

## **Stisted Community Partnership 2021/22**

### **Shop & Post Office**

It has been another difficult year trading wise, only being open for one afternoon a week has meant that our income has been halved but our expenses have not. However we would like to thank everyone for their continued custom.

In January it was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Christine Attwater who had been our Post Mistress since 2005. We were without the Post Office facility until Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> when Lynette, from the Greenstead Green P.O. started to attend for a couple of hours on Monday afternoons. When the person who is being trained up to take the position full time is in place, we hope to be able to start trading again on Thursday afternoons as well as on Mondays from 2 - 5pm

We would like to thank the Trustees of the Montefiore Institute for their continued support and our volunteers for "manning the pumps". Without either we could not operate the shop.

### **Day trips**

We have reluctantly decided that it is no longer possible for us to run the day Trips. The cost of hiring the mini buses has increased and due to Covid we would no longer be able to take as many passengers as previously so therefore it would not be viable. Also we have a smaller pool of available drivers with Doreen now retired and Peter suffering from ill health although like everyone we wish him a full recovery.

We have enjoyed the Trips as much as, we hope, our passengers have with lots of happy memories from trips gone by.

Doreen, Jennie and Simon

Annual Parish Assembly Footpaths Report May 2022.

The year has seen Covid, storms, high winds and flooding all causing extra problems to the Public Right of Way network.

High winds saw trees blocking foot paths and bridleways, with the added danger of the possibility of walkers being injured by falling trees or branches. Order has been restored.

Flooding blocked many Public Rights of Way and also hampered and delayed planned remedial work of damaged or missing infrastructure. As did the Pandemic.

However work has been completed. Signposts have been replaced and footbridges have been repaired. One footbridge repair is outstanding due to access difficulties and earlier flooding.

Footpaths across farmland have, generally, been well marked and some longstanding blocked footpaths have finally been successfully cleared. Thank you to all concerned.

There are 50 Public Rights of Way in this Parish. Some connecting to Coggeshall, Braintree, Bocking, Gosfield, Halstead and beyond.

Use them and enjoy them.

Bob Powers  
Footpath Officer.

We have until March next year to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. At that point the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities support programme will come to a close. To date, the support and general interest shown by the community (and at times, the Parish Council itself) has been extremely poor. So poor in fact, that it has been difficult to maintain the motivation of the four regular members of the Steering Committee and I fully expect that without increased support and resources we will struggle to get our plan completed and accepted in the remaining eleven months.

We are meeting with the RCCE in early May to confirm what is required to complete the plan and to establish whether it is conceivable to complete the project with the current team in the time we have remaining.

## Report to the Parish Council

September 2021 saw a return to school with less pandemic related restrictions, and the children enjoyed the chance to play with friends from across the classes with the bubble system removed. It has been great to see that sense of community return to the school after eighteen months of separation.

The school is now running as near to normal as it learns to live with coronavirus. There were a number of outbreaks during the last year mainly after the wider restrictions started to be relaxed. This put enormous pressure on staffing within the school having to run on a skeleton staff for significant parts of the year. The low point was a week in the Autumn term with 50% of children absent

Our Reception teacher has now qualified to be a Forest School leader. This is having a positive impact on our younger learners who missed out on language development and outdoor exploratory play during the school closure periods due to the pandemic.

Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.

Activities at Forest Schools might include shelter building, fire lighting, tool use, studying wildlife, playing team and group games, sensory activities, tracking games, cooking on an open fire, using rope, string work, art and sculpture, woodland and traditional craft, developing stories and drama, physical movement activities.

The Forest School Site is within Rolfe's Land which is a 1.5 acre Essex Wildlife Trust Reserve in Stisted (Grid reference: TL 79931 25186 E: 579931 N: 225186).

There are 104 children on roll and once again the school was oversubscribed with more children applying through the year than the school had places available. The school prides itself on having a strong local reputation enabling it to remain viable and open for local children by attracting families willing to travel into the village. The school appreciates the challenges this brings with increased traffic but also recognises that there are too few children from the village to keep the school financially viable and open without reaching out further afield.

