

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2023

FOR THE PARISH OF
SAWBRIDGEWORTH
(including SPELLBROOK)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

The Annual Town Meeting for Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook will be held at The Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, and Bell Street. Sawbridgeworth on **Monday 03 April 2023 at 7.30pm.**

Local Government electors for the Town are entitled to vote at the Meeting which is also open to the public.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 4th April 2022.
2. Matters Arising from those Minutes.
3. Report by the Town Mayor on Town Council activities in 2022/23
4. Report by the Town Clerk on the Council's budget for 2023/24.
5. Receipt of Trustee reports from the Hailey Centre and the Sawbridgeworth Young Peoples Recreation Centre.
6. Reports from other local bodies;

309 Squadron ATC, Bowls Club, Cricket Club, Central Surgery Patients Group, Cricket Club, Eco-Audit Working Group, Friends of Pishiobury Park, Girlguiding Sawbridgeworth and High Wych District, Great St Mary's Church, Homes for Ukraine Support Group, Local History Society, Memorial Hall, Police, Reedings Junior School, Rotary, SECC, Scouts 1st Sawbridgeworth Scouts Group, Sports Association, Sustainable Sawbridgeworth, Tennis Club, The WI, Town Twinning Association, Travel Challenge

7. Report on the Town Action Plan.
8. Consideration of Resolutions for which written notice has been received.
9. Open Forum for electors to raise any other matters.



Cllr Greg Rattey
Town Mayor
23rd March 2023

Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook

Annual Town Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Town Meeting of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook held at The Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, Herts at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 4th April 2022.

Present: Cllr Greg Rattey (Town Mayor) Chairman; 8 Local Government Electors for the Parish of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook, (including 8 other Town Councillors). PS Funes-Walker, PC Marshall, PCSO Higham, Herts Police, Town Clerk Christopher Hunt, Finance Manager Lisa Dale.

The Town Mayor welcomed those present to the Sawbridgeworth Annual Town meeting and held a minutes silence for the people of Ukraine, following this explained that this was not a meeting of the Town Council but of the people of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook.

22/01 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting

Resolved – that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 8th April 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

22/02 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from those minutes

22/03 Report by the Mayor on Town Council Activities in 2018/19

The Mayor, Cllr Greg Rattey referred to the two-year absence of the Annual Town meeting due to Covid restrictions. He continued to highlight the need for the community to live at ease regardless of creed, colour or sexual orientation.

The unity of the business community was highlighted with the highest application for grants for assistance regarding the pandemic. He touched on the great work from East Herts District Council and passed on his thanks.

There were no questions for the Mayor.

22/04 Report by the Town Clerk Appendix A

The Town Clerk, Christopher Hunt, reported on the Council's Accounts to 31 March 2022.

22/05 The Mayor invited Trustee Reports from Town Charities:

Cllr Angela Alder, Chair of the **Hailey Centre** report is at:
Appendix B

Highlighted the support that will be offered to Ukraine refugees and thanked East Herts District Council for their support through the pandemic. Funding was needed and fundraising activities will be taking place.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster, Chair of the *Sawbridgeworth Young Peoples Recreational Centre* report is at:

Appendix C

The Centre closing during the pandemic was difficult, the preschool kept running and most activities are returning. Other grants will be assisting in starting new activities and the refurbishment of the kitchen.

Cllr Furnace thanked the volunteers and committee for all the hard work on grant applications and wanted it noted her thanks to Clarion housing association.

22/06 The Mayor invited Reports from other parties:

Eco Audit Working Group, Cllr Furnace

Appendix D

Wanted thanks noted for Bob Reed for all his work and commented on citizens science group and the work with the Canals and Rivers Trust that is planned for the year ahead.

Guiding - Gilly Squire

Appendix E

Report received

RHSO – Cllr R Buckmaster

Appendix F

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster reported on matters at County Council

Appendix G

He highlighted:

- The budget now sits at over a billion pounds this year. For the County and 100 million pounds was additionally received for Covid support and grants.
- The report mentions a large number of initiatives for the environment and funding for these has also be set aside.
- A successful bid was made with Arriva for 27 electric buses in Stevenage
- West Road developments will be a focus and the continued support he will invest with the community.
- He thanked all councillors throughout the pandemic as well as the community work councillors continued to work on.

Herts Police - Police Sergeant Funes-Walker

Appendix H

She highlighted:

- Priorities were around awareness on the use of e-scooters
- Drug use and ASB in and around Great St Mary's Church, partnership work has reduced issues.
- Vantorts Park, benches had been removed due to ASB and larger bins fitted
- Work had been completed in local schools
- A larger scale drugs operation with the Metropolitan Police which lead to a positive arrest in the Town.

