

Ringshall

SLHC Parish Recorder's Annual Report 2022



'The Platinum Jubilee Beacons' brazier lit to start the weekend of celebration in June at Ringshall Village Hall

The parish month by month

January started with some sunny days and spectacular vivid sunsets. Covid 19 virus had stopped many local gatherings over the new year and the number of positive cases in the local area were rising to its peak.

Outside the Village Hall there was a drop off space for a community collection for discarded real Christmas trees. Over the month a pile of 24 tree appeared.

February on the 18th saw storm Eunice hit Ringshall hard in the day. Wattisham weather station recorded wind speeds of 71mph. Several tree branches came down, some garden sheds & fencing were blown over. The 20th was heavy rain & strong winds of storm Franklin. The 21st to 26th saw village disruption with Stowmarket Road closed for patching & pot hole repairs.

Offton road from the B1078 to Offton was designated a 'Quiet Lane' with signage installed.

The Parish Tree Warden Liz Hitchcock planted a evergreen oak on the edge of the group of trees in the south west corner of the village playing field. This is to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee as part of 'The Queen's green canopy' scheme.

March Covid struck our household for the first time, a new variant was circulating the country and local cases were high. We were very lucky to just have relatively mild symptoms and were glad we had received all our available vaccinations.

23rd was a beautiful day with unusually high temperature recorded of 19 degs

25th the Village Hall held its second social evening since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The local band 'Feed Your Head' played and over £300 was raised towards the playing field children's play equipment.

On the 31st saw a frost & light snow with temperatures down to -1deg.

After 11 dedicated years as the Village Hall booking clerk Jackie Barnard resigned, the role was filled by Lacey Luthor who is also the current parish clerk.

April Started with heavy rain & hail. Strong winds recorded at 54mph
The Villagers were notified of the project known as East Anglia GREEN. National Grid propose to route 400,000 volts (400 kV) electricity overhead transmission lines & 45-50m high pylons. The route passes through parts of the eastern edge of the parish. Various public exhibitions & webinars were proposed through April & May. The nearest being at Needham Market on 27th May. This is currently at the initial consultation phase with the proposed construction starting 2027 and being fully operational 2031.

11th Sad news that Robert John Thorpe (known as John) aged 95 past away peacefully in an Ipswich care home after a long illness. He lived in Ringshall all of his life, most recently in Valley View, Lower Farm road, Ringshall Stocks with his wife Marion. He was a real character in the village and He, his brother & father had worked on farms in Ringshall. In his retirement years he spent hours working on his allotment at the west end of Lower Farm road, now the location of Honeysuckle Lodge. John's wishes were for no public funeral to be held.

The parish also heard the sad news that the Reverend Christine Gray (Kit) passed away peacefully on Monday April 18th 2022 aged 75 years. She was Reverend at the Church of St. Catherine Ringshall from 1994 to 2000. She lived in the new rectory at Willisham and was the first female rector of the parish. Her funeral service was held at St Andrews Church, Rushmere, Ipswich on June 10th followed by a private cremation.

May The bluebells were in full bloom and the Ash tree leaves were out, but there was none on the Oak. An old Suffolk saying from my Father
"Ash before the Oak we will surely get a soak. Oak before Ash we will only get a splash".

The week of the 3rd, the whole length of Lower Farm road closed for road surface repairs, planing & surface dressing. The week of the 9th Stowmarket road was done.

16th saw flocks of common swifts in the skys over Lower Farm Road.

24th The Annual Parish Council meeting was held. 6 members of the public attended all of which were current or past parish councillors. Annual reports where submitted by Parish Council, Village Hall, Primary School, Local Councillors, Tree and Footpath Warden, all of these are uploaded on PCC website.

The end of the month saw the start of preparation at the Village Hall for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee parish celebrations. A large permanent 4m high beacon brazier fabricated from steel & timber was installed mid way along the north boundary of the playing field by the Hitchcock family who live at Chapel Farm, on Stowmarket road.



22nd May saw the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Torch Relay rickshaw ride pass through Ringshall on part of its 588 mile journey across Suffolk. Dumi a pupil from Ringshall Primary School was selected to be the torch bearer & ride in the rickshaw and he was joined by his sister. It started at the car park at Wattisham Airfield Community Centre at 1:30pm.

It then moved along Lower Farm road reaching the village hall car park at 1:45pm. There was a good turn out of 50/60 villagers to see them arrive. The Festival of Suffolk covered the event.



June the 2nd the beacon brazier was lit at 9:45pm as part of the official, national 'The Platinum Jubilee Beacons' community event to start the weekend of celebration.

3rd on a beautiful evening the Village Hall was open to all, the bar was open & a cheese buffet available. At 9pm the beacon brazier was re-lit for all to enjoy. The event was enjoyed by about 70 attendants of all ages.

