

Chairman's Report presented to the AGM 16th October 2014

Over the last few years we have seen the income from subscriptions rise, in round figures from just over £500 per year to around the £900 mark. This has meant we have not needed to raise the subscription, but also think it reflects the fact that we have been doing things that have pleased the residents of the village.

Together there has been a lot of input into the development of the old Civil Service sports ground. This site was already part of the Norwich development plans before I became chairman, but I believe we have got a better development than might have been built without that input.

Persimmon Homes has made good progress with Wentworth Gardens and is now completed. Although annoying at the time we are pleased that the building work is now complete and not continuing to disturb the neighbourhood as might have been the case. The first phase of the tree work has taken place and the play area is now open for use.

During July we held the Scarecrow Festival, which is now becoming a popular annual event, attracting many visitors to the area. Thanks to all the residents who created the scarecrows and to Notcutts and Waitrose who sponsor the events and host the prize presentations.

In the autumn the Association presented Eaton with a recycled plastic four-seater bench placed, with the permission of the war memorial trustees, by the War Memorial in Newmarket Road. A good turn-out of parishioners gathered for the annual Remembrance Day service after which it was blessed by the vicar of St. Andrew's, Rev. Phil Rodd. The Association has also made a donation towards the cost of the recent cleaning the memorial.

Throughout the year the Marston Marshes maintenance group led by Chris Stebbing helped Matt Davies, leader of the Norwich Fringe Project, do essential work to maintain and improve this natural area right on our doorstep. We continue to give it publicity and encourage people to visit the site. We entered the Marshes in the Norwich Eco Awards for which we received a certificate saying 'Highly Commended'.

The association has once again been recognised as a "thriving" area in the Anglia in Bloom 2013 awards. This is the same level as achieved in 2011.

The committee had agreed to help the Norwich South Rotary Club at a proposed Dog Show at Cringleford Rec. on the May Bank Holiday. Unfortunately this did not get off the ground and was cancelled.

The committee continues to work closely with the local councillors and police with a representative from each, when available, attending committee meetings. We supported and raised funds for the defibrillator which has now been installed outside Waitrose in Church Lane. The Village has been very generous in donations for this such that we also hold funds for its future maintenance. We worked with our councillors to get the City Council to adjust the barriers on our footpaths to allow prams and wheelchairs to pass and also clear the kerbs of unwanted weeds.

From last year's AGM one of the suggestions which came from the discussion was to improve the children's play areas and a project for this has commenced with a survey distributed to households with the Autumn Newsletter.

I would like to thank the committee members, both present and past, for their support. The present committee is a lively group and I'm sure the future is in very good hands.

