

Granby and Sutton Annual Meeting of the Parish 7 April 2022

Report of the Parish Council

Granby cum Sutton Parish Council are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting (APM). Residents are invited and encouraged to attend the APM. This meeting provides the opportunity for the Parish Council and all the groups and societies within our two villages to give feedback about what has been happening over the past year. This information is available for all residents to see on the Parish Council website, paper copies will be made available on request.

The last twelve months started in much the same way as the previous twelve months with lockdown and restrictions resulting in our meetings being held via Zoom. Fortunately in May local councils were required to resume face to face meetings, albeit still following strict guidelines and regulation particularly with regard to social distancing and face covering. The Village Hall opened for lettings from 19th July, when many Covid restrictions were lifted.

The precept – the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax – will be increasing by 1.9% (about 2p per week) next year. This is because of rising costs and is the first increase for 14 years. The major expenses are the Village Hall – which is part funded by lettings – and the maintenance of the village greens in Granby, along with the cemetery and Church graveyard. A contingency fund is maintained to cover any unexpected expenditure but over the next few months there will be some significant costs as there are repairs required to the barge boards the Village Hall.

The Council has been invited to consider and comment on fourteen planning applications and two appeals over the last twelve months. There is always an opportunity for differing views on these but for the most part they have been fairly non-contentious. However, there have been two or three which have raised concerns and objections have been submitted by both the Parish Council, Borough Councillor and a number of residents.

Although not in our Parish, we attend meetings relating to the proposed Solar Farm near to Jericho Lodge. Many will remember that the initial route for construction traffic was to be through Granby and along Gypsy

Lane. After objections this was changed to go through Plungar instead. After further objections the route has changed again and now leaves the A52 along Redmile Lane before using farm tracks at Glebe Farm. There is still no date given for when the application will be considered by Melton Borough Council.

Speeding traffic is still a major concern within the parish. This year we were given temporary Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) to display traffic speeds. These were both placed in Granby, one on Sutton Lane and one on Plungar Road. We were disappointed that, despite our requests, neither of them was moved to Sutton. We were further disappointed that they did not record volume or speed of traffic, as this data may have helped our case for permanent signs. Although we do not have figures, residents did report that traffic slowed when approaching these signs. Our concerns have been raised with the Highways Authority and they will arrange for us to have another temporary loan.

Village “clean up Saturdays” resumed when they were able to and this year included the Great British Spring Clean. Sutton had taken part on the 6th June. Granby took part on the 13th June. Thirty residents of all ages made an excellent job of cleaning up the village. A big thanks to all who took contributed to this.

The link chain fencing in the village hall playground was replaced due to its poor condition and a basketball hoop was purchased after a request was received from some of our younger residents. We are delighted to note that they are making good use of it!

At Christmas we again provided Christmas trees for inside and outside the Church and the green in Sutton. In Sutton this proved a popular community event as residents gathered to help decorate the tree and held a grand “turning on” of the lights. Also at Christmas was the advent calendar windows running throughout December. This year it had been intended to have Carols on the Greens on Christmas Eve. Sadly, because of rising Covid cases the Granby event was cancelled, but the Sutton event still took place. This was because the numbers of Sutton residents attending were able to easily “socially distance” around the village green, but based on previous years’ attendance this would not have been the case in Granby.

During the last 12 months we have lost 3 of our councillors.

At the AGM our chairman, Cllr John Rainbow resigned after 6 years as a councillor. He had been chair for the previous two years during the particularly difficult time at the start of the pandemic. He has given much time to the Parish Council including setting up the current Parish website and acting as webmaster. John agreed to continue as webmaster until a replacement could be found. Cllr Philip Straw also resigned after 14 years on the Parish Council, three of which were as chair. Over the years he has contributed much but particularly regarding the Village Hall and the playground. In January Cllr Julie Powell resigned after 3 and a half years as a councillor, contributing a lot to the Parish Council including producing the Parish Newsletter. Our grateful thanks go to Julie, John and Philip for their service.

We welcomed 2 new Councillors, Trevor Fewell and Mike Stevenson both residents of Sutton, to replace John and Philip. We are currently in the recruitment process for Julie's replacement.

Another loss, this time through retirement, was our Clerk, Miss Ann Coy. Ann has been Clerk for 11 years. Her knowledge, guidance and enthusiasm towards the smooth running of the Council will be missed. Over the last few years she has also been our caretaker. Ann agreed to remain as Responsible Financial Officer until a new Clerk is appointed, her other roles being shared out amongst the councillors. Our great thanks must go to Ann for all she has done and has continued to do including helping us to find a new Parish Clerk.

