

FREETHORPE PARISH MEETING

ANNUAL REPORTS

2023

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
1. Norfolk County Council	3
2. Broadland District Council	3
3. Norfolk Police	4
4. Broadland Tree Warden Network	5
5. Freethorpe Parish Council	7
6. Friends of Wickhampton Village	10
7. Wickhampton Playground Committee	12
8. All Saints' Church, Freethorpe	13
9. Freethorpe Flower Show	13
10. Freethorpe Village Hall	14
11. Freethorpe Football Club	14
12. Freethorpe First Responders	15
13. Royal British Legion	15
14. Freethorpe Methodist Church	16
15. Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School	17
16. The Walpole Almshouse Charity	19
17. St. Andrew's Church, Wickhampton	19
18. Rampant Horse Preservation Society	20

INTRODUCTION

This document contains reports provided by various organisations which operate in the parish of Freethorpe.

1. Norfolk County Council

Verbal.

2. Broadland District Council

Author: Councillor Grant Nurden

Broadland District Council Annual Report – Marshes Ward

What a year it has been, we have come out of Covid, we have seen the tragic invasion of Ukraine and the impact on the world energy crisis, and very sadly we also saw the loss of our beloved majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Without fear of contradiction, once again Broadland District Council through the One Team has more than risen to the occasion and has had a year packed full of delivery, be that in social infrastructure, physical infrastructure or environmental infrastructure. Across the range of services that the Council delivers, it has been extremely busy with no sign of respite. From the purchase of the Horizon Building, to the completion of the Broadland Food Innovation Centre, from the roll out of the food waste collection service to every household in the district, to the launch of the single finance system, we have delivered on multiple fronts.

With the office-based staff now all working from Thorpe Lodge or home, the place has a real buzz about it with lots of good conversations happening about issues facing all our residents.

The Council, together with South Norfolk District Council, had a first joint Peer Review which gave us lots to build on with the Review Team highlighting many of the great things that we do and telling us to shout about our successes a bit more. They highlighted just how far the Councils have come since we embarked on the collaborative working arrangement over 4 years ago.

We have continued to develop our relationships with Towns and Parishes, particularly through the regular Forum meetings held online with Members and Clerks and look forward to growing this further over the coming years.

Looking ahead, there is more than a bit going on. The Council will be moving into our new shared headquarters at the Horizon Centre, expected to be ready by the end of April / early May. The collaboration continues to reduce individual and collective revenue requirements year on year, creating the capacity to be able to support those in our community that need it and support our businesses to survive and grow through uncertain times. We also expect to see the resolution of Nutrient Neutrality and the normalisation of the planning process.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Clerk and the Parish Council for your support and assistance in resolving our community's issues over the past year.

3. Norfolk Police

Author: PC Steven Godden

Thank you for including us in your Parish Council Meeting, sorry we could not be there in person.

The E23 Team still consists of PC 1586 Jackie Chambers and PC 1682 Steve Godden, with Sgt 487 Ollie Ketteridge. Our contact detail remains the team e mail SNtacle@norfolk.police.uk

Our Priority Setting Meetings are every 3 months, the next one being Thursday 22 nd June at 7pm. The meeting is conducted on Teams and if you send a request message to our SNT inbox then we can send you the link for the meeting. Anyone is welcome.

The PSM for September 2022 set a new priority as Crime Prevention Rural Foot Patrols and there were many patrols conducted day and night by the team, the task was also asked of our response teams when time allows.

Speeding was another priority setting for us and is something that we will always take seriously and we know this is one of the biggest concerns within our communities. We have been visiting different sites on our area and have been conducting joint speed enforcements with the traffic motor bike team.

The last PSM was on Thursday 23 rd March 2023 and the priorities are;

- Rural crime prevention patrols

- Speeding

The below crime figures are of no concern.

3 investigations were recorded in the months from 1st January 2023 to date.

1 x theft from Motor vehicle – Victim had their tools stolen from their work van.

1 x common assault – Domestic related

1 x Drugs offence

If there are any questions or concerns that come from the meeting, then please let us know.

