils have no statutory duties in connection with this respect. Also significant to note in the CEP is the reference to a need for insurance cover for any arrangements made by PCs: this could be a significant on-cost for the PC. To quote from the plan (p 11):

You are strongly advised to include something about insurance cover in this litigious age, to ensure everyone involved knows where they stand. You will need to establish that the insurance policy used by the parish council has a section that covers the activities of volunteers acting on behalf of the council. The usual case is that any action managed or supervised by the relevant local authority is covered by that authority's insurance. The local authority's indemnity/liability insurance will not cover any action undertaken without that authorities blessing, nor will it cover injury or damage caused by vehicles or equipment not belonging to the authority, or additionally any damage caused to such vehicles or equipment.

As each Local Authority in Suffolk already receives its own allocation of funding from the Government to fulfil its emergency preparedness duties it follows that no additional financial burden should fall upon the PC and its taxpayers.

Recommendation

Parish Councillors are respectfully advised not to assume responsibility for actions the PC has no statutory duty to perform and to that end not to appoint an Emergency Officer. Members may wish to consider enlisting the support of advisors to assist the PC in promoting residents' own preparedness for any incident, accident or emergency which might affect them, making use of resources and information provided by SCC and SCDC.

Great Glemham Ladies Club

The club has been running for approximately 50 years. It was inaugurated as a club for the lady residents to have a chance to meet up in a social environment.

Over the years the membership has widened to take members from Great Glemham as well as Sweffling, Rendham, Cransford, Stratford St. Andrew and a few from Framlingham, where members have moved out of the village but wish to remain in the club.

Membership remains for the ladies, but the club is opened up to males if a speaker is seen to be of interest to them.

It is difficult to give a membership number as no subscriptions were taken last year. It is between 28 and 30 members at an educated guess, but time will tell when we return.

Due to the Covid Pandemic the club went into obedience at the start of 2020. The entire programme for the year was cancelled with the hope of reinstating it for this year.

As yet we have not planned an opening date. This cautious approach is due to the demographic age of our members. We are looking at this from August onwards, but decisions will be taken much nearer the time.

Jill Wilson

Great Glemham Village Hall Management Committee

Draft Minutes from meeting Tuesday 4 May 2021 via Zoom to discuss the reopening of the hall

Attending: Rachael Wyatt (chair), Emma Cross, Rob Platais, Diane Minns, Tom Konopka, Rebecca Lissaman.

Apologies - Sasha French

Reopening the hall

Election hire 6th May - RL to give quick clean, run water through taps, check WIFI etc.

Reopening from 17th May: RW to contact Steve from Sparkling Cleaning co. to start regular cleaning.

EC to advise insurers and check if any additional requirements

EC to go through paperwork to see if we need to make any changes for this reopening (vs last one).

RL to send notice of reopening to Ebb & Flow and via village email

DM to check on restarting of Table tennis and Tuesday teas

All to meet up 2pm Saturday 15th May for outdoor clean up

Brief discussion of how best to put recent grants to use to benefit village community - will discuss in detail at the next meeting. Date of next meeting; Tuesday 8th June 6.30pm at the Village Hall

Village Hall AGM Minutes held on 20 October 2020 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Rachael Wyartt, Diane Minns, Tom Konopka, Andrew Robinson, Tim Cazalet, Emma Cross, Rebecca Lissaman, Rob Platais.

No apologies

1. Minutes of 2019 AGM were approved and signed by RW

2. Matters Arising

- follow up advertising of village hall activities in the pub with Richard Andrews
- Organise plaque/sign for Peter Lincoln following his donation - RL

3. Committee's end of year report was presented by Rachael Wyartt, Chair.

Thanked committee for commitment during difficult year - COVID and numerous committee changes. Big thank you to departing members (TC, CR and JF) and welcome to new members (RP and TK).

Cleaners starting tomorrow to help keep the hall clean for hires. Thanks to DM for cleaning the hall voluntarily during the past year.

Income was strong before lockdown and we have had some income since reopening the hall and from hiring out equipment (marquee and gazebos), plus £10K grant.

DM offered to empty bins at Butchers Field.

4. Treasurer's report and examined accounts were presented by Tim Cazalet and Rob Platais (new Treasurer) has signed copy. John Cross was thanked for examining these.

