

Annual Parish Meeting 2020

No Annual meeting was held in May 2020 due to Coronavirus pandemic.

Reports received from the various groups in the village:

Parish Council Report. Cllr Rainbow

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is the annual forum to discuss parish matters, enable the Parish Council to explain what it has done over the last year and provide an opportunity for the registered electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the residents of Granby and Sutton. This is separate from the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC) where councillors sit, vote and elect the Chairman.

Parish Council regulations are legislated by the Local Government Act of 1972 and Localism Act of 2011. The fast-tracked Coronavirus Act of 2020 gave the Government emergency powers to handle the pandemic including suspending public gatherings. However, your Parish Council is maintaining core services and providing assistance through the Parish Clerk as focal point, and a network of volunteers in Granby and Sutton helping their neighbours who have self-isolated through age or medical condition.

Ordinarily at the opening of the meeting I would be welcoming you to the Village Hall which has been at the heart of our community since the late 19th century. The coronavirus, Covid-19 pandemic, has put an indefinite stop to all face to face meetings so exceptionally, this year's APM has been replaced with reports by your Parish Council Chairman and leaders of community organisations in our Parish.

The PC meets on the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of August in the Village Hall with an agenda and minutes. As an open public meeting, you are welcome to attend and there is an opportunity in the first 15 minutes of every meeting for residents to discuss items on the agenda. The parish Council prides itself on having open meetings where members of the community can see their elected representatives take decisions in a transparent manner to benefit the community. The point I want to make here, is that your Councillors as volunteers, with the exception of the Parish Clerk and Caretaker who are paid, are accountable to you and we do not have private unaccountable committees wasting your money on fanciful projects. The Parish Clerk supervises our meetings, manages the money and ensures that we follow the procedures that apply to all Parish Councils.

The PC is a consultee to Rushcliffe Borough Council on planning applications in our area and is responsible for maintaining the Village Hall, cemetery, the churchyard, war memorial, Church clock, public seats and the various greens around the villages. These responsibilities are funded by a precept levied from the council tax that we all pay. Just like my predecessors for more than a decade, I am pleased to report this year that we remain in a strong financial position and have again not found it necessary to increase the precept.

Major expenditure this year was to resurface the children's play area at the rear of the Village Hall. Cllr Straw led this project and successfully applied for a grant from the Lottery Fund.

Although your Parish Councillors work together to achieve successful outcomes, they take the lead in the following matters;

Best kept Village	Cllr Humphreys
Cemetery and Churchyard	Cllr Preece
Future Events	Cllr Daw
Newsletter	Cllr Powell
Public Rights of Way	Cllr March
Village Hall and Playgrounds	Cllr Straw
Webmaster	Cllr Rainbow

Remember that self-isolation should not mean social isolation. If anybody reading this needs any support, please reach out to the Parish Council and the network of volunteers in our community. The VE Day parties will hopefully be rebranded as VJ Day ones in August. Lets get through this together, be safe, stay home and we'll see you in the summer.

Finally I would thank all Councillors for their support and hard work during the year and, of course, many thanks to our Parish Clerk, Ann Coy who ensures that the Council runs smoothly and efficiently.

PCC All Saints Church – Maureen Wright

The majority of the year the parish was in interregnum, being wonderfully supported by the generosity of retired clergy, our Reader and laity.

Parish Holy Communion was held on the first Sunday of the month.

Granby having Holy Communion on the third Sunday, and Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday alternating months.

Evening Prayer with the churches choir visited quarterly and Songs of Praise maintained on the fifth Sunday of the month.

Festival Services

Good Friday - had an evening reading of the Passion of Christ, read in a dramatic form, it was the third year it had been read. Easter Sunday - celebrated Holy Communion.

Harvest Festival - celebrated by an Evening Songs of Praise. Donations being shared between Dove Cottage and The Friary Remembrance Sunday - Granby's turn to host.

Carol Service followed the usual patten of lessons and carols

Christmas Eve Holy Communion - celebrated earlier than usual at 8pm.

All Saints supported Christian Aid, Water Aid, Self Help Africa charities, and Open Churches, and Ride and Stride organisations.

In January the Home Team met with the Archdeacon for Transition, Rev. Phil Williams, to discuss the Parish Profile, and what qualities we would look for in a new incumbent, with a small group from the PCC working under the guidance of Rev. Williams the Parish Profile was published.

