

Parish Assembly

During the past twelve months the church in Stisted has continued to support the Braintree food bank and the Village Pantry. Additionally, we are also now a collection point for old spectacles, which are repurposed in Africa, and for Tools With A Mission which uses old unwanted garden hand tools, refurbishes them and helps support and develop livelihoods for people across Africa.

Our thanks to the church wardens, Patricia Bash & Diane Elmes, for their support in looking after services, the buildings, assisting in prepping for funerals, weddings, and baptisms, and generally making sure everything is in order for when Revd. Heike arrives to take services.

Two national events in particular brought the parish together, and the church was a key focal point for our community; firstly, Queen Elizabeth II's jubilee weekend at the beginning of June, and then in the same year, her death in September. Each time our churches were open, allowing people to come together to mark the occasion, one with great joy, the other with great sadness.

We have continued to provide weekly services, thanks to the tireless work of our ordinand Tayrina Ferguson and warden Pat Bash. We are also grateful to Tony Dunn for playing the organ some Sundays of the month, whilst on others we have continued to expand our use of more modern worship songs, projected on the screen, which were widely welcomed.

The bellringers rang regularly before services, on special occasions, and for weddings too - they are always looking for interested people who'd like to learn and join their group. Our thanks also go to the many people who work and help, sometimes behind the scenes; readers, flower arrangers, PCC members, cleaners and those who feed us with delicious cakes and serve refreshments or cook breakfast before a Sunday morning - Stisted hospitality at its best!

The pet service, Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas services proved very popular with the community and we also welcome Stisted Academy for a number of services, and continue to build on the good link we have with them by offering termly assemblies.

We are grateful to Braintree Golf Club for raising funds for our church and all our regular givers - we could not exist and fulfil our ministry without your generosity, and we are deeply grateful.

God bless,

The Church Team

STISTED ARCHIVE

Thank you to all the Stisted bellringers for the glorious sound of the bells ringing in our village.



Pictured back row; Tayrina Ferguson (Trainee Vicar), Terry Earle, Shaun Peel (BBC presenter) Wendy Earle, Simon Cumming, Terry Stock. Middle row; Mark Waine, Helen Remfry (Stisted Archive), Patricia Wood (Bocking), Tony Stock with John Remfry, Mary Corneby and Jackie Kelly.

Congratulations for making the top spot of BBC look east on coronation day to ring for the king and for appearing in local newspapers including the Halstead Gazette.

We are especially proud of our trio of Tower Captain Terry Earle and twins Terry and Tony Stock who rang together as teenagers for the Queens' coronation, and many national and family events over the past 70 years.

If you would like to learn the craft and keep the bells ringing in Stisted; please contact Terry Earle on 01376 320184

Helen Remfry

Stisted Archive Oral History Lead





Climate and Nature for Stisted Annual Report

Climate and Nature for Stisted -CANS is a new working party formed under Stisted Parish Council with the aims of building a thriving, sustainability focused community with a reduced carbon footprint.

The areas the group are looking at are; Transport, Heat loss/Oil Dependency, Increase in natural habitats, Reducing waste, Challenging perceptions and building community & education, Planning & Legislation.

CANS is working with Essex County Council; Essex Climate Focus Area and the national charity Involve to hold a community workshop to allow Stisted residents to have their say on how to improve and protect nature in the village. This public engagement in Stisted will help a nature plan to be rolled out in villages throughout Essex. The attendees will decide how to spend a prize of £750 given by Essex County Council on improving nature and biodiversity.

Achievements of CANS

Developed a report of aims and objectives with priority areas summarised above

Set up google workspace and email account, and logo

Recognised as working party for Stisted Parish Council and reports monthly to PC

“Talking about Nature” Community nature event with Essex County Council and national charity INVOLVE.

Held a preparatory meeting with INVOLVE, Essex County Council and representatives from the Stisted Archive, Village Hall, Church, Golf club and WI prior to the community workshop on May 15th.

£750 nature grant to be ringfenced by Stisted Parish Council for CANS

Golf course offer and delivered free wood chippings for villagers

Nature walk and advice from Essex Wildlife Trust with CANS, Ecochurch, Village Hall Allotments and Community Orchard.

PC signed up to Essex Wildlife Trust Wilder Towns – Wilder villages

Reviewed grass cutting contract to allow more biodiversity in green spaces

Planted show stopping wildflower patch

Kings seeds donated wildflower seeds, along with other villagers.

No mow May adopted on village green and village hall

Researched LED lights taking account of wildlife and reducing cost of lighting for PC

PC added clause for sustainability on all building applications

Playing field – football pitch maintenance requested to consider cheaper less invasive alternatives

Primary School -CANS donated pots, compost and sunflower seeds for every child to plant.

