

News from Waveney Heritage

Hallo everyone! I'm writing this on the hottest day of the year so far, all the windows open and thankful that the house is always fairly cool. We hosted Beccles 3UA walking group at the Centre yesterday, where it was also blessedly cool; - a good thing because they has just completed a walk around Syleham, visiting the church, but walking back across fields exposed to the sun. I'm pleased I declined their invitation to accompany them! They were very grateful (and paid) for the tea and cakes when they returned!

Another group from Beccles 3UA also visited us a few weeks ago, when they were introduced to the many lovely old houses in Syleham by Elaine Murphy, our patron. In addition to her book about her own house in Brockdish she has also recently published one about Monks Hall, Syleham. Both are fascinating and available at the Centre if you wish to look at them.

Although we are not hosting any more talks until September (see the attachment for the programme up to Christmas), we are by no means idle. As a result of the many suggestions you made at our "Birthday Bash" at the beginning of July we have lots of plans. A gardening group has been formed with the aim of making the large area around the school into a welcoming space for sitting, chatting and chilling. They will have their first meeting at the Centre on Tuesday 30th July at 2.00pm. You will be most welcome if gardening is your thing.

We are researching the possibility of starting a table tennis group, an art group and hoping to invite some of the other organisations interested in the history, ecology and welfare of the river Waveney to make use of our building. Of course, we must not forget our plans for further exhibitions of our own, including one devoted to the enormous collection of photos and postcards of Harleston which has just been donated to us. We must sort it first, but we're working on it!

The Radio Group, housed in our upstairs room are planning another open day after the success of their previous one and also a "space" week, I gather.

Community Action, the organisation offering help of all kinds to voluntary organisations as part of the rehabilitation of offenders, is booked to return to us at the end of September to do some outside painting and to "blitz" the wilder parts of the grounds.

We have been most grateful to receive a grant from "The Circle of Art", an organisation offering grants to small museums. We will use this to install wall boards in the lecture hall to display work by members and for exhibitions.

Thanks to the efforts of Philip Thompson and Geoff Doggett we have now received all the back payments due for the feed-in from our solar panels, to the National Grid. This lump sum will help get us through the summer and pay the rent! We will receive further quarterly payments, bigger in the summer throughout the twenty-five-year life of the installation, and of course the panels provide part of the electricity we use.

As you know, we have been through a difficult few months and miss the great contribution that Tim and also Stewart Orr from the radio room made to our start-up. They wouldn't have wanted us to give up and we certainly are not planning to!

Best wishes to you all and enjoy your summer!

Mary Thompson, Margaret Griffiths and Robin Twigge. Your Directors