4. Broadland Tree Warden Network

Author: John Fleetwood



Broadland Tree Warden Network

Tree Warden Report for Freethorpe Annual Parish Meeting on 17 May 2023

The Broadland Tree Warden Network is now in its fifth year as an independent Network, following the closure of the Broadland District Council scheme. We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with the District Council who support us with an annual £7,000 tree planting budget and several town and parish councils kindly give us an annual donation. Sadly, not all councils make a donation but we are extremely grateful to those who do as it allows us to pay our annual subscription to The Tree Council and secure insurance cover.

Today, this Network has 40 Tree Wardens covering 28 of Broadland's 63 parishes. That is 44.4% coverage. Of those 63 parishes, 5 have unfortunately stated that they have no interest in having a Tree Warden.

During the 2022-2023 planting season which ended at the end of March, Broadland Tree Wardens planted 1,831 trees, all supplied from our £7,000 tree planting budget from Broadland District Council who continue to insist that they will only fund planting on publicly owned or publicly accessible land.

The Network continues to lead a nationally important scientific project, the Sentinel Treescapes Project. Funded by Defra. We work with Fera, Newcastle University and, of course, The Tree Council. Based in Burlingham Woods, sensors have been attached to trees to measure climate, movement, reaction to weather extremes and general tree health. There have been problems with software and monitoring equipment but our team has made a telling contribution toward the solution of those problems.

We monitor battery levels, change and re-charge them as necessary, plus carry out visual inspections of trees recording minute details. The project will last for another year after which it is planned to roll it out across the rest of the country. We are proud that our small Network is at the forefront of national scientific research.

Another major project is the thinning and restoration of Low Farm Wood in Brundall. A woodland planted on Norfolk County Farms land fifteen years ago, it has sadly been neglected ever since. No initial management was carried out and the species planted were far from ideal. Luckily our Tree Warden for Brundall, Richard Farley, and I are certificated chainsaw and woodchipper users allowing us to fully tackle the work involved in this two-year (3,000 man-hours) project.

We also planted a 56-tree community orchard in Brundall, comprising old Norfolk varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry as well as medlar and quince.

It must be appreciated that Tree Wardens are volunteers. They receive no remuneration or reward for the time they devote to their roles, other than the satisfaction of knowing that they have contributed to the preservation and improvement of our precious natural environment.

I am most disappointed that, for several reasons, we have been unable to resume our Junior Tree Warden project at Freethorpe School following the COVID lockdown. We invested a great deal of time into the project, not to mention a significant amount of funding, and it would be a great shame if we are unable to resurrect it.

The Network has supported the Parish Council with comments relating to the ecological implications of various planning applications and will continue to do so as and when required. Similarly, the Network has supplied comments and information for the Parish Council's excellent Parish Nature Plan, a document that will be of enormous benefit to Freethorpe.

We wish to assure Freethorpe that the Broadland Tree Wardens for Freethorpe shall always endeavour to serve the parish to the best of our abilities and protect and enhance our local environments.

Finally, I wish to thank Andrea Rowlands for her much-valued support in our work. She may keep a lower profile than I do, but her help, support and friendship are much valued.

John Fleetwood
Broadland Tree Warden for Freethorpe and Wickhampton
The Broadland Tree Warden Network Co-ordinator

5. Freethorpe Parish Council

Author: Andrew Moll / Nick Spencer

The untimely death of Janet Church was a great blow to the Parish Council as it was to so many people and organisations that Janet supported. She had been a Parish Councillor since May 1996 and contributed significantly to the Parish Council and its work over 25 years.

The Parish Council had a stable year with excellent support and attendance from the Parish Councillors. The council operated within budget with the exception of additional training costs, and payroll and insurance increases greater than budgeted for, meaning that operational expenditure exceeded budget by £479. The council's balances at end of year were £13,469 which includes earmarked reserves and adequate contingency. The election for Freethorpe Parish Council was uncontested. One new member, Paul Crisp, was welcomed to the Parish Council in May 2023, joining existing members Nick Spencer, David Lake, Paul Bacon, Michael Blake and Grant Nurden.

