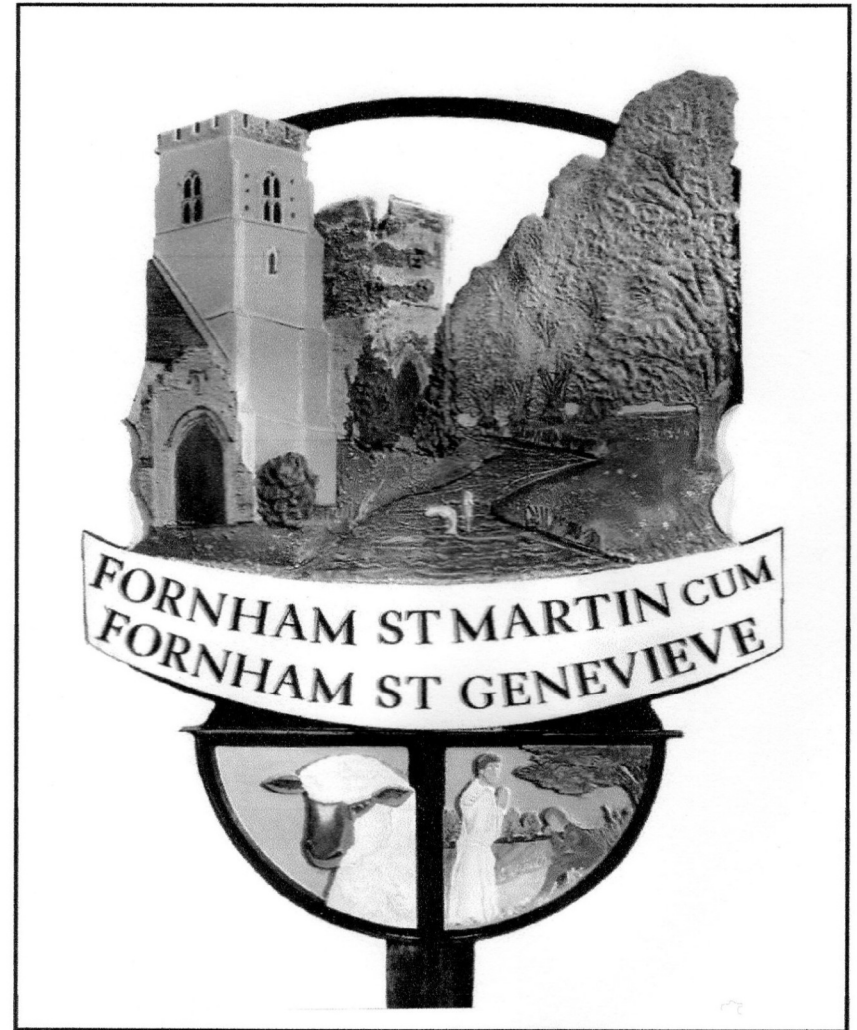


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Fornham Bugle



OCTOBER 2018 - NOVEMBER 2018

Newsletter number **101**

Articles for inclusion in the Bugle should be posted to:

Pat & Su Brooklyn
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Cottenham
Cambridge CB24 8QW

Tel No: 01954 253 400

Note new email: buglefsmsg@gmail.com

For **advertising** contact Parish Clerk (see below) or via email on website <http://fornhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net/>

Delivery enquiries: Peter Forster Tel No: 01284 764723

Please note: deadline for articles to be included in the
DEC 18 / JAN 2019 issue is **NOON** on **Mon 19 NOV 2018**

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The **BUGLE** is a free publication to all residents of Fornham St Martin and Fornham St Genevieve. There are six editions per year.