August 4th the Announcement was made that Rev. Rachel Mitchell was to be the Parish Rector, she was installed by Bishop Paul at St. Andrew's church, Langar on 12th November.

Maintenance and Fabric

It was mid May when the repair to the Bell Tower and the work identified in 2016 was able to start. The firm worked quickly and cleared the site each evening, the painting, pointing and filling blended well into the church and soon were difficult to identify. The repair to the tower was more difficult than had been expected, when seen from the scaffold on a horizontal plane, matching stone was sourced and fetched from a yard in the south of England. The job was completed in 5 weeks.

I had a conversation with the architect regarding the state of the church path, over the years the paving stones had moved making them a hazard. He confirmed that it was severe enough to need relaying. He agreed that to introduce a slope to remove the step on entry to the porch would be helpful. Approval from the Diocese was given and quotes were obtained. The path was relayed in a random style (which gives it extra strength) with a slight slope up to the leading edge of the porch, the boot scraper was also repositioned in keeping to the new height of the path. Grass seed was spread to areas which had been disturbed. Wheelchair access into church will be much easier if needed.

In November the flood lights stopped working, a local electrical firm was contacted and one started to work again. The other needed more work, when the parts were bought they would return to finish. Most of the winter months there was just the one light working, eventually that also failed again. After many emails and phone conversations I was told they would arrive, then the coronavirus arrived and lockdown followed!!! I have been assured that when the lockdown is removed the lights will be repaired - hopefully in time for the winter months of 2020.

The organ has been thoroughly overhauled and cleaned, and slight repairs done. It was recommended that mains electronic mouse deterrents were placed inside the organ, we thought we could source and fit them ourselves but after further conversation it is a more complicated procedure, when travel and socialisation is allowed again, they will return to fit them.

May I thank all those people who are involved in the working of the church, the loyal ladies who open and close the church daily, those on the cleaning rota, and the flower rota who add to the welcoming ambience of the church, to Elizabeth our dedicated organist and to Simon for turning the heating on for our services.

Lastly I would like to thank the Home Team who over the year have supported and helped me more than I can express. Thank you all.

Granby & Sutton W I – Angela Sinclair & Lois Hanson

We have welcomed two new ladies to our membership this year which now stands at twenty eight and, as always, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall.

We have been entertained by some very interesting and informative speakers throughout the year; ranging from the roots of the Pilgrim Fathers and how their voyage on the Mayflower came about 400 years ago, to an overview of the Tower of London, The Origins of Everyday Sayings, and our Open Meeting when the talk was on the Chilwell Shell Filling Factory in the first world war.

Among our speakers was Janet Tilford, representing the NHS Blood Transfusion and Transplant service who took us through the procedures and requirements of the service and touched all our hearts when she revealed that she herself had had a liver transplant and told us of her experience.

Wendy Davenport kept us enthralled with her story of how she went from being a farmer to joining the mounted division of the Metropolitan Police - including many anecdotes and experiences of her journey.

Stephanie Sirr, the CEO from Nottingham Playhouse, gave us an excellent talk about the background of the theatre, her role in the scheduling and procurement of productions and the general running and life of the theatre.

Our annual summer outing was on one of the hottest days of July when we visited Waddesden Manor and enjoyed the magnificent gardens and grounds and toured the extraordinary Rothschild Art Collection in the house.

We held our usual Plant and Produce Sale in the Village Hall in May and raised a good sum towards our funds. We supported the Rainbow Horses Charity at Harby and raised over £1000 holding various events including a Christmas Craft Stall and a delightful Afternoon Tea Party in true WI style.

We were able to hold our AGM in March at which our President of the past three years, Brenda Straw, stood down and joint Presidents Lois Hamson and Angela Sinclair were appointed.

We thank the Committee for all their support and hard work – and all those who have provided refreshments at the monthly meetings and thanked our Speakers.

We would like to look forward to another busy year but, unfortunately, as with so many organisations, the Coronavirus pandemic has meant that since our AGM we have had to cancel our meetings and outings until at least June, and maybe further ahead depending on future policy.

All Saints Church Bell Ringers – Mark Tubbs

The number of Granby bell ringers has remained stable at six, although two remain non-ringing through injury. We continue to hold joint practices with other towers in the area on a Thursday night.