Playing field and Play areas

- Operating a monthly/quarterly/annual inspection regime for the play areas at Freethorpe and Wickhampton; and keeping on top of corrective actions and risk mitigations highlighted by inspections.
- Completion of the installation of the new play equipment at Freethorpe Playing Field.
- Major tree surgery work was carried out to the poplars and oaks around Freethorpe Playing Field
- The surfacing around the swings at Freethorpe needs to be improved. The current surfacing is not durable for the high level of usage. Advice has been sought and we are seeking grant funding.
- The new picnic table was installed and the backless bench replaced at Wickhampton Play Area. A replacement for the damaged basketball backboard has been purchased.
- Continued to provide for grounds maintenance at Freethorpe Playing Field, and adding Wickhampton Play Area to the maintenance schedule.
- The lease for Wickhampton Play Area runs for a further 9 years with the kind support of Beckhithe Farms.

Speed Management

- Monitoring speed measurement in Freethorpe and sharing data with the Police for targeted speed checking. The statistics continue to give particular cause for concern on Reedham Road entering the village.
- The second SAM machine has been operating around Freethorpe, giving us more data and twice the capacity for reminding drivers of their speed.
- The children's road safety posters were displayed at various 30mph signs across

the village.

- With the support of our County Councillor we worked with Norfolk County Council to agree the installation of new school flashing 20mph signs and further 30mph signage on Reedham Road. This is on the County Council's capital programme for 2023-24.

Wickhampton

- The Pond has caused some concern. Like many ponds it dried up in the long dry summer of 2022. Its maintenance has also relied for many years on informal voluntary efforts of neighbouring residents. Norfolk Wildlife Trust kindly visited and advised on steps needed to restore the pond, the first of which is the removal of some invasive pond weed before any other work is done. The Parish Council is in the process of registering the title to the pond before embarking on any work.
- A new village noticeboard was purchased, yet to be installed.

Palmers Lane & The Pump

- A new recycled plastic bench was installed near the Flying Field Memorial and the old wooden bench disposed of.
- Broadland District Council kindly installed a new dog bin.
- The Parish Council is very grateful to the volunteers who keep the Pump tidy and the Clock working.
- The Pump is in need of a smarten-up, some of the fencing and posts are damaged.

Allotments

- Considerable effort was put into exploring the possibilities for providing allotments with a local landowner. However the end result was that no suitable site has been found. We are grateful to Andrea Rowlands for her initiative and support in the process. Thanks are also due to the landowner who gave considerable time to the task even though we ultimately were unable to find a site. Broadland District Council were also very helpful in advising. We still hope that an opportunity will arise for allotments. We have advised Broadland's planning team of our aspiration for allotments so that they are aware for future developments. However we have no leads to pursue for allotments at the moment.

Community and Infrastructure

- We worked with Norfolk County Council to explore Electric Vehicle Charging points at Freethorpe Village Hall. 37 people responded to our survey. With the support of our County Councillor, it is now likely that the County Council will fund and manage the charging points, subject to agreement to the arrangement by the Village Hall Committee.
- We developed a Parish Nature Plan following initial discussions with the Broads

Authority. 23 people responded to our survey, providing lots of data and good ideas.

- We logged 15 pothole, drainage and road surfacing issues with Norfolk County Council Highways, which have been dealt with promptly and effectively. An early re-surface of Low Road, Wickhampton, was carried out. A drainage issue at the Southwood entry to the Common was looked at but requires significant work which is being considered for scheduling by the County Council.
- Broadland District Council have also been very responsive and helpful in dealing with dog fouling issues, street name board repairs, and general support.
- We supported the Rampant Horse Preservation Society in Asset of Community Value

Funding and Support

- Financial contribution to Freethorpe Village Hall; and for grass cutting in the three churchyards/cemeteries in the parish
- Making section 137 donations to a number of organisations providing support services in the community
- We have signed and published an Armed Forces Covenant.
- We have signed up to the national Civility and Respect Pledge.
- The clerk's CiLCA qualification was completed, with the improvement of a number of procedures. This also allows the council to adopt General Powers of Competence (GPC).