Our advertising rates from December 2018/ January 2019 are £60 per ½ page for 6 editions £120 per full page for 6 editions

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All meetings start at 7:30 pm

What's on in Fornham St Martin Village Hall

Weekly

Monday	5:30 pm & 7:30 pm	Slimming World
Tuesday	10:00 am to 12 noon	Mums & Toddlers* *
Thursday	10:00 am to 3:30 pm	Patchwork
Friday	7:15 pm to 10:00 pm	Whist Drive in aid of St Nicholas Hospice

* *Term Time Only

Monthly

1st Wed	10:00 to 4:00 pm	Sewing Craft
1st Wed	7:15 pm to 10:00 pm	Military Whist Drive in aid of Air Ambulance
1st Thurs		
1st Fri	12 noon to 4:00 pm	Spinners and Weavers
2nd Tues	7:30 pm to 9:30 pm	Garden Club (not January)
2nd Wed		
3rd Mon	10:00 to 12 noon	Probus Ladies
3rd Wed	10:00 to 4:00 pm	Card Making (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov)
3rd Wed	7:30 pm to 9:30 pm	Ladies Club
3rd Fri	12 noon to 4:00 pm	Spinners and Weavers
3rd Sun		
4th Wed	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Mary's Quilters
4th Wed	7:30 pm to 9:30 pm	Card Making (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov)

Occasional meetings

Parish Council, Village Hall Committees

If you would like to book the Village Hall for a club meeting, exhibition, or private party, please

*contact **Roger Farnell, Hall Manager for bookings and enquiries on 07855 717 859***

*fornhamhall@gmail.com or **Maureen Hockett, Committee Chair for information 07887 778 353***

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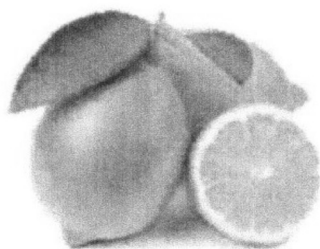
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Lizzie Flaherty	01284 703 486
Penny Borrett	01284 747140
Peter Forster	01284 764 723
Gary Hubbard	01284 753 383
Paul Butler	01284 760 119
Jayne Hubbard	01284 753 383
Vicky Bright (Parish Clerk)	07712 232 920 fsmgpc@gmail.com

*Any parishioners wishing to raise an issue should contact the Parish Clerk **tel** 07712 232 920 between 11am - 2pm Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri, or between 5pm - 6:30pm Thursday evening. Or **email** anytime : fsmgpc@gmail.com.
Parish Office: 3 Scott Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7LT*

The Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall with the exception of August & December.

Borough / County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger	07876 638 516
MP Jo Churchill	01284 752 311
Community Beat Officer	01284 774 100
Rev Canon Mark Haworth	01284 755 374 07932 160 009

The Parish Council on behalf of all parishioners would like to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation, the work carried out by the volunteers who organise and distribute the Bugle.

LADIES CLUB

A very interesting and illuminating talk on P.G. Wodehouse by David Lily was enjoyed by the Fornham Ladies. David began by telling us of his involvement with the PG Wodehouse association, in the company of many well-known faces. Such as Terry Wogan, Steven Fry and even the Duke of Kent. P.G. Wodehouse, known as Plum, was born in Guildford in 1881. He saw little of his parents as his father worked for the Colonial service in Hong Kong. He was brought up with a succession of aunts. Great inspiration for his books. Having educated his brothers, his father could not afford to send him to Oxford when leaving Dulwich College but put him to work at what is now HSBC. While there he began to write in earnest, and soon left to become the prolific writer we know today. He also wrote for films and wrote the lyrics to "Anything Goes" and sings in "Showboat". Through his nativity, he courted controversy by broadcasting for the Nazi's when being held a prisoner. After the war he lived in the States as a tax exile. He was appreciated by the Royal family and in 1975 he died six weeks after being knighted.

Many thanks to Beryl Dykes for her report about PG Wodehouse, our speaker in June.

On 18th July our Summer Social was a very pleasant evening with a delicious bring and share supper, two quizzes and the final raffle for Diabetes UK. Thank you, Janet, for providing the table flowers. I was very sorry to miss this evening - it always makes a delightful end to our year.