Unfortunately, absences mean that we don't often get a full band for Sunday ringing, but until the Covid lock-down, we usually managed to get two or three bells going to announce services. We had also hoped to join with the nation for ringing on the anniversary of VE Day, but obviously that cannot now go ahead.

Any newcomers, young or adult, will be made most welcome.

Granby Ladies Thursday Club- Elaine Walsh

Our Granby Ladies Thursday Club (GLTC) have enjoyed another year of social events and continues to build friendships and goodwill within the group. Although a couple of ladies have not renewed their membership, we have gained several new members including ladies who were fairly new to the village. The meetings have been a great way for them to blend into the village and meet new friends.

Our meetings are fairly informal and always fun. During 2019/20 we had, what have become, our regular foodie evenings. Sausage Mash and Skittles, Summer Supper, Halloween Supper and Christmas meal – once again at Paul's in Bottesford.

In between eating we learnt about....making Kefir, life as a Community Artist, and the life of women ambulance drivers during the first world war. We had fun painting pottery and in April 2019 some of our members became models for the evening of our fashion show. A special mention to Mr and Mrs Chamberlain who kindly hosted our visit to their Aslockton garden on our lovely sunny July 2019 meeting.

The last meeting of our 2019/20 programme (March) had to be cancelled due to the Corona Virus lockdown.

Gardening Club – Stan Taylor

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 stabilized around the mid 30's which, bolstered by a few guests, allows us to continue our monthly meetings.

However more extensive activities such as coach trips are more difficult to arrange.

Additional members are always welcome.

A programme of local Garden visits is arranged during the summer months. Our Garden visits are usually in the evening however there is at least one afternoon visit each year.

In May last year our summer visits got off to a good start with an afternoon visit to Brightwater Gardens at Saxby nr Market Rasen. An inspiring 8-acres of gardens wildflower meadows and woodland.

Our June visit was to Goaby Marwood Hall.

In July we visited a garden at Sutton on Trent which proved to be one of the most inspiring gardens we have visited. The design, planting and maintenance were exceptional.

Also, In July we visited a garden in Farndon nr Newark.

In August we joined with the Walking Group and Wine Club for a day visit to Leicestershire with a Morning Walk in Swithland Wood and Bradgate, Pub Lunch and a visit to Whatton Manor Gardens. This was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

September was the 11th Annual Home Produce Show held in the Village Hall.

The number of people submitting entries was up on 2017 with the number of exhibits at a record level. The Sam Lee trophy presented to the overall winner of the show was awarded to Sian Hamson.

During the winter months' meetings were held in the Village Hall usually with a speaker delivering an illustrated talk on a subject of gardening interest.

A highlight of this year's winter programme was a talk and demonstration on Bonsai by Corin Tomlinson of Greenwood Bonsai Studio. This was enjoyed by all who attended.

We have had a varied programme and thanks go to Carole Kirk yet again for arranging the speakers.

Sutton and Granby Singers – Isabel Daw

In September the Singing group entertained with songs on the theme of 'Love' at the Granby and Barnstone Royal British Legion annual lunch.

Our 12th annual 'CHRISTMAS CHEER' singalong was to a packed audience in the Church where people joined in with familiar songs and rounds and also listened to new items from the choir and the ever popular handbell group. As always we had the excellent accompaniment of Sue on the organ and Maurice on the accordion. It was a joyous and successful occasion concluding with mince pies in the Village Hall. All ticket sales (£535) were donated to Granby Church fund.

On the previous evening we had performed the same concert at Aslockton church which was decorated with Christmas trees and thus enhanced the seasonal feeling of the nostalgic familiar songs.

Most of the group added their support and voices to the carols on Sutton green and Granby green to mark the opening of the final Advent Calendar window. This was a very happy occasion with very enthusiastic singing from the gathered crowd.

We celebrated Burns' night together by heartily singing 24 Scottish songs, eating a traditional meal, dancing and raising our tots of the 'water of life '!

We have been rehearsing 'SONGS THAT WON THE WAR' in preparation for an evening singalong concert on Saturday 9th May to mark the village celebrations of VE day. Sadly, because of the coronavirus outbreak, this is postponed and rehearsals suspended.

