

## BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2020**

*This meeting was due to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, but at that time there was a Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. The UK Government passed a new piece of legislation known as Coronavirus Act 2020. The Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting were considered and approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 which was held by way of video conferencing.*

*The Parish Clerk has contacted all clubs and organisations that would usually submit an annual report at the Annual Parish Meeting and this is a record of the reports that have been filed.*

### **Reports from local organisations and clubs**

#### **St Clare Churchwarden Report (2019)**

During 2019 St Clare Church has benefitted from a full internal redecoration. The cracks mentioned in the last church Quinquennial Report, have been repaired although there is some concern they may reappear due to the nature of the subsoil and extreme weather conditions. The owner of the redecorating firm gifted the church a new internal oak door. This was placed between the nave and tower. Once again we have to thank a local family for regularly cutting the churchyard grass and we are grateful to another parishioner for donating and planting a large number of hedging species around the church boundary.

We have seen a fall in the Electoral Roll for a variety of reasons and sadly the PCC has also reduced in size. The latter has meant we can no longer be represented at Deanery Synod, and we now need to appoint a new Electoral Roll Officer. Our Treasurer and Churchwarden/Secretary remain the same. St Clare continues to hold two services each month on a regular basis. Congregations for the morning Holy Communion are well attended also Evening Prayer has good congregation numbers. On both occasions we are very grateful to church members from within the Benefice for their kind support. The Harvest Festival, followed by a Village Harvest Supper in the Village Hall, was a great success. We were also very pleased with the number of people who shared Easter and Christmas Celebrations. It was a delight to share our good fortune with contributions to the Food Bank and support for charities such as FCN and the Bury Drop in Centre at Looms Lane, Bury St Edmunds.

St Clare Church is beautifully cared for and has a loyal group of supporters who take part in a weekend opening rota during the Summer months. This Winter villagers have enjoyed the new external lights in the churchyard. For this we have to thank a benefactor, again from our village.

During the year we have continued to fund raise by holding various events in the village. We began in the Spring with a lovely Open Garden event at The Lodge, this was followed by the Harvest Supper in September and an Autumn Quiz in October. In November over 50 people heard about the preparations for and the events occurring when sailing around Britain.

Our PCC is very grateful for the enthusiastic and caring support we receive from St Clare residents. It enables us to ensure the church is a warm and welcoming centre of peace, available for all to visit and enjoy.

Margaret Newlands (Churchwarden)

### **KIT Cafe**

The Kit Café has gone from strength to strength since its opening in August 2018. Several villagers offer help in the kitchen and bake cakes or biscuits. There is always a quiz compiled by Margaret Fayers on the month's theme and a small prize for most correct answers. This year's most memorable openings were:

September – MacMillan Coffee Morning with over 60 visitors raised a record breaking £650

December – Christmas opening with the hall decorated with Christmas Tree and trimmings. Christmas music and lots of Christmas treats attracted 40 visitors.

February (sadly our last opening before lockdown) - celebrating Valentine's Day and Shrove Tuesday. Pancakes and waffles were served. Despite Storm Dennis over 30 people attended.

The accounts are very healthy and although we have been asking for £1 donation per adult most people have put in much more. We were able to purchase a hot water boiler that heled considerably and speeded up the tea and coffee making. The Café has achieved what we set out to do originally to 'keep in touch' with friends and neighbours. It has been particularly heartening to see neighbours who have moved away from the village returning each month to meet up with old friends as well as newcomers to the village coming along to get to know other villagers.

Val Nunn

### **Book Club**

Since Pat Brender moved away the Book Club have been using the mobile library to provide us with books. We have just eight members at the moment so it is not too difficult to source multiple copies of the books we read, although ideally we would like to have ten members.

We have a named person we contact at the Bury Library who sends us a list of the books recommended for book clubs. We are using this list to select a title and it is collected from the mobile library before the next meeting. This has proved to be a bit erratic and may have to be reviewed when we are able to meet with once again collecting from the library. This would be a shame as it would be good to be able to use the mobile library and hopefully secure its future.

At the moment the library service is not in operation and we have three books circulating. I have suggested that we comment on the books we are reading via email and hopefully we shall be able to start up again once the restrictions are lifted.

Val Nunn

### **Bradfield St Clare Village Hall**

Our Village Hall continues to be well used by all parts of the village.