Ladies Club will start again with the AGM on 19 September. The Committee are all willing to stand again but will be very happy to welcome more support - so please don't be shy! Subscriptions will stay at £15. After a short business meeting Ian Simpson from Diabetes UK will tell us about the work of the society. We look forward to presenting him with a cheque for £222. We shall choose a new charity for the coming year.

On **17th October** Elizabeth Mann will give an illustrated talk about the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

John Goodhand will make a return visit to Fornham Ladies Club on **21st November**. "Welcome Stranger" is the title of a Christmas special combining some signs and readings.

We have been very pleased to welcome new members during the year and one or two returning from previous membership several years ago. Do come and join us - a warm welcome awaits you. Mary Payne 704801
For more information please contact secretary Beryl Dykes 01284 704109



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CHURCH NEWS

Our last **Book Sale Coffee and Cakes** on 8th September was well supported, with lots of new books donated, with thanks to all those avid readers over the Summer, as well as those clearing out overflowing book cases.!

Also, much thanks to all those busy bakers supplying delicious cakes and scones as well as the sausage rolls etc, that keep us and our visitors going all day. £390 was raised for our fabric, and churchyard maintenance, fortunately with the grass cutting reduced thanks to all the glorious hot weather recently. The next and final one this year is on **1st December**, with a Christmas Stall, as last year, which was popular. Donations for this would be welcomed too.



We combined it this year with the annual **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride**, thanks to Judith Eley cycling around lots of churches. Grateful thanks to the 42 people who sponsored her to the tune of £400. We were pleased to welcome 36 cyclists to visit us.

Talking of visitors, we have been pleased to see over the Summer months many looking after relatives graves with flowers locally, but also some from further afield like Connecticut, North Dakota, Florida, Ottawa, Boulogne, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Wales, Scotland, Twickenham, Luton, Redcar, Bournemouth, Winchester, and Durham perhaps just visiting historical graves, in some cases as part as part of creating a family tree. With the list in church of all the 480 graves, and their numbered locations plan, it is not too difficult to find the one you are looking for, without spending hours wandering around trying to read some of the faded inscriptions, going back to 1685 in one case.

We enjoyed an excellent **Summer BBQ** in Parklands Green with much thanks to Sarah and Rod Cooledge. On a typical sunny Summer afternoon, it was a delight and pleasure to enjoy the delicious food prepared by head chef Rod, with beautifully laid out sweets by Sarah, washed down with suitable liquid refreshment, in friendly and amiable company. £462 was raised towards the Bells & Tower Restoration.

We look forward to our **Harvest Festival Service**, followed by lunch, on 23 September, decorating the church with flowers and many of the fruits of the harvest.

At our annual **Autumn concert** on 20 October we welcome **The Edmund Octet** for the first time, a male group of 8 singers originally, now boosted to 12, all associated with Bury Male Voice Choir, singing a wide variety of music to suit all tastes, from Mozart, Britten folk songs to light jazz. Followed as usual by a wine buffet. Tickets £8.

The replacement **water pipe** installation in the churchyard is delayed as Anglian Water have additional requirements in new regulations, so estimated connection is now mid – late October, fingers crossed. In the meantime we supply our water needs in flagons, tedious but at least only for a short while.

Our new aluminium **‘A’ board** outside the gate is now in place, welcoming people with ‘Church Open’ which we are pleased with, from G Signs, Risby. The **main notice board** behind the front boundary wall has had its summer service and looks smart and tidy ready for the Winter and a few more good years of service, so important to let passers-by know what’s going on in church and around the village, as well as all the services.