Mrs Claire Beecroft was appointed Clerk in December. Claire was brought up in Sutton and after a few years away from the area has now returned "home". We are delighted to have her as our Clerk and she has shown great determination in learning about the role and is already contributing to the work of the Council.

Finally I would thank all Councillors for their support and hard work during the year and, of course, many thanks to our new Parish Clerk who is very ably picking up the reins to help ensure the efficient and effective running of the Council.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee bank holiday 2nd -5th June

We are encouraging groups and individuals to participate in a number of events over the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday at the start of June. There will shortly be a newsletter outlining the activities already planned and seeking further support from residents.

Report of the Walking Group

“We are back on the march!”

The past 12 months were largely a repeat of the previous year in that we were unable to meet up for monthly walks due to the spread and rules of the pandemic. As the situation improved we did organize a walk for February but this time the weather forced us to cancel with storms and persistent rain.

Things do continue to improve and, in March, we were able to walk for the first time in over two years. Sixteen people met for a circular walk from Harlaxton, along the canal to Denton Reservoir and back through Haralaxton village, ending up at the Gregory Arms.

The walks will continue to follow the usual format i.e. a circular walk, between four and five miles with the option of Sunday lunch in one of the nearby pubs. They generally take place on the third Sunday of each month. Most walks are relatively local with many situated in the Vale of Belvoir. We meet for a 10.30am start and usually finish at 1.00pm.

We welcome new members to any of our walks; contact Andy Betts to be added to the circulation list.

Andy Betts

Report of the Singing Group

In common with most groups, because of the covid situation, we did not start meeting until the summer of last year.

Once again we were asked to perform at the Annual Lunch of Granby, Barnstone & District Branch of the Royal British Legion. Naturally we were all very cautious of singing indoors at first, so the rehearsals took place in the garden of The Nest in Sutton. Fortunately the weather was kind to us, so we didn't miss any rehearsals. As ever, the concert was well received.

By the time we were ready to prepare for Christmas Cheer the situation had begun to ease so we rehearsed once again in the village hall with appropriate social distancing. Unfortunately the new variant was starting to spread just before the concert, however we were still able to continue

but with only half the audience and without our usual coffee and mince pies afterwards. It was still a popular and successful event and we were able to give more than £200 to the Church.

Having cancelled our Burns Night supper in January we were pleased to be able to start rehearsals at the end of February for the Platinum Jubilee Concert in June but with a seriously reduced number in the group as some key singers will be on holiday.

Sadly the last couple of years or so have taken a toll on our numbers, with 3 deaths and 4 others incapacitated with illness. We have also lost our dear friend and pianist John Simpson as he has debilitating Motor Neurone Disease.

We cherish the memory of all these friends.

However, we remain an enthusiastic amateur group and are always pleased to welcome new members. Anyone interested should contact Isabel Daw 01949 851212 or email johndaw6@aol.com – the show must go on

Isabel Daw

Report of Granby and Sutton W.I.

Due to the restrictions being in place on all meetings, **Granby & Sutton W I** started the year with our Hyacinth Competition being held outdoors! Ladies brought their hyacinths along to the Bus Shelter in the centre of Granby, where they were secretly judged and the winner announced at a gathering on the Green later in the afternoon. In the circumstances it was agreed by all that it was a very successful and innovative way to continue our traditional Hyacinth Challenge and maintain contact with one another. Unfortunately the restrictions continued for some time and our committee meetings were held using Zoom, for which we were grateful to the Parish for organising.

We did however hold a Treasure Hunt around the village which was great fun and well attended. Our first full meeting was allowed in July, when we held a Social Evening for our ladies. It was so good to get

everyone together, albeit socially distanced, and everyone enjoyed the event.

We were able to resume our planned programme of events, under the restrictions required, and enjoyed a craft evening making wire birds, a fascinating presentation on Recycling, a talk on British Sign Language, a talk on the Sky Above Us, as well as our Christmas Dinner. In addition we held our only fund-raising event of the year – a coffee morning in November when we sold Home Made Produce and enjoyed coffee and biscuits in the Village Hall. The event was well attended by the community and thankfully boosted our funds as well.

Despite all the restrictions and constraints, we were determined to be try to run a recruitment drive, and raise the profile of our W I , and as a result we are delighted to have welcomed an additional 5 ladies into our membership this year. We are always delighted to welcome new members, particularly new residents to the village, and invite anyone interested in joining us to contact a member of the committee.