Earlier in the year, the school worked with Cllr Dave Willingham to try and find solutions to minimise any disruption the additional cars cause during pick up and drop off points.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 Stisted Academy joined Canonium Learning Trust enabling Stisted Primary Academy to work collaboratively with Kelvedon St Mary's, St John the Baptist, Finchingfield and St Nicholas, Tollshunt Darcy. This move came after 2 years of research and due diligence and had the full support of the Governing Board and Headteacher. The primary purpose of working more collaboratively with other school was to ensure future sustainability and to assist with the challenges that small village schools such as Stisted face. Both Stisted Academy and other schools in the Trust offer each other a wealth of expertise and experience to share that is already proving mutually beneficial.

The school has seen an immediate benefit in networking and development opportunities for staff, and teaching staff were able to attend a two-day residential professional development programme with other schools from across the Trust in the Autumn Term. It has also freed up the headteacher to focus more time on leading and developing teaching and learning practice across the school rather than the business side of running an academy, which was becoming burdensome for a small single academy trust. The new trust has also begun a programme of estate management to ensure the building and grounds do not fall into disrepair which is a further benefit of working collaboratively with other schools by drawing on expertise from individuals tasked with this role across the trust.

The school has welcomed a new incumbent Rev Heike Prentice to the school, and the children have enjoyed having regular visits and assemblies from Heike this year. Heike also joined the local teaching and learning council, which forms the school's local level of governance within the Trust.

As the 2021/22 school year continues, the school has been able to resume many of the activities children missed out on during the pandemic. It has been good to welcome parents back into school for our Easter assemblies. School trips have resumed, and visitors into school are once again permitted, with Class 4 enjoying a trip to Duxford and a travelling pantomime visiting the school at Christmas. Class 2 enjoyed a sleepover at school, and Class 3 have enjoyed Greek Day and Victorian Invention Day, facilitated by an outreach team from Cressing Temple Barns. Residential trips to Mersea Outdoors and Danbury are going ahead this summer, and much anticipated by all!

Martin Hawrylak  
Headteacher  
April 2022

## **Stisted Historical Archive Report April 2022**

The Archive has now settled into its new home in the Fairhead Room of the Village Hall with the help of a Braintree Community Grant of £350. This grant paid for a display cabinet, display board and decorating materials.

We have subsequently been given a £200 Parish Council Grant which will go towards our technical needs in terms of scanning and printing as we expand the digital archive on the Parish Council website.

We are making a further bid this year to Essex Heritage Trust.

The Fairhead Room will be open for viewing by appointment from April 29<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Our public face continues through three main channels:

### **The Parish Council Website :**

<https://www.stisted-pc.co.uk/stisted-news/stisted-historical-archive/>

This has over 1200 items now and expands with new material almost on a weekly basis. Although this is the home for historical material it is also the place to find records of what is happening now across all fields of community life. History lies in the present as well as the past. Material is gathered by HH and DP. DP has the responsibility for uploading material and for holding the Archive database of images.

HH and DP are currently attempting to organise and file the vast amount of physical documentation and images. This will take some time.

It should be noted that HH and DP are not historians, but have a good working relationship as they tackle quite a huge task. In time it would be good to draw in more folk to help with this.

### **Stisted Village Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/356148267863361>

Although the FB page is not accessed by all in the community it does provide another useful outlet for the Archive and has generated much public interest. HH has responsibility for uploading material here.

### **Stisted Parish Magazine**

The Parish Magazine, edited by Eleanor McMillan, is a third key means of communication for the Archive. We include some material every month and it has become an important secular component for the Magazine. We are grateful to Eleanor for her support in this. Material is supplied by HH and DP. It has been good to see other members of the community provide historical items of their own under the auspices of the term 'Archive'. The Archive is currently collating its own extensive Archive of past Parish Magazines, going back to 1920s.

Thanks to many folk who have contributed either in terms of furnishing the Fairhead Room or to the Archive itself.

We have been able to respond to folk both at home and abroad wishing to research their family history in Stisted, with one respondent saying that the Archive collection on the Parish Council website was the best and most useful she had found.