4th a lovely sunny Saturday afternoon saw the main celebration at the Village Hall. Many residents attended & enjoyed the activities. A classic vehicles display of cars, tractors & gypsy caravan, Royal themed fancy dress competition and a well supported fun dog show with 6 classes. The local 4 piece electric band 'Feed Your Head' played outside, a mixture of classic 60s, 70s, rhythm & blues songs. There was pizza & pasta dishes to be purchased & enjoyed. The event finished off in the evening with local 4 piece electric band 'G & T' playing in the hall a mixture of Rock & Roll, Blues and popular classic songs.

6th we had the excitement of being on the Day/stage 1 Colchester to Bury St Edmunds of the Women's Cycle Tour 2022, the UK's most prestigious professional cycle race in the year. The route came through Ringshall Socks on the B1078 travelling from Bildeston to Needham Market. At 1:42pm it passed Ringshall Primary School. Some villagers came out to watch the stream of cyclists, support vehicles and escort police going though, all passed in 2 minutes.

16th 17th & 18th at the village hall, local Ringshall Amateur Theatrical Society (RATS) had evening performances of the comedic play 'Dad's Army featuring Mum's Army and The Floral Dance' based on the 1970's British TV sitcom. Tickets £10 included complimentary ration box. 1940's dress encouraged and prize for the best attire. This was their first performance since the Covid lock down and over the three performances 138 tickets were sold.

July 29th on a sunny day the combining of the wheat field on south side of Lower Farm road started a month earlier than last year

August Sad news as Maureen June Wills passed away suddenly on August 14th, 2022 aged 80 years. A funeral Service was held at St Catherine's Church, Ringshall on September 12th. She lived with her husband, John, at Highfield House on Lower Farm Road, Ringshall Stocks. They have lived in the village for around 30 years and she had been very involved with many parish events over the years. She was the long serving secretary to the Village Hall Management Committee, and a founder member and organiser of the weekly Table Tennis group. Maureen had so much knowledge of the Parish history and in 1997, following a suggestion from the Parish Council, she embarked on the 3 year project which produced a book to document the Ringshall parish history past and present. The book called 'Chronicles of Ringshall' was published in 2000, and to commemorate the Millennium the Parish Council purchased 100 copies and distributed them free of charge to Ringshall residents.

September 24th Robert & Susan Johnson got married at St Catherine's Church, Ringshall.

October 4th at the Village Hall saw the restarting of the craft club this will now be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

November 3rd 4th & 5th at the village hall local Ringshall Amateur Theatrical Society (RATS) had evening performances of the comedic farce "Sleighed to Death" from the Inspector Pratt 1930's trilogy. Tickets £12.50 included complimentary festive appetiser and over the three performances 141 tickets were sold.

12th Village Christmas Fayre held in the Village Hall. This was the first time it was held & was well supported by the locals. There was local craft & food stalls, Father Christmas Santas grotto. £975 was raise for the Play Area funds

On the 13th at 10:45am there was a remembrance service held at the Parish War memorial on the Wattisham / Ware road. The total parish poppy collection raised £824.14.

December 6th saw the start of the installation of the 20m x 20m rhombus shape public play area on the Village Hall south side of the playing field, which was completed by Christmas. The total project cost was £56,222 this was funded by grants, charitable donations & fundraising. This was an magnificent achievement by such a small rural parish to raise a large amount of money in such a short space of time. The facility would not be open to public until spring 2023, once the grassed land had established.

Inside the Village hall a large screen television with multiple inputs was installed. This will add many community benefits to the hall, for displays, presentations and allowing social group gathering to watch live streamed events.

The village hall post box was decorated with a colourful festive nativity crochet post-box topper produced by the Tuesday craft club.



‘The Four Parishes News-Link’

This magazine, which covers the villages of Barking, Battsford, Great Bricett and Ringshall continued with 10 publications in the year giving continued information of local news and events. The yearly subscription had risen this year to £5 and was collected in the month of February.

‘The Eagle Online’

The HQ Wattisham Flying Station Community free online magazine upload Spring & Summer additions with articles on what has been happening and future events planned at the station.

Speed Indicator Display

The first week in January saw a new Speed Indicator Display board installed on Lower Farm Road, Ringshall Stocks, on the 30mph stretch of the 'C' classified road through the residential part of the village leading to the primary school. A post was installed adjacent the bungalow 'Cornfields' at the west end of Lower Farm Road and an alternative post was installed outside July House in the middle of the built up area. The equipment had been purchased by the Parish Council to record traffic numbers & speeds. The sign can be rotated to indicate speeds in either direction and can be switched to either location. Peter Watson, a Lower Farm resident, has taken on the role of Speed Watch Coordinator, operating the system & recording the data.

Over the year the Speed Watch Coordinator reported the data findings from the single radar speed sign at each parish council meeting. The data indicated a weekly range of around 9,000 - 11,000 vehicles passing the sign in either direction. An average of around 20% of vehicles were speeding (> 30mph) with maximum speeds commonly in the range of 60 - 70mph, and on one occasion a speed of 83mph was recorded!

There has been an ongoing issue with the speed of traffic travelling on this route at all times of the day. This road is the main route to Wattisham Airfield.



