

Waveney Heritage: March Newsletter.

Hallo again! Well, here we are one year from our first lock-down, still staying at home, remembering the heady days when we could have a holiday, visit our friends and relations and generally live the life we assumed was the norm; - Hmm!

However, Spring is coming, the snowdrops and daffodils are out and I can see little buds on our fruit trees. And we have the “Jab”! We are all so grateful to all those who worked extremely hard to get the vaccines out rapidly, who researched their development and of course those professionals and volunteers who have been administering them. I am truly astounded and very proud!

It has certainly brought to national and international attention the massive talents of the many organisations and individuals who have based themselves in our region. We must all continue to extol the many great things about East Anglia whilst working to retain that special character which is so attractive.

We are still beavering away at WHC, keeping things ticking along, planning for the future and making good use of the time we have at the moment to catch up on looking after our building and contents, keeping it safe and maintaining the ethos of the building as a place for education, friendship and fun!

We realised during the summer that the solar panels weren't producing as much electricity as they should, especially compared with others in the close neighbourhood. We think this was due to shading produced by our trees, which have of course continued to grow, and an accumulation of dirt on the panels themselves. Dealing with the trees has been relatively easy. Having obtained permission from the conservation officers, our tree surgeon, Darren of “Tree Menders”, based in Needham has very carefully done gentle tidying work, removing branches which were leaning toward the roof of the hall and coppicing a couple of self-seeded ash trees, opening up the entire area and allowing a bit more light to get to the panels.

The panels themselves have presented a few more problems because they are actually very difficult to get to without the aid of a cherry picker but access for such a large vehicle was impossible without moving the old village snow plough situated next to the main door. The plough is about 100 years old and very heavy! (It was pulled by a horse apparently). However, as always, there is a solution. Andrew Longe of Grove Farm has kindly offered to move the plough to a more suitable home in the playground, where it can be better displayed and preserved and, by a massive co-incidence, we have been asked to provide a home for the old fire engine from Harleston. So we are now custodians of two large pieces of historical equipment!

We are continuing work on sorting and cataloguing our archive, regularly receiving contributions from many of you! The radio collection upstairs is undergoing similar

work and two of our members have been researching a system of remote humidity and temperature control for both. This is almost ready to go and will save the inevitable worries about variations causing damage to the collection.

We are of course planning to start regular talks as soon as we are permitted. (maybe July?) and Jill is contacting all those speakers who had agreed to give us talks last autumn and were then cancelled. We also hope to have an open day as soon as we can so that we can show all of you what we have been up to. Fingers crossed for a nice day so that we can open the doors, put chairs out and take tea!

You may remember that we had planned a garage sale with bacon butties, cakes and all the goodies, also last autumn. We have decided to save this until next Spring, so hang on to all your surplus goodies ready for the great day! However, the radio boys are planning an open day in September to co-incide with a similar one held each year at Caister. This is a fairly specialist event held on a Sunday, attended by people from across the country, many of whom make a weekend of it. Our group will open on the Saturday with an exhibition, stalls and live radio. We have agreed to provide teas and snacks, putting on an exhibition of our own in the Hall and making some money!

So, all we need is the go-ahead!

Very best wishes to all of you from all of us.

Mary Thompson and your Trustees