Remembrance Day is on Sunday **11th November**, this year to commemorate the **Centenary Anniversary of the Armistice**, with a short communion service at 9:15 am, a coffee break, followed by the Remembrance Service at 10.15. The bells will be briefly rung remembering in particular the 1400 bell ringers throughout the country who lost their lives. Then we gather around the **War Memorial just before 11am** for the reading of the names of the 15 fallen from the village in the Great War of 1914 – 1918, laying wreaths by the church and parish council on behalf of the village, and the 2 minutes silence.

Services as usual are at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, all as shown on the notice boards, with any additional services such as Evensongs, together with services in our nine sister churches in the benefice group.

David Yates, Churchwarden

* * * * *

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RIVER LARK CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

News of how you can help improve our River Lark alongside other villages and towns all along the river. At the beginning of the year a number of Fornham residents turned out at a first volunteer project to address the major task of narrowing the river at Fornham. The River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) is the community-based group for the whole Lark leading this effort and would now like to extend our Fornham volunteers group. This autumn we will be running several further restoration sessions on the Lark together with a free Saturday event at West Stow where you can learn the A-Z on restoring the Lark to a better condition. Please contact Enid Gathercole in Fornham All Saints (gavcol34@btinternet.com) who is helping to recruit new volunteers or email RLCP directly (admin@riverlark.org.uk) ... to be mailed very shortly on the exact dates for these events.

Don't miss this chance to really make a difference to our river!

Fornham St Martin Rock Trail

Hello Rockies and Rockettes !

Well what a wonderful summer we have had and not just weather-wise, although the current autumn chills make it all seem a long time ago.

Lots of rocks were out to find over the holidays. Some have been on their travels and we've had reports from far-flung places such as Cornwall, Lowestoft, Southwold, Wales, Welwyn and most recently from as far away as Elmswell !

Well done to all of you who took a rock away on holiday, though so far there have been no reports from abroad (except for Wales, of course).

There was a great rock day at Fornham House for their Community and Family Day. Lots of rocks decorated: some taken away, other spread within the grounds and yet more around the village.

The year is passing and it will soon be time to look out for seasonal treats like Halloween and Bonfire rocks.

Finally if you find any that are a little faded and sad just drop them off at The Red House and we'll give a cheer-up coat of fresh paint . . . or feel free to have-a-go yourself.

Happy Rocking

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ELDERBURY FRIENDSHIP AND SOCIAL CLUB

August 7th was a glorious sunny day. We arrived in Clacton late morning. Time for a stroll along the prom and some of us had a paddle in the sea, before having a delicious lunch at the Toby carvery. After lunch we made our way to the lovely little West Cliff theatre. The entertainment was excellent, and the compere and comedian had entertained us last year at Cromer. We didn't have a repeat performance and he was very entertaining. The magician and the 6 girls and 3 boys singing and dancing could not have been better. They were aided and abetted by 6 little girls from the local dancing school. Our bus picked us up outside the theatre and we had a pleasant ride home. A very enjoyable day out.

September 4th was our Annual garden party but not actually in the garden but in the village hall. Plenty of food and drink alcoholic and non-alcoholic and lots of chats and friendship We welcomed a new member.

Our chairman Tom held an auction of various things that members had brought in. An amazing amount of money £ 50 20 p was raised.

Menu's were handed out for our Christmas lunch on **December 4th**. Such a lot to choose from. 4 starters 3 main courses and 4 sweets plus mince pies tea and coffee.

If anyone would like to hear Brian Gayton talk about the Desert World you are very welcome. **October 2nd**

Margaret Leeder



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DRAFT FSMGPGC SEPTEMBER 2018 Meeting Summary

Councillor's Present: Cllr. Mike Collier, Cllr. Gary Hubbard, Cllr. Jayne Hubbard, Cllr. Peter Forster, Cllr. Paul Butler, Cllr. Penny Borrett & Cllr. Lizzi Flaherty.