Lower Farm road west end adjacent 'Cornfields' (on right) looking east



Lower Farm road adjacent 'July House' (on left) looking west

Council Tax

For Band D 2022/23 was a total of £1889.65, a rise of £52.96 on the previous year 2021/22. How it was made up:-

Authority Name	Amount
Suffolk County Council	£1279.17
Suffolk CC Adult Social Care	£159.75
Mid Suffolk District Council	£171.59
Ringshall Parish Council	£31.46
Police & Crime Commissioner	£247.68

This year the government gave a 'Council Tax Rebate' of £150 to all households in tax band A-D.

In the year 2012/13 Band D was a total of £1468.87 (£420.78 lower than the current year 2022/23).

Population of the Parish

The population remain similar to that stated in Recorder's Initial Report dated December 2021

Total Dwellings of the Parish

The numbers remain similar to that stated in Recorder's Initial Report dated December 2021

House & land Sales for the Parish

Properties in Ringshall had an overall average price of £441,319 over the last year. Sold prices over last year were 2% down on 2021. Prices were 4% up on the 2020 peak of £425,150. The majority of sales in Ringshall during the last year were detached properties, selling for an average price of £500,000. Semi-detached properties sold for an average of £206,595 (from rightmove.co.uk)

Charles Tye

Mile End Barn, Bildeston Road, Charles Tye, Ringshall, Stowmarket, IP14 2HU

4/5 bedroom timber framed converted barn, set in 1.2 acres of land with large barn/workshop.

Conversion carried out in 2015. Put on the market in Nov for £950,000. There is no sign it was sold & was taken off the market. Last sold 11 Jan 2019 and 28 Oct 2015 for £250,000

Ringshall

1 Bakers Corner, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall, Stowmarket, IP14 2JA

Built about 1960 extended & modernised 4 Bedroom detached bungalow with large first floor studio/ attic room. Sold 4 Nov 2022 for £700,000.

Last sold 17 Oct 2016 for £487,500, and 29 Oct 1999 for £113,000.

Ringshall Stocks

Russet House, 6 The Orchard, Ringshall, Stowmarket, IP14 2RS

Detached modern 4 bedroom house built in 2008, sold 6 April 2022 for £545,000

Last sold 26 Nov 2014 for £368,000 and 28 Jul 2008 for £430,000

Ringshall House, Offton Road, Ringshall, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2JD

Grade II listed 6 bedroom Country house, c1630, with 2.9 acres of grounds. Put on the market in Jun for offers in excess of £1,500,000 and Aug was reduced to £1,400,000. There is no sign it was sold & was taken off the market.

Last sold 07 Aug 2020 for £865,000 and 15 Jan 2015 for £800,000

Broad View Farm, Lower Farm Road Ringshall Suffolk IP14 2JF

0.72 acres building plot land with Outline Planning Permission for erection of 2No. dormer style dwellings with associated detached garaging, and new vehicular access to highway. Put on the market in Dec with guide price of £450,000

The Piggery, Broad View Farm, Lower Farm Road Ringshall IP14 2JF

New constructed 'self build' detached chalet 5 bedroom bungalow with double garage completed and occupied in March 2022.

It now forms part of a 3 dwelling development on the old 19th Century farmstead which all share the original farm access off Lower Farm Road. It is built on the land where the old farm Piggery stood which was demolished March 2021. It complements the original 19th century extended 6 bedroom Farm house and 4 bedroom converted 19th century barn which was renovated & converted in 2017.

Notable Planning Applications submitted in the year

Broad View Farm, Lower Farm Road Ringshall Suffolk IP14 2JF

In January an appeal was made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Mid Suffolk District Council to refuse Outline Planning Permission Refused for erection of 2No. dormer style dwellings with associated detached garaging, and new vehicular access to highway. In August the Secretary of State granted approval.

Anglia Business Park Wattisham Road Ringshall IP14 2HX

The site was WWII aircraft dispersal park & then radar station, refer to the Ringshall Recorders Initial report dated Dec 2021 for more detailed description & history.

DC/22/02458 - Erection of 20no commercial units consisting of Class E(g) (office and light industrial) and B2 (general industrial) a total of 28,350sqft over the site.

A total of 1,100sqft of existing buildings to be demolished which appears to include the original WWII brick built 'site guardroom' at the road site entrance.

There has been many objections mainly due to the isolated rural location, poor road access via narrow country lanes which are approx 3 miles from a major 'B' road. All access route would pass through the built up areas with dwellings.

Woodlands Farm, Bildeston Road, Ringshall, Suffolk IP14 2LY

Various 'Discharge of Conditions' approved relating to application approved in 2021.

Outside the parish.

Great Bricett Business Park, The Street Great Bricett Suffolk IP7 7DZ

DC/20/05587 Planning Application - Change of use of land for the siting of up to 69 mobile homes (following demolition of existing buildings) Refused 10 Feb 2022

There was a large number of local objections mainly due to the large number of proposed dwellings, their and the major impact on existing amenities & parish infrastructure.

AP/22/00036 - appeal against refusal went to Public Inquiry 13 Sept at Offton Village Hall. The appeal was dismissed 11 Oct 2022