The Parish Council plans for 2023-24 include:

- Successful internal and external audits of accounts and administration
- Reduction in speeding through further measures with Highways
- Identification of CIL and S106 community infrastructure project/s
- Introduction of Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Supporting the Rampant Horse campaign
- Restoration of the Freethorpe Village Sign
- Building on the nature plan for the parish
- Contributing to the planning process regarding the former garage site

6. Friends of Wickhampton Village

Author: David Brown

FRIENDS OF WICKHAMPTON VILLAGE

REPORT FOR FREETHORPE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MAY 2023

The Friends of Wickhampton Village, (FOWV) was formed to ensure that residents have a voice about amenities in the Village and to act as a focus to pursue matters of interest or common concern with the Parish Council and others.

We would once again like to express our thanks and appreciation to Freethorpe Parish Council for their help and support during the past year on several issues for the Village.

Village Noticeboard

Following our request, the Parish Council have very kindly purchased a new noticeboard for the Village which will replace the current board which is not protected from the weather and is in a dilapidated state. It has been agreed that the FOWV will arrange to mount the new noticeboard on a backboard with "Wickhampton Village" inscribed above. This will allow notices of interest to be displayed but protected from the elements. We plan to install this during the summer.

Restoration of Church Green

Following discussions last year, part of the original Church Green, an area of land adjacent to the west wall of St. Andrew's Church, has now been restored whilst still allowing car parking space for visitors. Permanent posts with a chain have now been installed together with a sign to denote the area. A new flowerbed has also been created along the Church wall to encourage wildlife.

Wickhampton Bridleway

Following discussions with Norfolk County Council, new bridleway signs have been installed to denote its status. It is of concern that an increasing number of unauthorised vehicles are using the bridleway, and off-road, unregistered motorbikes have also used the bridleway last summer and then proceeded to be driven on to public roads. Both are illegal and this was reported to the local police.

Road Surfaces

Following our request about the poor state of road surfaces on Low Road and Church Road, a request was made through the Parish Council to have this addressed. As a result, Low Road has had a new road dressing applied. The previous surface was dressed in the same way a couple of years back but deteriorated quickly. It is hoped that the current surface will be more durable. Church Road has yet to receive any

remedial attention.

Coronation Event

Following the great success of the event organised by the FOWV to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year, we are holding a similar event to mark the Coronation of King Charles III on 8th May. These events held at the Wickhampton Play Area are an excellent opportunity for the Village to come together.

Enviromental Concerns/Nature Plans

We remain very concerned about the issue of roadside verges and the damage and erosion done to them by passing traffic. There has been further significant damage to our verges during the past year, particularly by large farm vehicles, and it is very difficult to prevent it as Norfolk County Council will not allow any posts or markers along the verges to prevent damage and make the Village look "cared for".

We remain concerned about the urgent need to adopt a far more wildlife friendly policy towards the maintenance and planting of hedges and trees. Many of our roadside hedges are of little value to wildlife and are cut far too often and so severely as to be worthless. We strongly support the planting of new roadside hedgerows, joining up existing hedgerows and ensuring these are of sufficient height and width to create havens for wildlife. Suitable roadside tree planting should also be encouraged but bizarrely, the current policy of Norfolk County Council appears to be that no planting along our highway verges is allowed.

Resolving the status of the Village Pond and hopefully restoring it will also be important to increase biodiversity. In this regard, we hope that the Parish Council will seek to adopt a new Plan for Nature shortly.

Friends of Wickhampton village

May 2023

7. Wickhampton Playground Committee

Author: David Brown

WICKHAMPTON PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR FREETHORPE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MAY 2023

The Playground Committee is pleased to report that the new maintenance arrangements for the Playground which began last year are continuing to work well. We are as always grateful to Freethorpe Parish Council for ensuring that the Playground remains well maintained and safe.

The Parish Council has replaced the rotten bench seating with a new bench, and it just remains for this to be secured to the ground to prevent it being moved around. It is similar in style to the other new bench and picnic table which were purchased through matched funding between us last year.