Public Forum:

3 Members of the public were present.

County & Borough Councillor

Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger was present at the meeting and gave the following report;

- SCC are withdrawing from the Barley Homes partnership with West Suffolk, they will stay to see though the two sites at Haverhill and one in Mildenhall. They believe there are better ways for them to support Housing.
- Cllr. Mary Evans, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport has requested a complete review of Highways Maintenance Operational Plan, as she believes it is not fit for purpose. Scheduling and planning of works is to be reviewed to be more cost effective and to tackle issues more speedily and with more common sense. Intervention levels are also to be looked, to cater for cyclists as well as motor vehicles.
- The flooding at the BMW garage is being dealt with, 15 drains have been inspected and jetted in September. Four drains were found to be faulty and repairs are to be scheduled.
- The gulleys on the Bypass are being jetted and cleared, some have already been done in July, with two further works orders going through to do a further two sections soon.
- Planning application for the Old Parsonage DC/18/0829/OUT has been recommended for refusal due to it abutting the housing boundary, the application was taken to DCC on 6th September and the decision is pending. Cllr. Hopfensperger has supported this application.
- Cllr. Hopfensperger has no plans to call in application DC/18/1235/HH to DCC, as the Planning Officer has recommended no objections to amended plans submitted.

- Following concerns raised about the removal of trees at Carnoustie Drive/The Street, Cllr Hopfensperger has called for works to stop and will be meeting with the Tree Officer, matt Vernon on Thursday 20th September at 12pm. Cllr. Flaherty and Cllr. Collier are also to attend.

Police

SNT newsletter is available to view at; www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters

Suffolk Local Policing Changes – The changes involve moving 97 police constables and 7 sergeants into its SNT's and to reduce the number of PCSO's from 81 to 48 Full-time. <http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/slider/plans-for-the-future-of-community-policing-announced>

Planning and Environment:

DC/18/1235/HH – Amended Plans - Balcony to west elevation – 6 Gleneagles Close, Fornham St Martin

Cllr. P. Butler has declared an interest in the application, so he abstained from the discussion and vote.

The Clerk presented a letter of concern from a neighbour and this was considered within the discussion.

Resolved 18/09/6.01

No Objections to application DC/18/1235/HH; we are aware that a neighbouring resident has raised concerns, however we are happy that by agreeing to install Privacy Screens at 1.8m high and by moving the balustrade, the applicant has addressed these concerns and therefore we have no reasonable grounds to object.

DC/18/1372/FUL – New bedroom wing to existing hotel to create 42 additional rooms – All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve

The Clerk presented two letters of objection from residents. The plans propose diverting the Public Right of Way, through a flood risk area. Concerns were discussed regarding no permission being requested or received from Highways, the Environment Agency objecting due to being a flood risk area, the impact on the historical and archaeological value of the site. Subsequent concerns were also raised regarding Visual impact, impact on traffic and infrastructure, parking issues and the



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abundance of leisure amenities within the villages and the effect this may have on the village and small local businesses.

Resolved 18/09/6.02

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council, although wanting to express their continued support for the business and their appreciation of the hard work and investment that has been put in by the owner of the Hotel, Object to application DC/18/1372/FUL on the following grounds;

- It will have an adverse impact on a landscape feature with the proposal to divert the established Right of Way (PROW), to a flood risk area, this is in contravention of DM44 & DM13 of the Joint Development Management Plan (JDMPD). The site is at risk for flooding and any development on this site needs to consider the flood risk, as per DM6 of the JDMPD. It is vital that a Flood Risk survey be carried out in full.
- Consideration needs to be given to the Historical value of the site, and any adverse effect to the distinctive historic character and archaeological value of the area would be in contravention of DM20 & DM2 g (i) of the Joint Development Management Plan.
- As it states in DM5 of the JDMPD; Expansion of business should only be permitted where:
 - there will be no significant detrimental impact on the historic environment, character and visual amenity of the landscape or nature conservation and biodiversity interests; and there will be no significant adverse impact on the local highway network.
- As there are concerns regarding the visual impact on a rural, countryside area and traffic impact on the Highway network, with increased visitor and guest vehicle movements, and also the provision of parking for the extra guests and how this will impact on the surrounding area (CM34 c), we feel the proposed development breaches DM5 as well, and would request a Visual Impact Analysis be carried out.