Proposed to help with finances to building bug hotels for the village and monitoring bug life.

Regularly meets with Ecochurch

Reports to Parish Magazine

Provided research from Wivenhoe Town Council and Colchester City Council

Proposed glyphosate free policy on April agenda but deferred for new PC
Opposed single quotation to spend over £3000 on seeding and fertilising playing field
Suggest cheaper option of spot seeding grass of bare patches of playing field without using artificial fertilisers and to level pitch with sand

CANS would like to thank the following for active support and ongoing advice: -

Kings seeds for generous donation of wildflower seeds
Wivenhoe Town Council and Wivenhoe Biodiversity Group
Essex Wildlife Trust
RHS - community officer visit - garden link and advice
Garden Organics – tailored advice

Future of CANS working party

- Grants and funding will be via Parish Council.
- A new Parish Councillor will be assigned to represent CANS
- Members of CANS will continue to report to the Parish Council

CANS encourages you to get involved to save and protect nature and reduce carbon footprint in our village with more public events following recommendations from the community nature workshop. Watch out for ideas such as educational and social events, an Eco fair, community made fertilizer and compost bins, rainwater collection.

Thank you for the dedication of CANS members; Kathryn Hughes, Dina Catchpole, Lynn McCullagh, Dave Willingham and Mark Hughes along with other members of the public.

Helen Remfry, on behalf of Climate and Nature for Stisted
Retiring Parish Councillor and Climate and Nature Lead.

Stisted Community Partnership 2022/23

Shop & Post Office

The good news is that we now have a permanent postmistress after Carol Shaw took up the reigns. Traditionally the shop has opened alongside the PO so having this facility in the village helps attract potential customers to the shop.

Unfortunately the way the PO needs to operate means it is only there from 2-4pm on Mondays and so the shop opening hours have followed suit as this works best for our volunteers.

Of course with the door only open for 2 hours a week, less the many Bank Holiday Mondays our income is small. Therefore we had to use our cash reserves to top up and cover expenses.

This situation became very serious in February so a decision was made to trial opening on a Saturday morning during March. The main reason being for people who are not around in the week to see what the shop has to offer. Although we have not been rushed off our feet we felt it worthwhile to continue for April and May.

Despite this however the shop remains in a precarious situation financially.

Finally we thank the Trustees of the Montefiore Institute for their generous support in giving the shop a home and to our small band of volunteer shopkeepers. Without either we could not continue.

Doreen, Jennie and Simon

Stisted PROW report for Annual Parish Assembly .

For the 50 Public Footpaths in the Parish this last year the one major impact on them has been caused by the weather.

Snow and rain caused considerable flooding, and high winds resulted in falling trees. This has caused a delay to a planned major resurfacing of Byeway 41 linking Lordsland Lane to Moat Wood Road. It remains flooded.

A bridge has been renewed on FP 22 near to Boathouse Plantation.

Land owners have generally kept the foot paths over fields clear and marked.

A certain amount of nudging has been required, resulting in some long term issues being resolved for now.

The Golf Club has been very helpful in maintaining and replacing the FP marker posts on their land.

It is good to see more people enjoying the routes, and they vary from individuals, families and serious groups with back pack and maps in plastic pouches around their necks.

All with sensible walking shoes in common.

Bob Powers P C Footpath Officer.

Annual Report for Stisted Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan

The plan is continuing to develop with the assistance of Chris Bowden of Navigus consultants. We now have a detailed road map of the tasks requiring completion before we can assemble a draft plan. The End of Grant report has been completed for 22/23 and we will be applying for another grant as soon as submissions are being accepted.

Parking

A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was applied for in 2022 to address the poor parking around the village green area and adjoining roads; King's Lane, Rectory Road and the Street. A misunderstanding regarding the TRO process meant that the TRO was rejected in December. Should the PC wish to pursue the TRO further they will need to demonstrate convincing local support for the scheme before a further application is made.

Once the TRO rejection was received, the details of the 3PR schools plan was forwarded to the headmaster of the school for their consideration in an effort to address some of the parking issues around the school and village green. There has been no further communication from the school regarding the scheme, but there has been a recent change of head and it's possible that this communication has been overlooked in the handover.

20's Plenty

The 20's Plenty campaign continues on a national level. Stisted PC followed the suggestion of the campaign and formally proposed a motion to support the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign last year.