We are always happy to welcome new members, singers and instrumentalists, into our group which is based on enjoyment of music. Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, dates depending on planned concerts.

Wine club – Michael Headland

The group is now in its 10th year and currently has 37 members. They predominately come from Granby and Sutton but there are still 3 members from other villages.

In May 2019 we started the year by tasting wines presented by Jon and Jo followed on July 6th by the annual BBQ which we once again held in Keith and Sian's garden. The wines were selected from the spring collection from Majestic and Laithwaites plus the odd one from Marks and Spencer. The weather once again was kind to us and we need to thank Keith and Sian for all their efforts.

We joined up with the Walking Group and Gardening Club on August 11th for a walk in Bradgate Park Leicestershire with lunch and wine at The Griffin Inn, Swithland. We returned to the Village Hall in September and tasted wines from Chile presented by David and Julie. David also gave us an interesting talk based on his recent trip to that country.

We hosted Ann et Vin from Newark at our October meeting with a blind wine tasting which generally proved how poor we all were at identifying individual wines. In November it was tasting "Wine Critic's Choice" with John and Carole followed by the Christmas party on December 17th. We tasted wines from Majestic, Ann et Vin, Marks and Spencer and Waitrose all with a Christmas theme.

We were in the Village Hall for the start of the New Years programme on January 14th when we tasted English wines brought to us by Keith. We followed this in February by tasting wines of South Africa brought to us by Jon and Jo. On March 10th we visited Mr & Mrs Wine in Southwell and all enjoyed the food and wine we tasted.

This turned out to be our last meeting for the time being because of the coronavirus lockdown. However we are hoping to have a virtual meeting on April 21st and all of the people booked for the next few months have agreed to rearrange once we return to something like normal. We can therefore look forward to Dennis Kingshot from Catchpole

Cellars, the joint walk and meal as well as a visit from Roger Halfpenny at dates yet to be arranged.

The subscription rate has remained at £10 per person.

British Legion – Andrew Charlett

The Branch has once again been most active over the past year. In March 2019 Nigel Wood provided an excellent talk on Succour & Security, which raised £67 for the Poppy Appeal. Throughout the year members of our Branch have also supported events organised by neighbouring Branches. In June I represented our Branch and attended a D Day parade in Bingham and a flag raising ceremony at Rushcliffe Arena to mark the start of Armed Forces Week. In September we hosted our Branch Annual Luncheon, which was well attended and raised a total of £469 towards Branch funds. In October our President, Andy Pulford, gave another of his most interesting illustrated talks, this year on Iraq 2003. This event raised £323 towards this year's Poppy Appeal. In November we held our annual Poppy Appeal collection, which totalled £2970, and held our Remembrance Sunday Service at All Saints church, Granby. In the week prior to this service we held an unveiling ceremony for a memorial bench for the aircrew from 207 Squadron Bomber Command, who served at Langar Airfield from September 1942 to October 1943.

In January 2020 our Standard Bearer, Ken Kirk, and I attended the Nottinghamshire RBL County Conference, where our Branch was awarded another Efficiency Certificate and Ken was again presented with a Standard Bearer's Award. Like most organisations we had planned a number of events for this year, but unfortunately these have had to be put on hold due to the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. We hope to be able to resume our activities once the lockdown restrictions have eventually been lifted.

History Group – Mark Tubbs

The History Club has been running since February 2019 and usually meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

People have been coming with old photographs and documents, particularly those who grew up in one of the villages.

Our main focus for the early part of 2020 has been research into village life during the Second World War, and we had hoped to stage an exhibition of materiel on the VE Day anniversary weekend, to include as much as we know about residents who served in the armed forces, and the story of the night of 8th / 9th May 1941, when the area was bombed. Thanks must go to Stuart Humphreys and Julie Powell for the work that they had been putting in in preparation for the exhibition, and I only hope that their efforts will be rewarded as soon as possible after a return to normality.

Work has been undertaken to interview older residents to get their first-hand knowledge of wartime, the VE Day celebrations, and we have recorded fascinating memories of life in a bygone

area. Some interesting work has also been looking at records available, and we now think that we have a pretty good idea of who was living in most of the houses standing at the time of the outbreak of war.

Any newcomers will be made most welcome. There is no membership fee, but a small contribution is asked to cover the costs of the hire of the hall.

No further reports were received.