There are also subsequent concerns raised by residents regarding the increasing abundance of leisure amenities within the villages and how this will impact on infrastructure and also how it will impact on other local businesses.



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DC/18/1039/FUL - Commercial glasshouse with packing facility, two no. flues and office space, with reservoirs, car parking and landscaping, (ii) new access and (iii) connection to sewage treatment works - Land at Place Farm, Place Farm, The Street, Ingham

The Clerk confirmed there are no amendments to the water treatment plant or the route to it.

Resolved 18/09/6.03

No objections to application DC/18/1039/FUL.

DC/18/1452/ADV - Advertisement consent - 1 Internally illuminated Fascia sign and 3 flags - Lancaster BMW, Thetford Road, Fornham St Martin

Resolved 18/09/6.04

No objections to application DC/18/1452/ADV.

DC/18/1677/HH - New front car port (ii) chimney to rear garden outbuilding (Retrospective) - 10 Wentworth Close Fornham St Martin

The Clerk presented a letter of concern from a neighbour, which has also been sent to SEBC Planning. Concerns were discussed regarding the retrospective application, the condition of the build of the chimney and its safety and the over development of the site.



Resolved 18/09/6.05

Objects to application DC/18/1677/HH, with the following concerns;

- It is felt strongly that there is over development of the site, and the development is having a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of neighbouring properties.
- The application for retrospective permission for the chimney is inappropriate, as there was clearly no chimney included or highlighted within the original plans.
- The chimney structure itself also appears to not meet Planning Regulations or the requirements for it to be passed by Building Control, and we would request that the Enforcement Team inspect the structure for safety reasons.


DC/18/1474/TPO - Tree Works - Oak House, Barton Hill, Fornham St Martin

Resolved 18/09/6.06

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No comments on application DC/18/1474/TPO. Defer to the Tree Officer/Arborist knowledge and decision.

Update on appeal for application DC/16/2792/FUL – 26 Holiday Lodges – Dream Lodge, Fornham Park

The Clerk confirmed the appeal was successful and the application had been granted approval.

Finance & Policies:

Parish Council Bank Balances and Reconciliation from list of payments and receipts and to approve bills for payment

Resolved 18/09/7.01

That the bank balances and reconciliation of payments and receipts be received and adopted and initialled & signed as such by the Chairman (MC). The bank account balance as of 31st August 2018 is £20,416.56.

Cheques for Signing and Approval

Resolved 18/09/7.02

It was agreed to approve the payments of the following outstanding invoices and the cheques were approved and signed by Cllr. M. Collier and Cllr. G. Hubbard.

SALC	Cllr Training LF/PBo	2012	£247.20
Mrs. V Bright	Mileage, Expenses & PAYE Refund	2013	£145.27
Mr. & Mrs. Pott	Litter Picking July/Aug	2014	£216.66
M&TJ's	Grass cutting & Bus Shelter repairs	2015	£864.00
Mr & Mrs P Brooklyn	Bugle Editorship	2016	£182.50
First Impressions	Bugle printing	2017	£342.00
Notice Board Company	Notice board Barton Hill	2018	£466.80
Mr. D Randall	Turf Play Area	2019	£44.08
Mr. P Forster	Bugle distribution & repairs to notice boards	2020	£85.42

Bugle Advertising Report and Review of Advertising Fees

The Clerk presented a report showing the deficit of the advertising costs for printing as £187.91. A cost analysis of advertising fees at increase

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of 10%, 15%, 20% & 25% were discussed, and the Clerk presented comparisons of other newsletter advertising fees.