This past year we have hosted the Kit Cafe every third Saturday and Whist Drive every first Friday each month. The WI meets once a month, as does the Book Club. There have been two quizzes, an election and the annual village Harvest Supper and much more!

The interior has been decorated and a new water heating system installed as well as new toilets.

We are now in lockdown, so see you next year.

Margaret Lovick (Chair of the Village Hall Committee)

### **Bradfield St Clare WI (2019)**

The WI continues to meet monthly in the Village Hall. Its organising committee is ably led by Linda Dixey, the current President and she is supported by Enid Hunt as secretary and Sarah Fletcher as treasurer. Each member takes it in turn to Chair the meeting.

The group welcomes different speakers and enjoys sharing some time together over tasty refreshments. This year they have learned about the worrying environment issues associated with endangered Leather Backed Turtles and marvelled at the skills of intricate patchwork and quilting in clothing and household items.

The WI is self-funded from an annual membership fee. This contributes to the National WI, the hire of the village hall and payment for the many different speakers who add to the enjoyment of each meeting. Sadly at this time only two members actually live in St Clare. It would be good for the future of the group to have some more members with their fresh innovative ideas and a willingness to help existing organisers.

During the Christmas period the group enjoyed a celebration lunch together whilst earlier in the year they travelled by mini bus to Snape Maltings and Aldburgh for some bracing sea air and another shared lunch!!

A WI report is included in The Bradfield Grapevine each month and it always encourages visitors to join the group if interested in a particular speaker or event.

Margaret Newlands

### **Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association**

#### **Introduction**

The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) Bury St Edmunds Area B covers the 6 parishes of Bradfield Combust with Stanning filed, **Bradfield St Clare**, Bradfield St George, Rushbrooke with Rougham, Little and Great Welnetham, and Nowton.

SNWA Area B is one of 5 areas in the Bury St Edmunds Police Reporting Area, covering approximately 180 sq. miles from Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield north to but excluding Thetford, and from Lackford east to Pakenham.

Police Recorded Crimes follow a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and all 44 police forces (45 with London Transport Police) across England, Wales and Northern Ireland follow the NCRS, recording crimes in the **14 defined crime categories**: it is recognized that the reporting format has its limitations.

### 2019 Statistics

During 2019, **Bradfield St Clare** reported/recorded crimes extracted from the Suffolk Constabulary website where 2 incidents of violence and/or sexual. This of course is a very low crime rate and the lowest of our 6 Area B parishes. The 2019 monthly average for the whole of the 6 parishes Area B was 9 while the average for the whole of the Bury St Edmunds Police Reporting Area was 468 (of which between 80-90% of crimes occurred in Bury St Edmunds itself).

An unusually high number of ASB reports in one parish combined with a 55% increase in reports of violence and/or sexual incidents across Area B is the main contributor to the increase in the Area B 2019 monthly average of reported crimes – 9 in 2019 compared to 6 in 2018.

### Area B Network

SNWA Bury St Edmunds Area B Network is extremely healthy and pro-active; at the time of writing, over 100 local residents receive alerts and monthly stats via e-mail (inc our County and Borough Cllrs as well as our MP's office); 1292 neighbours across 13 local villages (26 in Bradfield St Clare) are signed up to nextdoor.co.uk (highly recommended); alerts and monthly stats are posted on 3 parish/village facebook pages (Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield Residents, Rougham Village Community and Great Whelnetham Residents) reaching 662 followers; there is a dedicated NHW page in the monthly yellow St Edmunds Way magazine reaching all in 6 local villages, and the monthly stats are also uploaded onto the Bury St Edmunds Area B page of the SNWA's website. There is unquantifiable further sharing by parish councils (e.e newsletters, websites, posters, etc), groups and individuals as they see fit.

### Team Effort

Finally, thank you to our 7 registered NHW Scheme Coordinators, parish councils & clerks, residents, our CEO, SNT, SNWA, the various agencies and other key individuals for making our Area B NHW Network meaningful and hugely successful.

Area B Coordinator – Andrew Tucker

Parish Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is Dianne Bullard

County Cllr Karen Soons: Annual report submitted and attached to these Minutes and also available on the village website at [bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net](http://bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net).

Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White: reports provided throughout the year and on the village website at [bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net](http://bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net). Currently, during the Coronavirus pandemic the Borough Council is experiencing frequent changes and those updates can be found on the Borough website at [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Date of 2021 Annual Parish Meeting to be agreed later in the year.