The Parish Council have also agreed to replace the backboard for the basketball ring which is now very dilapidated, and this is now on order.

We are also pleased to report that the new trees planted along the north-east side of the Playground have survived last year's drought and that the unmown area of bank above the basketball court is establishing well.

Wickhampton Playground Committee

May 2023

8. All Saints' Church, Freethorpe

Verbal

9. Freethorpe Flower Show

Author: Corinne Hill



Report for Freethorpe Parish Council

The Annual show was held on Saturday 27th August 2022.

Our show is now open to all residents of Freethorpe and Wickhampton together with surrounding villages. This year we accepted entries from Reedham, Halvergate, Lingwood and Acle.

Entries in the Horticultural classes were of a high standard. Entries for Cookery, Handicraft were well supported. The Children's Classes were very poor on numbers. We do ask that parents will encourage their children to enter. Even if it is only one class. They are the future of our show.

As was our usual practice light refreshments were available throughout the afternoon. We closed the show by auctioning off the surplus vegetable and fruit. The proceeds from this auction helps towards the cost of running the show.

The Hats and Gloves in the charity class were donated to two different charities. The hats going to the hospital via Linda Turner and gloves to Shelter. and we thank all those who contributed to this effort.

As you are aware we suffered the loss of Janet Church who was our treasurer for 45 years. This is a great blow to us coupled with the secretary now looking for retirement due to ill health.

We ask the village to continue to support this show. We were established in 1936 and it would be a loss to our community if this was to cease.

Any enquires regarding the show should be made to:-

Corinne Hill, 107 The Common, Freethorpe, NR13 3LT. Tel:01493 700965

10. Freethorpe Village Hall

Author: David Grint

I can confirm that at our meeting on Tuesday 9th May the Committee voted me as the new Chairman of which I accepted and Graham Allcock has been appointed as Deputy Chair.

We have meetings on a monthly basis and we have representation from the following:

Village, Ladies Night Out, Bowls Club, Pentanque Club, Football Club, Cubs, Brownies, Parish Council, Church and Social Club.

Since the Social Club has been relaunched and with good guidance from the Committee it's going from strength to strength with some very well attended events and further events being organised. We share the same Treasurer but have still have a vacancy for a Secretary.

I would like to continue with exploring revenue streams to get the MUGA back into use.

Although Stephen Smith has stepped back from some of his commitments he still has an active role in being Booking Secretary for the Village Hall and marking out the football pitches.

11. Freethorpe Football Club

Author: David Grint

Since the pandemic we have struggles in getting new players and people to manage the teams and unfortunately we now have no First or Reserve teams on Saturdays. This season we have:

- Under 11's but next season this will move up to full size team and already are experiencing difficulty in getting enough players
- Under 14's
- Sunday Ladies
- Sunday Mens

We are reviewing the possibility of a mens veteran team where there is interest in players but still looking for a manager.

It's unfortunate that due to the MUGA being not suitable to play on winter training sessions are being used elsewhere which does not help with team building.

In summary I would like to take this opportunity in thanking both committees for their support and I look forward to continue working together in the future.

12. Freethorpe First Responders

Author: Julie Risby, Co-ordinator

Update re Freethorpe Community First Responders group:

The group has not been operational for a while but members are currently updating their training and we hope to be operational soon. We are waiting to confirm who our monthly trainer can be from the ambulance service and check some new operational procedures. I will contact you as soon as we start again. In the meantime, any new recruits are welcome!

13. Royal British Legion

Author: Jayne Smith, Area Co-ordinator

I would be grateful if you could mention that the RBL meetings now take place on the first Wednesday of the month in the Bure Room, Acle Recreation Centre starting at 7pm. We have a varied selection of speakers & it is open to everyone. Free entry. Light refreshments provided.

We are trying to encourage more people to attend, but would really like to see more ex services to try and offer them information and assistance.

The talk in June is The Falkand Islands.

Regarding the Poppy Appeal, we are always open to volunteers to assist with static and door to door collections.