Resolved 18/09/7.03

It was agreed to increase the advertising fees by 25%, at £60 for a half page and £120 for a full page, with a 10% discount still offered to advertisers within the villages.

Parish Matters:

Review Grass Cutting/Landscaping Schedule & Confirm SEBC Schedule

Cllr. Collier advised that he had met with M&TJ's to discuss cutting the bushes on the roundabout and the hedges on the B1106 (Oak Close) and they had agreed that this was on the works schedule, to be requested when required.

Resolved 18/09/8.01

It was agreed to ask M&TJ's to proceed with these works for the cost of £130 + VAT.

Play Area Repairs Quotes

The Clerk is still sourcing quotes to replace the rotten Hurdles, which have now been dismantled. She is also to get quotes for replacement of the posts for the Chin Up bars, for the next meeting.

Picnic Tables Quotes

Deferred to Spring 2018

New Notice Board at Barton Hill

The Clerk advised that the Locality Budget grant payment has now been received and she has ordered the notice board.

Highways & Footpaths:

VAS Data & Purchase of a Second VAS Unit

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Hopfensperger has agreed to fund 50% of the new VAS unit. The Clerk is to proceed with ordering the second unit from Westcotec.

Resolved 18/09/9.01

It was agreed to proceed with ordering a second VAS unit from Westcotec at a cost of £2,625.00 + VAT.

The Clerk confirmed that the unit records data internally on a unit which records date/time, speed, and vehicle movements, this data can be

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compiled and sent to the local Police SNT to request speed checks in problem areas and can also be used as evidence towards traffic calming applications. The Clerk advised that a resident had raised concerns that the unit did not display high speeds until the vehicle had already passed it. The Clerk is to discuss calibration with Westcotec and get the issue resolved.

Footpaths Update

The Clerk reported that there has been no update received regarding the consultation on the proposed footpath at Kytson Road.

The Clerk advised that PROW, Highways and Land Registry had failed to help establish ownership and responsibility for the footpath which runs on the old Thetford Road which starts at a gate by the village sign in Fornham St Martin and travels North to the Bypass, not far from the bridge over the motorway. The Clerk is to contact the owners of the neighbouring house to enquire if they have the key to the gate, and if they give permission for the Oak Trees to be cut back. In the meantime, Cllr. Collier has asked M&TJ's to cut back the footpath vegetation and overhanging trees, they have quoted £378 + VAT.

Resolved 18/09/9.02

It was agreed that once the Clerk had made contact with the adjacent landowner to get consent for the works to the Oak trees, she would instruct M&TJ's to proceed with the works at a cost of £378 + VAT.

Lark valley Trees Update

Cllr. Hopfensperger confirmed she had arranged for a Community Engineer to do an inspection on the trees within the next two weeks. It was agreed that the Clerk write to SCC Highways to report the condition of the footpaths from 2-10 Lark Valley Drive [corner].

Correspondence:

The Clerk advised she had received correspondence from residents regarding anti-social behaviour in Park Avenue. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Havebury Homes and ask them to put up 'No Parking' signs and replace the 'No Ball Games' signs on the Greens. The Clerk is also to report to SNT the reports of anti-social behaviour.

Meeting Closed 10:13pm

GARDEN CLUB

On Sunday 22nd July an outing was organised to Heydon village, near Aylsham where we enjoyed a delicious roast lunch at the Earle Arms. The village was listed in the Domesday Book; its old fashioned character and splendid late medieval church has made it a popular film venue (the Go Between was partly shot here). It was only a short distance to Corpusty Mill Garden for a guided tour by the owner, followed by tea and biscuits (www.corpustymillgarden.co.uk). This garden, which has been developed over a 50-year period, extends over a large and varied site and has the River Bure flowing alongside. There are deep borders of tall perennials, several water features and follies, and magnificent trees including a fine specimen of a Metasequoia (dawn redwood).

