

Newsletter from the Directors of Waveney Heritage CIC, Grove Road, Brockdish.

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Firstly, thank you all most sincerely for your support, especially over the past few months. Our “Birthday Bash” on Tuesday, 2nd July 2019 produced an amazing selection of ideas and suggestions on how we move forward. We have now had our follow up Board meeting, are thrilled with the diversity of the input and starting to work on it all.

Our list of Autumn events, talks and walks, from September to Christmas is under construction and will be sent round to you as soon as dates have been confirmed. We have more than enough speakers to fit in!

We hope to have another Open Weekend in the Radio Room so that the public can enjoy the collection and on the heritage side have had donated a huge and very comprehensive collection of photos and postcards of Harleston which we intend showing as an exhibition, probably next year when we have had a chance to look at it ourselves!

We are organising those volunteers who would like to get going with the Community Garden and also are arranging for the Community Payback group to come in again to help cut back the current growth in the garden and grounds so that we can see the beginnings of our Community space before winter. They will also help with some of the outside decorating of the building.

A year or so ago, we took the risky step of taking the lease on the building which had been Brockdish School, with the aim of setting up a place which could be used by all those in the Waveney Valley not only to study, record and remember the rich culture of this lovely area throughout recorded history, but to make a contribution to the cohesion of the many villages and small towns within the entire Valley, providing a space which could be used for other organisations or groups aiming to increase the diversity of interests within this part of South Norfolk and North Suffolk.

It was a big risk, but at the end of our first year we are solvent, have organised around 22 talks on diverse subjects, put on major exhibitions both at Brockdish and Needham, with the aid of a Heritage Lottery grant, had trips to the archive centres at Norwich and Ipswich and visited the Museum of Rural life housed in what was the workhouse at Gressenhall. We also enjoyed conducted walks around Needham and Brockdish, led respectively by Stephen Poulter and Jan Croxon and a visit to the 100th Bomb Group Museum at Thorpe Abbots. Several of us have started to research the history of our own houses, thereby getting to know the characters who lived in them through the ages, including some of their scandals!

We have provided a home for an amateur radio group, who now occupy what was the upper classroom. Their display is both comprehensive and fascinating, augmented by the collection of radios and sound equipment given by Stewart Orr, collected by him over many years. Seven members of this group have recently taken their formal exam to enable them to make contacts with other enthusiasts throughout the world, and passed!

We are proud of what we have achieved so far and look forward to the future. We have three large areas in the building which are available for use by local organisations. If you are interested in looking at what we have available please give Mary Thompson a ring on 01379 668279, or Jill Edwards 01379 669057 and we will be delighted to show you round. In the meantime keep an eye open for notices re our new series of talks starting in September. You will be most welcome!