Jayne Smith
Poppy Appeal Organiser
Acle & District

14. Freethorpe Methodist Church

Author: Corinne Hill

Freethorpe Methodist Church

Report to Freethorpe Parish Council

Freethorpe Methodist Church
Chapelfield
Freethorpe
Norwich. NR13 3LY

E-mail contact:

corinnehill23@gmail.com

Steward & Church contact person : Mrs Corinne Hill

Secretary: Minutes secretary Mrs Ruth Bacon. Correspondence and bookings Mrs Greta Brown and Mrs Corinne Hill

The mission of our church

- Love God with our whole being
- To bring people to Christ
- To be a Christian presence and witness in our community
- To give support and help to other people and organizations where possible

Our services are slowly returning to our normal pattern, although we mainly only have one service each Sunday.

Our own fundraising activities have resumed and Quiz & Chips, Beetle Drive and Coffee Morning have again been held.

We have continued to support outside organizations and charities.

- Harvest Goods donated to Great Yarmouth Food Bank.
- Austerity Lunch held for M.R.D.F.
- Cycle ride for the Norfolk Churches Trust.

We continue to work closely with our friends at the Anglican church. The following events were held jointly.

- Carol Service at Freethorpe Village Hall on 4th December.
- Joint Covenant Service at Freethorpe Methodist Church.
- Women's World Day of Prayer service was held at Freethorpe Parish Church
- A team continues to go to both Freethorpe and Reedham schools with "Open the Book". This is well received and the children are very receptive to what we are telling them.

Other Church events

The Annual Summer Concert was held with the School children taking part.

We have resumed POP-IN at 2.30 p.m. on a Wednesday. Due to a generous grant by Broadland District Council we have been able to offer a lunch under warm spaces scheme.

On Remembrance Sunday the service was attended by the local cub pack. Laying of poppy wreaths took place at the war memorial in our churchyard.

In June a special service was held to remember all those laid to rest in our church yard.

Some of the usual seasonal services were able to be held. at Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Carols, Christmas.

15. Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School



Freethorpe Primary School Report to Parish Council **May 2023**

The Coastal Together Federation, that Freethorpe Primary School is a part of, has continued to move from strength to strength this year. Simon Wakeman remains as Executive Headteacher, and the Freethorpe Heads of School (a role similar to the traditional Headteacher) are Robbie Houghton and Rosie Maunder.

At Freethorpe, we currently offer out of school care from 7:30 am each morning, and between 3:30 and 5:30pm each afternoon. Our pre-school continues to thrive, taking pupils from the age of 2 years old. Most of our Year 6 leavers transition to Acle Academy for their secondary school provision, travelling by bus. We have 5 classes in the school, alongside our preschool.

We have continued to develop our school curriculum and encourage the children to explore a wide range of topics. These include: London Calling; Ahoy There!; Ruthless Romans; Invaders and Settlers and Navigating Norfolk. The curriculum offers the children a good understanding of both local, national and international localities and their strengths or issues, as well as exploring different historical periods. Our goal is to ensure all pupils develop into global citizens who are: effective communicators; confident Individuals; successful learners; responsible citizens; healthy and active; safe and nurtured; included and respected and always reaching their individual potential.

As we are a federation of six schools which are not all geographically close, we have continued to work with the local schools within our cluster. The cluster events offer our children an opportunity to take part in a wide range of events, from sport to cookery. Again this year, we will be hosting the Cluster Cricket tournament for children from age 7-11. Thank you to the Village Hall for allowing us to use the playing field and set up the event.

Friends of Freethorpe have been working hard to raise additional funds for the school. As well as events being held within school, other activities have been further afield - you may have seen the Coronation Trail pictures around the village with information about British monarchs.

As part of our curriculum focus on encouraging pupils to take on different responsibilities, we have just purchased some litter pickers and are going to be taking groups of children around the areas close to school to pick up rubbish. This will include the playing field, the car park and roads nearby, as well as on the school site.

Linked to road safety, our Year 6 pupils have again taken part in Bikeability sessions, learning about how to use their bikes safely and responsibly when on the roads. We also continue to teach children of all ages about road safety so they can use this knowledge when out and about with parents, or on their own when they are old enough.