Howard Hollands and Derek Pryke

April 2022



**Annual Report  
for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Registered Charity No: 246278**



## **Contents**

Page

Reference and Administrative Information

3

Report of the Management Committee

4



## Stisted Village Hall

### Reference and Administrative Information

**Charity Name:** Stisted Village Hall

**Charity Registered Number:** 246278

**Registered Address:** Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex CM77 8AL

**Correspondence Address:** Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex CM77 8AL

**Freehold Property:** Vested in The Official Custodian for Charities

### Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates elected (if not for whole year)	Term of Office expires at end of AGM:
Mr R Barnes			2026
Mr D I Cruickshank			2023
Mr M Hughes	Chairman		2025
Mr R Hughes			2025
Mr C Saunders			Resigned 2021
Mrs T Warner	Bookings Officer and Vice Chairman		2025

**Independent Examiner  
of Accounts:** Colin Coates  
16 Bainbridge Drive, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex CO5 0BP

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank plc, Witham Branch  
59 Newland Street, Witham CM8 2AJ

**Solicitors:** Holmes & Hills LLP  
Bocking End, Braintree, Essex CM7 9AJ

## **Report of the Management Committee for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

The Management Committee presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### ***Governing Document***

At its Annual General Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the meeting approved the changes to the administrative procedures and powers relating to Stisted Village Hall charity as set out in the Resolution of the Trustees passed on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2013. The modified Conveyance sets out its objectives and powers under which Stisted Village Hall is governed.

#### ***Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee***

Members of the Management Committee are the charity trustees within the meaning of Section 177 of the Charities Act 2011. The Management Committee shall consist of not more than 6 elected members and may include not more than 3 co-opted members.

Elected members must be elected at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened as described in paragraph 12.7 of the modified Conveyance. Candidates for election must be declared at least 14 days before the election and shall be proposed by at least two persons qualified as parishioners to vote at the elections.

Co-opted members may be appointed at a duly constituted meeting of the Management Committee.

#### ***Term of Office***

Members retire from office at the end of the fourth annual general meeting next after the date on which such member came into office but may be re-elected or re-appointed.

#### ***Trustee Induction and Training***

Trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity as they reside within the local area. New members, on their first appointment, are given:

- A copy of the Conveyance, a copy of the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 Resolution and any amendments made to either
- Charity Commission - CC3a of The Essential Trustee
- A copy of the Charity's latest Annual Report and statement of accounts

#### ***Organisational Structure***

Through the Conveyance and Trust Deed documents, the Management Committee is empowered to decide on alterations or enlargements to the premises and may permit the erection of additional buildings subject to relevant planning permissions.

The Management Committee has day to day responsibility for the provision of the services at the premises and all monies received in this connection are dispersed for the direct benefit of the premises, i.e. repairs, renewals, insurances, etc.

### ***Affiliated Parties***

To assist the Management Committee in its work, Stisted Village Hall is affiliated to Rural Community Council for Essex which advises village halls on aspects of its management, i.e. Licensing, Hiring Agreements and is a prime provider of relevant training.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Deed provides that the Trustees “*shall hold the said property hereinbefore conveyed Upon Trust to permit the same to be used in perpetuity as a non-sectarian and non-political place of recreation and social intercourse and for any religious and or charitable purpose or purposes calculated to promote the moral intellectual spiritual or physical improvement or welfare or the recreation advantage or benefit of the inhabitants of Stisted aforesaid and of the surrounding district under the name of Stisted Village Hall either gratuitously or in consideration of any money payment or on such terms as the Trustees may think fit.*”

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### **1. Change in Officers**

The following officers appointed in 2017 continue in post:

Mrs Tracy Warner	Bookings Officer
Mr Tim Noonan	Treasurer
Mrs Ann Noonan	Allotments Letting Officer
Mrs U Hollands.	Secretary (reappointed 2021)

#### **2. Volunteers**

The Stisted Village Hall Management Committee would like to thank Linda Barnes for weeding the flowers bed in front of the Hall, Kathryn Hughes for procuring the replacement curtains and all the other volunteers for their time, effort and expertise provided during last year. Without their support and goodwill much of the facilities the Village Hall, Allotments and Community Orchard provide to the local community would not be possible.

The Management Committee would like to thank Forrester Hughes Ltd for repairing the concrete in the parking area and installing kerb stones and bollards in the front of the Village Hall and at the entrance of the allotment car park. They would also like to thank Courtney Lang Ltd who erected the wooden stakes for the deer fencing.

Finally the Management Committee would like to thank Mr and Mrs Bones for the donation of a sack of daffodil bulbs which have been planted in front of the Hall on either side of the road and BDC for providing the tree whips and bulbs as part of the community tree and bulb planting scheme to support ‘The Queen’s Green Canopy’ initiative which is in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

#### **3. COVID 19**

2021 has been another challenging year due to COVID 19. In compliance with the government regulation, the Hall has been closed – partially or completely – during the national and regional lockdowns. Loss of income has been compensated by the various COVID 19 local restriction and lockdown grants provided by the government.

