

Waveney Heritage Newsletter August 2020

Hallo everyone!

I do hope that you are all coping with “the virus”, the heatwave, lack of holidays and all the other things which have come to try us. We at the Heritage Centre have been carrying on with our plans for the future and in fact things are progressing very well.

Our application to convert to a charity has been completed and dispatched thanks to the assistance of Alistair Ponder from Steeles solicitors. We originally intended to deal with this ourselves but it became obvious that none of us had the time nor the specialist knowledge to cope with it. We're so thankful we passed it over. Alistair dealt with it all efficiently, needing only one session with Jill and I to run through the on-line application which ran to 36 pages, then reduced his fee to reflect the “contribution” Jill and I had made! We consider charitable status reflects much more accurately the ethos of what we wish to achieve, gives us an enhanced status when applying for grants and enables us to claim back tax paid by donors.

We realised a while ago that we needed to appoint at least two more directors. We only had three and that was likely to create a problem at some stage because we need a quorum of three in order to make any decisions at-all! In addition, we wanted to draw the “radio boys” more into the fold, so to speak. We therefore invited Anthony Scott-Robinson to join us. He has an impressive list of contacts, an archaeology degree and is encouraging us to try for museum status for some of our artefacts and those of the “boys”.

Jill Edwards has joined him as our fifth director. As you know Jill has been our administrator, and was the school secretary when the school existed, so she knows the building inside-out, is related to an impressive list of local people and has been associated with the information centre in Harleston for some years.

Welcome to them both!

We have just been invited by the Norfolk Archive Centre to join their project “Community Archives, Sustainability and Support Partnership”. They will help us with the rationalising, recording and organising of the archive room. In beginning this work, we have already been greatly assisted by Elinor Pugh and have great hopes for the future. Jill, Elinor and I spent this morning looking through the papers we already hold, now Elinor has progressed with rationalising it all. It really is an amazing collection and undoubtedly a great responsibility, given that much of the content has been passed to us for safekeeping and is irreplaceable.

If any of you feel that you would like to assist with the archiving do please contact Jill or me and you will be most welcome. We are very concerned to spread our responsibilities over as broad a spectrum of helpers as possible in order to provide continuity.

We are being very careful to comply with social distancing in all its guises. This is greatly helped by the fact that the building is large and airy so we can spread out and keep the doors open. Jill has set up a table for us to enter our names, attend to hand hygiene and don masks and we are also being careful to disinfect surfaces, doorhandles and so-on.

Many of you will be aware that Margaret Griffiths our sole remaining founding director is very poorly at present. We are wishing her well, keeping in touch with both her and Sheena, her partner, and sending our very best wishes and prayers to them both. They are in good hands and despite the restrictions, treatment is progressing.

We are of course looking forward to the day when we can start our talks and exhibitions once more. We have lots of plans and speakers raring to go. All we need is to get rid of the virus! We wish you all well. Keep safe and we look forward to meeting you all again soon.

Mary, Jill and your fellow directors, soon to be trustees we hope!