The school is using its "Navigating Norfolk" topic to learn about the area in which we live. This has included working with local farms and land owners so the children can begin to explore what farming within our community looks like. The children are going to explore lots of different aspects of farming and we hope to be able to show their project work at the Norfolk Show, as well as at an exhibition within school at the end of the summer term.

As in previous years, it has been lovely to have Open the Book in school. The children always really enjoy their assemblies and learning about the Bible stories. The school always loves welcoming members of the community into school and it is great that we are able to do this on a fortnightly basis.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to perform at the Methodist Chapel again in July. A group of our Key Stage 2 choir were very excited to share some of their songs from the end of year production of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Being given the chance to perform in different venues and a range of audiences is brilliant for the children and it gives them the chance to really show what they can achieve.

As always, I would like to express my thanks for the continued village and community support. Our school is very much a part of the whole community in the local areas and benefits from all the links this enables us to have. We are very much looking forward to new opportunities which will enable us to continue developing these links over the coming year.

Robbie Houghton
Head of School
Freethorpe Primary

16. The Walpole Almshouse Charity

Verbal

17. St. Andrew's Church, Wickhampton

THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, WICKHAMPTON
UPDATE TO THE FREETHORPE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR 2023

A thank you to begin with to the Parish Council for their annual contribution to the costs of grass-cutting in the churchyard at St Andrew's, which is much appreciated.

The main project for 2023 is to carry out repairs to the fabric of the church building, which continues to suffer from a range of issues identified in the last Quinquennial Report at the end of 2018. Urgent repairs to sections of the roof were carried out in April 2022 to restore damage and prevent further water ingress. Funds have now been raised through grants to replace or repair Chancel, Nave and porch gutters and downpipes; replace damaged or missing roof tiles and sections of abutment joint mortar; reconstruct gully kerbs and repair and redecorate interior plasterwork where damage has occurred. This work will be carried out from the end of June 2023, and will take approximately six weeks.

Part of the green at the front of the church has been reclaimed, as it had become severely degraded due to cars parking on it, and a flowerbed created along the wall.

The Friends of Wickhampton Church have arranged the following fundraising events for 2023:

Norfolk Mills – on a stick: Saturday 13 May, 7pm at the church.

The Black Death and its aftermath: Saturday 24 June, 7pm at the church.

Our 5 th Teddy Bear Parachute & Zip line: Sunday 13 August, 11.30am at the church.

For more information: 07894 993920 or email wickhampton@gmail.com

Sara Stephenson
Wickhampton PCC
May 2023

18. Rampant Horse Preservation Society

Author: Jimmy Miller

Rampant Horse Preservation Society

As a result of the present owners closing the Rampant Horse as a pub, a group of local residents decided to fight any attempt to change the Rampant Horse either into a residence with likely a house in the car park or a supermarket (which would be a step towards turning the site into residential housing).

The inaugural meeting of the Rampant Horse Preservation Society was held on 15th July 2022. At this meeting, approximately forty people turned up. At the meeting, officers were appointed and it was agreed to apply for the Rampant Horse to be listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The Rampant Horse was registered as an ACV on 15th December 2022.

The Rampant Horse Preservation Society has also set up a Facebook group which, on 29th April 2023, had 274 members.

In early April 2023, Broadland District Council informed the Rampant Horse Preservation Society that the current owners of the Rampant Horse had informed them of their intention to sell. The Society were advised that they had six months to make a non-binding expression of interest in purchasing the pub. However, as the Society is not an incorporated organisation, Freethorpe PC offered to make the non-binding bid on the Society's behalf.

The Society called a meeting which was held on 14th April 2023 to discuss the way forward in preserving the Rampant Horse as a pub. Thirty six members of the public attended the meeting and everyone was happy for Freethorpe PC to make the non-binding expression of interest on behalf of the Society. The Society is currently exploring the possibility of a community takeover and also whether a private buyer can be found who wants to buy a pub to run as a pub.

This is currently *work in progress* so we await to see what happens next.