We feel that our WI is in a good position to go forward into 2022/23, providing our members with a programme of events covering a wide range of interests. We are pleased to have been able to maintain remote contact with all of our members during what has been a difficult time for the community. However, it has been good to get back to face-to-face meetings, and we hope to be able to continue to support and be involved in all local community events during the next year.

Submitted by Joint Presidents Angela Sinclair and Lois Hamson

Report for All Saints Church

We currently have one service a month, which is open to the all in the Wiverton Parish and is well attended. Parishioners are able to access Sunday services via Zoom if they are unable to attend the Church service.

The church is now open 24/7 and to date this has not caused any issues.

We have maintained our monthly charity giving via donating on line, supporting Christian Aid, Water Aid, Self Help Africa and The Children's Society.

The Church Warden stood down November 2021 and Granby is now without a Church Warden. To keep the Church open we have a small group of local Parishioners, meeting regularly to oversee the up keep and generally running and maintenance of the church.

The monthly service readings and the flowers rotas have increased which helps to spread the workload. Local volunteers help to clean the church on a monthly rota.

A small group recently gave the church a spring clean and it was decided that we would dispose of the large harmonium and peddles, and we have been given permission by the church authorities, for its disposal.

Maintenance - We have had some stain glass windows repaired.

We are in the process of repairing one of the pillars on the tower and reattaching the lightening conductor. It is hoped that we can use a cheery picker, help reduce the cost, negating the need for having scaffolding.

The on line Pause for Prayer and Reflection at 10.30am will continue for the foreseeable future. All the church diary is published in the weekly notices available to all, on the church web site (wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

I would like to thank everyone who continues to support All Saints Granby Church.

Anna Betts

Report of the Granby and Sutton Garden and Allotment Club

During the past year the Granby and Sutton Garden and Allotment Club has continued to meet on the First Tuesday of the month. Membership of the Club has been maintained at around 30 despite the COVID restrictions. A programme of local Garden visits arranged for the summer months went ahead with 3 in person visits and one session on Zoom.

Our first Summer session in May 21 was an interesting talk on Zoom where we instructed in the good that wasps do why we would be in trouble without them. The first Garden visit in June got off to a great start with a visit to The Old Vicarage at Burley on the Hill. This is a splendid impressive garden with great design and planting complemented with superb Tea and Cakes

In July we visited an urban garden in Derby which was a revelation with exotic planting, water features and plenty of produce. August was a surprise garden at a Farm near Retford which had been created from a field in a few years by the great enthusiasm of the owner and planting in depth.

The 12th September Home Produce Show was held in the Village Hall and was well attended being the first Village Community Event since to COVID lockdown. The number of entries was up on previous years although the number of entrants was lower. The Sam Lee Trophy presented to the overall winner was awarded to Mark Tubbs.

From November our winter programme of talks commenced with local gardener Mike Davey recommending plants for all seasons. Unfortunately, the December meeting was cancelled due to COVID concerns. The January Meeting on Zoom had Sally Cunningham explaining why we should welcome bugs into the garden.

Our meetings returned to the Village Hall in February, March and April when speakers gave advice on Gardens in Winter and planting for Cut Flowers. A full programme of Garden visits has been arranged for the coming summer. Details of the 13th Home Produce Show have been delivered to all homes in Granby and Sutton

Stan Taylor

Report of the Granby Ladies Thursday Club

Not surprisingly, the Covid pandemic had a profound effect on our ability to hold meetings last year. The village hall, our normal meeting place, was closed and social contact restricted so our members did not have a face-to-face meeting until July 2021. When restrictions were lifted in July we were able to go ahead with our annual Summer Supper evening. This was a perfect opportunity for our members to reconnect in a relaxed

and informal atmosphere and we all felt a new appreciation of the importance of social contact. Affirmation that Clubs like ours provide social and mental support essential for wellbeing.

We had a rare 'open meeting' in September and invited non-members to join us to hear Dr Matt Beresford give an illustrated talk on a local archaeology project. Our popular Halloween Supper was well attended in October, as was our cocktail demonstration evening in November and dinner at Paul's in Bottesford in December.

So far in 2022 we have had our AGM and annual skittles night and will end our programme year in March with a demonstration of hand-made chocolate treats, just in time to stock up on Easter gifts.