TC has now handed over to RP. Bank mandate to be sorted to get RP as signatory and as correspondent - currently with EC. Steady income stopped with lockdown but £10,000 grant from the council received in

September.

Electricity provider changed from British Gas to E.O.N

RP brought up issue of reserves policy - £12K in COIF Charity Deposit Fund- to be reviewed at next meeting.

5. Bookings report was presented by Tom Konopka, Bookings Secretary.

Since reopening, regular bookings from Yoga (3 times a week) and writers group. One wedding booked for July 2021. Facebook and Instagram up and running. Clarity needed on policies - particularly regarding GDPR and data - to review at next meeting (RL)

6. Appointment of committee

Confirmation of representative members:

- Ladies club & Tuesday Teas - Dianne Minns
- Parish Council - to be nominated at the next meeting
- Parohial Church Council - Emma Cross
- Cinema - to be discussed at the next meeting

Election of non-representative members: Rachael Wyartt (Chair), Andrew Robinson (Vice- Chair), Rob Platais (Treasurer), Tom Konopka (Bookings Secretary), Rebecca Lissaman (Secretary).

John Cross as independent examiner.

7. Any other business

Planning application that may have impact on Village Hall boundary - RW to make a Land Registry enquiry.

Agreed to change to from Flameskill to Trident for Fire Alarm and Emergency lighting checks - RL to arrange.

Thank you cards and gifts handed to Tim Cazalet and for Crystal Runnacles with much gratitude from the committee.

Report from Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust (SFPT) May 2021

SFPT is an entirely volunteer-run conservation Charity with the mission, defined in the Trust Deed, to “permanently preserve for the benefit of the public generally, especially the inhabitants of the county of Suffolk, sites of beauty or historical or ecological interest or scientific importance and in particular the natural flora of the county of Suffolk”.

SFPT owns and manages two Reserves: one in Hasketon parish (known as ‘Orchid Glade’), the other in Kelsale parish, named after Founder and chief benefactor the late Francis Simpson MBE, thus known as ‘Simpson’s Fromus Valley Reserve’. The resources of these reserves are fully displayed on the Trust’s website, with details how to find both places.

Despite restrictions imposed by the pandemic Covid-19, through 2020-21 SFPT has upheld existing policy of free open access to all subscribing members, who are known as Guardians. We are glad to report that, within prevailing regulations, many Guardians have continued to enjoy the pleasures and mental up lift of repeated visits to follow the unfolding seasons in both SFPT Reserves.

The seasonal cycle of the Great Oak in Simpson’s Fromus Valley was the subject of one chapter of SFPT’s 2020 annual publication, titled ‘Glories and Curiosities’. This was provided free to all paid-up Guardians, but is also available to non-members at £12; details how to buy it are on the Website.

We have some changes to report. In 2020 we grieved at the death of a most active and loyal Guardian Dr Ian Battye. His widow, Rose, Hon. Editor of three issues of the annual publication, has decided to move to Devon to be near her daughter and grandchildren. We are grateful to Guardian Pete Southgate, Assistant Editor in 2020, who has agreed to become joint Hon. Editor with Janey Cullen. Coincidentally, Trustee Sybella Zisman and family have also decided to relocate their home to Devon. Guardian John Fisher has generously volunteered to replace her as Hon. Treasurer, but SFPT now has to change its registered address. This will preferably no longer be a Guardian’s home. We are seeking the hospitality of a permanent organisation as our host and accommodation address.

The activities of SFPT are supported by subscriptions of Guardians and several Parish or Town Councils. We were grateful for a subvention by Great Glemham in 2020-21, and hope that this will be repeated for 2021-22. We emphasise the value of SFPT reserves for all – not only dedicated naturalists, writers, photographers, artists and poets – but also all those of us who respect and relish the value of the natural world to sustain our spirits and welfare. We encourage Great Glemham parishioners to join us!

The New Monthly 'Bun & A Book Café'

We had an extremely successful first pop-up Café last March, welcoming folk into the village hall and offering tea and cakes on the afternoon of the monthly visit of the Mobile Library. It went so well and another was planned for the following month, which was quickly cancelled by the arrival of the Covid lockdowns!