Locally it would appear an initial resistance from ECC to implement 20mph zones has relaxed with 20mph zones replacing 30mph limits within Braintree (noticeably on Coggeshall Road near Braintree town centre). Bearing this in mind it may be a good time to apply to have all the speed limits in the parish reviewed. It has been suggested that the rural roads that are currently rated at 60mph should be reduced to 40mph and the 30mph down to 20mph.

ACVs

After requesting input from Parishioners in the Parish magazine we received a single submission from the public. Thankfully we received a comprehensive response from the village archive team (thank you archive team). The suggestions need to be reviewed and their suitability assessed before applying to BDC for ACV status.

The only currently active ACV in Stisted is on The Onley public house and this expires on 28 January 2024. This ACV was applied for via an independent group and not the PC. It would be my recommendation that should the PC see fit to try and extend this, they should first contact BDC to ensure that an ACV application would be accepted as, as far as I am aware, the Onley is still up for sale, although it is priced well over market value.

Report to the Parish Council

It has been a tricky year budget wise. The school has not been immune to rising costs and the cost of living crisis. Goods, services and energy costs will have to be met within existing budgets and with staffing costs taking up 90% of the school budget, this means the school cannot always replace support staff when they leave.

However, the school continues to be a popular choice for families both within the village and beyond with priority always going to local children. A healthy pupil roll is important because funding is linked to pupil numbers which pays for the cost of running the school. In September 2023, the school will have only one pupil joining Reception from the village although other year groups are well represented with local children. This is highly unusual and may just be a one off. Fortunately, the school has a strong enough reputation to attract interest from families living in the surrounding areas to fill the empty places. It is important we fill these places to remain financially viable. The school currently has 104 pupils, 14 staff and Basil, a three-legged school dog.

The headteacher, Martin Hawrylak, has been appointed as an Executive headteacher for Canonium Learning Trust. This means he is the Headteacher of more than one school and is responsible for both Stisted CE Primary Academy and Finchingfield St John the Baptist Primary Academy. This enables costs to be shared over two schools and has eased the financial pressures for the time being.

Mrs Danielle Welsman, one of the school's excellent teachers has been promoted to Head of School with some teaching commitments. The role of a Head of School is to manage the day to day running of the school and work with the Executive Headteacher.

The partnership with Finchingfield has grown from strength to strength with shared training opportunities for staff and visits from the pupils of Finchingfield to Stisted.

In October, the children's Harvest Service at the village church was excellent and attendance from families and carers was exceptional. This then continued with our

Christmas Carol concert, Nativity play and Easter services, with standing room only in the south aisle of the church. Year 5 and 6 visited Stisted Hall during the Christmas period where they sang a variety of Christmas carols and songs.

Year 3 and 4 welcomed R&H services to deliver an Iron and Stone age workshop and Class 2 thoroughly enjoyed their 'Night at the Museum'. The infant classes welcomed a local children's author, Catherine Emmett courtesy of our links with Finchingfield, who will be returning in May to visit the junior classes.

In March 2023, Ofsted inspected the school. The last Ofsted inspection was 2008. The school was delighted to maintain its 'outstanding' status especially under the new inspection framework which has seen the majority of outstanding schools lose their status.

Ofsted inspectors praised the school for providing an "exceptional education", its support for children with special educational needs, and the school's warm and caring environment. Inspectors also noted the opportunities the school provides for children to flourish and become confident, active citizens. Teachers were also singled out for delivering interesting lessons that made children think hard.

The summer term has got off to an exciting start with a visit from Gridserve to Class 4 where the class explored sustainability. A brand new drinking water fountain has finally been installed courtesy of a donation from the Golf Club. Over the coming months the school has skipping and orienteering workshops for all of the children to participate in as well as class trips to the Seaside, an overnight stay at Danbury and Reception Class's sleep over at the school. Year 5 and 6 will also be taking part in some swimming activities and will we have training for road safety and Bikeability which hopefully will encourage more children to cycle to school and alleviate traffic congestion.

Martin Hawrylak

Executive Headteacher Stisted Primary Academy and Finchingfield Primary Academy

April 2023

Stisted Archive: Update for Parish Council Assembly 18th May 2023

- Meeting to be held between Professor Lucy Noakes of University of Essex, Helen Remfry and Howard Hollands in relation to the Stisted Archive Orla History programme.
- Preparation for an Archive presentation in the Autumn at Stisted Hall is underway.
- The Stisted bellringers 'Coronation' interview and video was shown on BBC Look East and featured in the Braintree and Witham Times.
- Current Archive research into Trades and Businesses of Stisted is making good progress towards an exhibition and possible publication.
- We are in the process of purchasing a dedicated Archive Laptop with funding from Essex Heritage Trust. This will ensure compliance with data protection.

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