The Club has seen some members go and new ones join in the last year and we currently have around 30 members. We meet on the last Thursday of each month except August, when we have a break, and December when we go to a restaurant early in the month.

Despite the name, we welcome new members from the surrounding area.

Elaine Walsh

Chairperson, Granby Ladies Thursday Club

Report of the Granby Wine Group

The Group is now in its 12th year and currently has 38 members. The members mostly live in Granby and Sutton, but 4 members live in surrounding villages.

The last twelve months has remained difficult for everyone because of the Covid pandemic, and we have continued to meet either virtually or face to face whilst abiding with all the regulations set by government to try and keep us all safe. This has not been easy, but all the members have fully supported us.

The first two meetings of the year were virtual using zoom. In April we asked Ann et Vin in Newark to provide us with a selection of wines from her current range. We enjoyed the wines and reported our views back to

her. We followed this in May with a selection of wines from the Marks & Spencer range.

We had intended to meet in the Village Hall in June, but regulations were not changed in time, so we had to rearrange a virtual meeting at 48 hours' notice. We met on zoom and tasted Bin End wines from our own cellars and recommended or put off other members from those wines.

In July we returned after a break of over 12 months to the Village Hall and after a glass of bubbly to celebrate the start of the return to normality we tasted Italian wines and pizza. In August we held the annual pic-nic in Keith and Sian's garden and tasted wines chosen by Chris and Simon. Once again, many thanks to Keith and Sian for the use of the garden.

We returned to the Village Hall for the remainder of the year. In September we tasted more wines from Ann et Vin and in October Celebrity wines including those from Graham Norton, Gary Barlow, Ian Botham and Rick Stein. It was an enjoyable evening, but many members thought the celebrities should stick to their day jobs.

Jon & Jo organized a tasting of Spanish wines in November which was enjoyed by all and was followed by a Christmas party and tasting in December.

We started the New Year tasting wines from Brigitte Bordeaux in Sherwood followed by a visit in February from Dennis Kingshot of Catchpole Cellars and we sampled Spanish wines from their current range

We have a full program going forward including tasting wines from the Loire, a visit from San Martino Wines and the joint venture with the Gardening and Walking clubs in August

The subscription rate has remained at £10 which was restarted in May when the Village Hall reopened. We are always open to new members.

Michael Headland

Report of the Granby, Barnstone and District Branch of the Royal British Legion

Granby, Barnstone & District Branch of the Royal British Legion has, likely many other local organisations, been affected by the covid-19 regulations imposed by H.M. Government during 2021 and the first two months of 2022. During this time of restrictions, the Branch committee continued to ensure that all members were kept informed of the restrictions imposed and the recommendations for staying safe. They also provided channels of communication whereby members or local beneficiaries could contact the RBL should they require help throughout this difficult period.

The Branch hosted two events following the easing of restrictions in 2021. The Annual Luncheon was held on Sunday 12th September and was well attended. The Granby & Sutton Singers entertained those attending, with a selection of songs over the past 100 years, to mark the centenary of the formation of the RBL. On Saturday 23rd October our Branch President, Sir Andrew Pulford, gave a talk on the Air Force in 2021. Again this event was well attended and raised £432.36 towards the Poppy Appeal. On Saturday 7th August our Branch Standard Bearer and I attended a commemoration event in Eaton for the crew of a Lancaster bomber from RAF Langar, which had crash landed in a field near the village, killing all the crew. On Sunday 14th November we attended two services for Remembrance Sunday. One at the 207 Squadron Memorial on Langar Airfield and one at St Andrew's church, Langar. The Poppy Appeal was yet again successful, despite the fact that house-to-house collections were severely restricted. Despite this the Branch was able to collect a total of £2659.04. We wish to thank all those within the Parish who contributed so generously to this total.

The Branch Committee met in January to consider events for 2022. It is hoped that we will be able to visit RAF Marham in Norfolk, the base for the current 207 Squadron, in April, and that the Branch Annual Luncheon will be on a Sunday in either late June or early July. Another talk by our President is planned for late October. Remembrance Sunday will be on 13th November 2022, and it is hoped that the main Service will take place at All Saints church, Granby.

Andrew Charlett
Branch Chairman

Report of the Bell Ringing Group

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing affects of Covid, there has been very little ringing over the last year, although we were able to ring for a couple of services in the summer.

I marked the death of the Duke of Edinburgh by striking 99 times - one stroke for each year of his life - both on the day after the announcement, and again on the afternoon of his funeral.

Mark Tubbs
Tower Captain

