

GRESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023/4

Another year has passed in the blink of an eye but there have been some significant key steps forward for the parish and community.

Perhaps the most significant development is the introduction of a 20mph speed zone outside and approaching the school at key morning and afternoon school drop off and collection times which is fantastic news for traffic calming and the safety of the school children. With many thanks to Cllr Vardy for both access to the funding and the organising of this and a big thank you to all in the parish whose persistent efforts expressing concern about speed through the village put the pressure on to make such positive progress. Alongside this, we have also begun to establish stronger links with the school who have been equally concerned about the impact of the school traffic on the village.

In other areas:

-with thanks to [name redacted], the embankment by Lower Gresham bridge has seen some solid wooden posts set in to preserve the receding verge edge.

-lest we forget the passing of the wooden notice board in Lower Gresham – the torch has now been handed to a new, younger model that now stands proudly in its place. With thanks to Cllrs Arnold & Ilsley for organising the purchase and fitting.

Village Park:

Driven by [name redacted], a welcome addition to the village park is some silver birch trees by the brick garage. I'm sure they will flourish in their new home and will be a lovely addition to the landscape.

The moles are back!! But, this hasn't managed to discourage our new groundsman. A fine job he/they are doing and it's lovely to see the grass back in great condition.

A commemorative bench is also now sitting in the corner of the park looking out towards Bessingham. Many thanks to Cllr Ilsley for clearing the area to enable the bench to take its place.

Play area: members of the Parish Council continue to check the play area weekly for any safety issues arising and for the organisation of subsequent repairs.

Finally, many thanks to Sarah Hayden, Parish Clerk, for her continued substantial contribution and hard work keeping the administration of the parish on track which is so essential in enabling us to progress development for the parish.

Annual Report for the Friends of All Saints Gresham May 2024

Overview

The Friends of All Saints Gresham have continued to fundraise and hold community events during 2023/24, but with much less frequency than during previous years. Family caring responsibilities by the Chair, with ill health among other members of the committee has meant we have been unable to maintain momentum. Appeals for new members of the committee have been unsuccessful. However, some events have been run and income generated, together with the other benefits they bring to the community.

Following an appeal, funds were raised, and a memorial bench for the churchyard purchased in memory of the late Jill Fisher. It was dedicated during a well-attended service. A lunchtime classical music concert in April 2023 was enjoyed by many and resulted in generous donations. A coffee morning in the Church in October '23 had few attendees, but those that came, again, gave generously. The Friends provided and served refreshments at the annual carol concert. A brunch in January this year proved very popular, and it was good to see so many villagers attending and enjoying themselves. Similarly, Pancake Day celebrations proved very popular and raised much needed funds. We have a history lecture arranged for 14th June'24, when Simon Kinder from Gresham's School will talk about Gresham's Spies. Donations will be shared with Gresham's School's charity of the year.

During this financial year, a large amount of maintenance on the trees in the graveyard was necessary to keep them safe. The Friends paid for this work. More will be undertaken soon, and we will again meet the bill. We aim to keep fundraising as the year progresses so the church can be kept in good repair for the benefit of the community.

Report for Gresham parish council meeting
From Gresham Methodist Chapel. 8.5.2024.

We have 12 members and have
a service at 2.30 every Sunday.

Followed with Tea & Coffee.

Special services.

Easter service followed with Tea

Harvest Festival service with food
collected for the Food Bank.

Candlelit Carol service at Christmas

We have a Spring Fair,

Strawberry Tea and Christmas Fair,
in the Village Hall, to raise funds
for the upkeep of the Chapel,
Bills and repairs.

We also hold coffee mornings
in the Chapel.

We have an inspection every 5 years.

Last year (2023) the Chapel was
painted on the outside.

Some village chapels are closing,

we are hoping to keep ours
open. All welcome.

Joy Cooper

GRESHAM VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION (GVHA)

Report by Simon Cheves, Chair, at GVHA's AGM held December 2023.

It is gratifying to relate that 2023 has been a good year for the Hall. All our existing regular users have continued their activities. Badminton, Backgammon, Carpet Bowls & Upholstery have all been doing their respective things as has the Gresham Ladies Club. The North East Norfolk Bird Club have also continued to meet on a regular basis. Additionally, we have been pleased to host four new regular weekly sessions: Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga and a second session of Badminton. Bookings of the hall for parties and celebrations (both for adults and children) have continued albeit at a somewhat reduced rate (possibly because of cost of living issues) and we have again been very pleased to provide the venue for several Chapel events. We also had a repeat visit from the police who used the hall for a training day and remain very impressed with the facilities. The Hall put on a very successful village quiz night in September. Thanks to all who helped make it such a good night.

We also initiated an addition to our calendar with the inaugural Pop-up Bar event on 1st. December. Notwithstanding the bitterly cold weather, the good burghers of Gresham turned out in goodly numbers. This experiment will be repeated in the new year when the weather has warmed up a bit. Again, many thanks to all who contributed to its success.

With regard to personnel, we have been very pleased to welcome Janet Bolderstone, Rachel Hannam, Barbara Russell and Debbie Goodrum as new trustees. The hall remains in a healthy financial position.

I cannot end, of course, without expressing my thanks to all the Trustees for their contributions and support over the past year with particular mention as always to Joy for keeping the finances in good order, to Di for always being on hand to open/close the hall to visitors and keep it supplied with all the essentials and to David not only for keeping the committee and me in good order but also for his tireless work in continuing to take responsibility for the booking system - in addition to his duties as Secretary.

This short update is intended as an addition to the above Chairman's report which is now nearly six months out of date.

The Trustees consider it is necessary to explain the changes that have occurred since the above report was given..

Simon retired as chairman and there have been no candidates to take up this role. The Trustees therefore decided that the chairman's duties should be shared between themselves, as far as possible, rather than be the responsibility of one individual.

However, it is a requirement under the Association's Constitution that a Chairperson shall be appointed from the elected Trustees; David Logan has kindly, but reluctantly, agreed to act as a very temporary Chairman until a permanent solution can be found.

We plan a renewed effort, mainly by way of a flyer to be put round the village, to encourage more volunteers to join us, which may lead to new Trustees and, possibly, a new Chairperson.

We are aware that the ideal way to find a new chairperson will be by personal contact, to know something of a person's enthusiasm, capability & character, so the search goes on!

However, despite these difficulties the Trustees have managed keep the Hall maintained, including having the lighting in the hall improved, and the regular stream of enquiries for hiring the Hall have kept our finances in balance.

The Trustees of the Gresham Village Hall Association. May 2024