#### **4. *Hall bookings and Allotments lettings***

Before the lockdown, the hall was used regularly - Monday to Saturday - for a variety of classes and events for children and adults, including dance, fitness, yoga, pilates, indoor bowls, youth club and WI meetings and events. However, due to COVID 19 some of the regular events had to be cancelled. Childrens classes and Aimie's Dance Classes returned in April. Pilates, yoga, WI, carpet bowls and baby sensory ran from May to October. During the year a wedding reception was held at the Hall along with some childrens' parties.

In 2022, dog training classes have started in January. Later in the year, a baby shower and two children's parties have been booked with a potential wedding reception in August. Stisted Village Hall Facebook page remains a popular channel for hirers to contact the Bookings Officer.

Demand for allotment plots has been good and at present there are no vacancies. The ongoing problem of a deer entering the allotments and causing damage to the crop has been addressed. A deer proof fencing has been erected around the perimeter of the allotments.

#### **5. *Community Orchard***

The trees have had some mulch during the year and the grass around them strimmed, but the grass in the Orchard is in need of a cut. There was some evidence of Muntjac nibbling at the new saplings.

Thanks to Terry Deighton who has provided the Archive with some useful documentation relating to the establishment of the Orchard including the 2008-2013 Management Plan.

The identification of varieties continues and there is currently some ongoing light pruning. Cropping last year was mixed due to late frost and unusual weather, but this might now be the norm with climate change. The apple pressing day worked well but we could have done with more participants. Thanks to Mark Hughes for his work on this. Thanks also to all those who help keep the orchard hedges trimmed.

There are now two bee hives reduced from three. This was due to weaknesses in the colonies so some had to be combined. We did however manage to harvest a few jars of honey and hope we can do better in the coming year. Thanks to Graham Walker for his help with this.

The Management Committee organised an apple pressing morning in the autumn, to which village residents were invited.

#### **6. *Stisted Historic Archive***

The Archive has now settled into its new home in the Fairhead Room with the help of a Braintree Community Grant of £350. This grant paid for a display cabinet, display board and decorating materials. The work was carried out by Howard Hollands, Derek Pryke and Tim Noonan. Due to Covid delays we have not yet opened the Archive formally, though a number of interested folk have been allowed a sneak preview.

We have subsequently been given a £200 Parish Council Grant which will go towards our technical needs in terms of scanning and printing as we expand the digital archive on the Parish Council website. We will need to make further bids this year from Local Community Grants and Essex Heritage. Thanks to Tim Noonan for looking after the Archive account held within the Village Hall accounts

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The archivists are currently attempting to organise and file the vast amount of physical documentation and images, which will take some time. It should be noted that Howard and Derek are not historians but have a good working relationship as they tackle quite a huge task. In time, it would be good to draw in more folk to help with this.

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Thanks should go to many folk who have contributed either in terms of furnishing the Fairhead Room or to the Archive itself, these include Sue Motion, Mark Hughes, Jenny Alderton, Tim Noonan, Brenda Easter, Peter Bash, Tayrina Ferguson, Sue and Richard Buffey, Eleanor McMillan, Mike Bardell (Braintree historian), Pauline Harrington, Sian Parker, David Lear, Colin Vince, Christine Hunt, with apologies to those we may have missed!

**7. *Stisted Village Hall Social Committee***

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the Stisted Social Committee has had to cancel all the events that were planned for 2021.

**8. *Project Planning Meetings***

A project planning meeting was held in April 2021 via Zoom to identify, prioritise and plan projects to be undertaken in 2021, following which:

1. All curtains and blinds have been replaced in the Hall and bar area
2. Concrete in the Hall car park has been repaired and kerb stones and bollards have been installed in front of the Hall and at the entrance of the allotment car park.
3. Deer fencing has been installed around the allotments
4. Cooker has been replaced in compliance with Health and Safety regulations
5. Contactor for the heating has been replaced
6. Access locks to side door for independent disabled access has been fitted
7. Landscaping in the front of the Hall has been completed

**Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

**Mr Mark Hughes**  
**Chairman**

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022