The hall was trimmed with bunting and tables set out café style, several choices of cake were on sale, plus tea and proper coffee. The pleasing number of visitors made a good sociable buzz, and the timely arrival of the school bus gave a burst of youthful enthusiasm through the door.

We fully intend to hire the hall again and re-start this monthly Pop-Up once we are allowed to post Covid, and hope that many more visitors will pop in, both those using the mobile library and others to just partake of a social cup of tea and cake or purchase takeaway cakes.

Shirleen, Carolyn & Richard

Great Glemham Village Information emails

When Lenni & David Lewis moved from the village in late Feb this year we took on the task of sending out of the GG Village Information emails to keep villagers up to date with important info.

It's been a steep learning curve and we still have our 'L' plates on, but getting easier each time. Lenni offered good support after handling the project for years so if really stuck anytime we can always contact her for help!

The job is slightly complicated by the fact that information arrives in several different formats, plus the villager email list is so long it has to be sent out in four sections, involving copying and pasting etc.

It's good to help the village by taking this on, we aim to post items as soon as we can, covering for each other if one is away working.

Carolyn & Richard

A one-off (I hope!) need for using the village hall to make NHS Scrubs

This time last year I was really grateful to be allowed to 'requisition' the village hall when I started up the East Suffolk Scrub Hub to help with the desperate need for scrub workwear for the NHS during the horrendous Covid outbreak.

At the time there were many other small groups and individuals making scrubs, but when I enquired at the National Scrub Hub centre, found there wasn't a professional outfit covering Suffolk and was asked to set one up. It was like starting a business in two weeks flat with no money and little in the way of stock.

After the webpage was set up donations started coming in (everyone was anxious to help in some way) and I was very grateful for the local support I received from villagers, plus the White Horse pub at Sweffling who donated from their own surplus fundraising for this cause. This meant I could purchase the necessary fabrics and threads (the first invoice came to over £1000!) and set to work rolling out the fabric in the village hall, cutting out and arranging packages for sewing up for the six other volunteer professional sewers who had also offered their help and expertise for free via the webpage.

Aided by two local volunteer drivers, plus husband Richard who was also the distribution department (!) the team worked really well together, collecting and delivering from up near Norwich down as far as Colchester. In all we provided a massive amount of sets of scrubs – including to most staff at a local small hospital, from cleaners and cooks right through the care team to consultants with individual nurses and doctors in a wide area.

There was a big demand from independent doctors and nurses as some of them found they outside the support of the NHS for scrubs as they were actually funded from charities, and their normal source of supply was unable to help. Care homes too were desperate for more scrubs, dreading another wave of Covid in their Home after the first bad attack, and I was able to match up a lot of remaining scrubs being finished by individuals working independently.

After several months of intense work a few new factories making scrubs eventually opened in this country and we were able to ease off, and finished finding homes for odd sets a couple of months ago, donating left over fabric and threads to the local Hospice. All the work was completed with social distancing in mind, with parcels of fabric being left on volunteers' doorsteps, collected later as finished scrubs.

We certainly hit the ground running and it was many months before anything like the necessary supply of scrubs were available from the normal sources.

I'd like to send my thanks to everyone who helped in any way with this project.

Although very stressful, it was great to be involved in helping those who were helping us.

Carolyn Nichols - East Suffolk Scrub Hub

Alde Valley Players

Since their formation here back in 1986 The Players have used Great Glemham village hall as their base for meetings, rehearsals and performances, with members joining in from mostly near and sometimes far on a wide variety of productions, from one act plays with themed suppers to who-dunnits, pantomimes and variety type shows.

Our last event in March 2020 was an evening of hilarious entertainment which lifted the spirits of those on and off stage just before the dreaded lockdown kicked in and gave a feel good factor which lasted well into those uncertain months ahead, also benefitting St Elizabeth's Hospice with money raised from the show, plus a donation to further help them from the Players' own fund when Covid struck, amounting to a total of £600.

The group varies in number and age range from year to year (don't we all), as do the number of performances, but we are very much a friendly outfit, welcoming anyone who would like to get involved as there are many tasks to cover as well as roles to fill in amateur drama.

Anyone who has seen past productions will know that although we strive to get things right and put on a good show, we don't take ourselves too seriously in order to make everything as enjoyable as possible, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to get involved when things eventually get going again!

Best wishes

Richard