On Sunday 5th August we visited RHS Hyde Hall, Essex and its annual flower show (www.rhs.org.uk). Another extremely hot day, but this didn't detract from everybody's enjoyment of all the stalls and exhibits. We were also able to stroll around all the gardens, including up to the Hill Top Garden which now leads on into the new Global Growth Vegetable Gardens with its very impressive octagonal glasshouse.

At our meeting on Tuesday 14th August Kristopher Harper gave an illustrated and very informative talk on "James Lye and his Fuchsias". Kristopher runs a small Norwich-based nursery mainly devoted to fuchsias (www.harperanddebbage.co.uk) and his collection of James Lye's fuchsias has been recognised by Plant Heritage as a National Plant Collection. At the age of 12, James Lye (1830-1906) began working as an apprentice at Clyffe Hall, Market Lavington, Wiltshire, becoming Head Gardener after only 11 years. He eventually became a well-known Victorian grower and hybridiser of fuchsias, introduced 50 to 60 cultivars and became a very keen exhibitor. We were shown contemporary photographs of his award winning exhibits, some of which included amazing pyramids of fuchsias that were taller than James! A typical Lye fuchsia is described as having a rich creamy white tube and sepals with a dense wax-like texture. Several of his plants were named after his own family. However, many of the cultivars have now been lost and Harper and Debbage are in the forefront of trying to track them down.

On Wednesday 5th September, we headed off to Althorp House and Gardens, Northamptonshire, for our last outing of the summer. Althorp is the home of the 9th Earl Spencer (www.spencerofalthorp.com). Several rooms in the house are open to the public and the rooms and their contents are in exceptional condition. Over the generations, the Spencer family have amassed a huge assortment of paintings, along with a marvellous collection of books and furniture, and certainly enough dining tables and chairs to fill more dining rooms than seen in the average house (I gave up counting)! The grounds and parkland

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surrounding the house were magnificent, although there were very few flower borders. We were fortunate to visit on a super autumn day and thus were able to stroll up to the Round Oval and walk around this lake in the centre of which lies the island where Diana, Princess of Wales was interred; it was an extremely tranquil and peaceful area, and beautifully maintained. At the end of the visit, many of us took advantage of the weather to enjoy a cup of tea and cake in the outdoor surroundings of the Stables, which also housed a very good exhibition providing details of the history of the Spencer family and further tributes to Diana. At the Garden Club's monthly meeting on Tuesday 11th September, we were treated to a very entertaining and lively talk from Ben Thomas of Ben and Lulu Plants. This nursery, which specialises in grasses and ferns, is based near Attleborough and was started about 7 years ago. Ben had arrived with a very impressive array of colourful plants, which immediately caught everyone's attention, as well as a number of more unusual evergreens. Several plants were new to the market. He provided a detailed description of each of his plants, along with very useful information on the best position in which to place the plant in order for it to thrive, its size at maturity and its flowering period (where relevant). Ben explained about the various feeds and fertilizers to use at different times of year to strengthen a plant in different ways. He also explained how to hold back plants so that they bloom at a specific time and offered us a few tricks of the trade to maximise growth! Ben and Lulu Plants have stalls at several country fairs, with the Whitsun Fair in Bury a firm favourite. The Garden Club's plant stall at the village Fete (7th July) raised £183.60, with half going to FSM church. In view of the competition from England's World Cup quarter-final appearance, as well as Wimbledon fortnight, we were extremely pleased with the sum raised! The Committee would like to thank all who supplied plants, especially Helen and Vic Stone, the customers, and the helpers. On **Thursday 6th December** an outing is being organised to view the Christmas decorations in the hall at Holkham Hall, Norfolk. Anybody interested should contact Michael Clark on 01284 750125. Non-members are very welcome!

The Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in Fornham St Martin Village Hall. Membership is £13 per year with visitors paying £3/visit. For further information please contact the Chairman, Frances Harpley, on 01284 755876.