**History Society - Cllr Royle
Appendix I**

**Town Twinning – Cllr Royle
Appendix J**

**Sustainable Sawbridgeworth – Cllr Royle
Appendix K**

He highlighted:

- Support offered from across the community for Ukraine refugees
- Thanked the support from the Hailey Centre regarding the same subject.

**22/07 Report on the Town Action Plan – Cllr Parsad
Appendix L**

He Highlighted:

- Community Engagement and Communication – a good relationship continues with the local news paper reporter.
- The Flyer is running regular reports from the Mayor, Cllr Royle and Clerks Corner.
- Work has started with the new surgeries in the chamber with Councillors, Police, CAB and other invited partners are being considered.

22/08 Open Forum

- Cllr E Buckmaster – raised the funding opportunities to place a speed indicator device along the A1184 near to the Bull Public House and Leventhorpe School from either the Council or the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Cllr Furnace – raised the issue around the consultation on the 20mph in the different areas of the town and would it be quicker to do at the same time. Cllr E Buckmaster didn't think this would be possible but would explore this option.

Reports made at the Annual Town Meeting are attached to these minutes.
They are also posted on the town council website.

There being no other questions the Annual Town Meeting closed at 8:20pm

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

PAPER FROM THE TOWN CLERK

TO: ATTENDEES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FROM: CHRISTOPHER HUNT
SUBJECT: BUDGET 2023-24
DATE: 3RD APRIL 2023

Purpose of the Budget

The Council must set a budget for the forthcoming year. From this is derived the Council's precept demand which East Herts District Council must collect on our behalf. Therefore, it must realistically reflect the Council's plans and ambitions for next year.

Objective

This budget has been compiled to maintain community services such as community transport, allotments, cemetery, completing projects and reintroduce the town market. All these services will add value to the town with a view to maintain and improve community and business cohesion.

Overview

Sawbridgeworth Town Council has pledged to maintain the Sawbobus service and without external government funding due to its lifeline for many local residents during the current financial crises.

As a principle:

- All anticipated expenditure is included
- Only realistic income is included

Assumptions

STC will budget to continue its range of activities and wherever possible enhance them for the benefit of the community. These are generally in line with the objectives identified in the Town Action Plan.

Policy Decisions

There are a number of policy decisions that must be made in order to validate the proposed budget and they fall under a number of headings:

- **Establishment**

The new full-time Ranger working with the current Ranger has reduced the necessity to use sub-contractors. The introduction of the new allotment site off West Road will increase workloads but a storage area next to the allotments will reduce the costs for off site storage currently being made.

- **Finance and Policy**

- Election expenses for the vacancies have not been included but deferred from 2022-23.

- **Estates**

There are three areas for consideration.

- The Civic Centre – has been used for hire by local groups and a permanent weekly slot has been made for the forthcoming financial year. Other one off bookings have been made. The warm space and Ukraine community English language lessons were not charged for.
- The Hailey Centre - town council's responsibility is for external decoration and maintenance. We continue to do this.
- External Storage – this is being reviewed and alternative storage is being sought to reduce current costs. A new storage facility is expected in West Road with the new allotment site.

- **Amenities**

There are four main areas to be addressed:

- Allotments – Ongoing tree, hedging and fly tipping clearance is needed which the new full-time ranger is completing. Flood defences at Southbrook have proved successful and as such this budgeted expense has been removed for the forthcoming year. No plans to increase charges as we are in line with our neighbouring towns.
- The Cemetery remains busy with plaques and tree purchasing, the ranger has support from the second ranger to take on larger projects without the necessity of subcontracted labour.
- West Road play area has not had any damage over the last twelve months but has required extensive clearing to overgrown brambles to the South aspect of the park.
- Orchard Management – the responsibility for the town council is to undertake an annual cut of the orchard itself and the adjacent meadow, we need to budget for two maintaining cuts per annum as a minimum to keep to a manageable condition.
- A new budgeted area has been created due to the closure of Great St Marys' Churchyard and the maintenance for this may become the responsibility of the Town Council.

- **Operations**

There are a number of areas to consider:

- Bell Street Conveniences – these continue to generate an income through the payment on use, a maintenance company has been released and a local cleaner employed.
- Lawnmower – the current larger lawnmower is old and a replacement is being budgeted for. With the increase in land to be managed and the new ranger, use and demand will increase.
- Ranger – the costs of the Town Ranger continue to be split 50/50 between the cemetery and general operational matters.

- CCTV – There are plans to expand the system and the current system will be overhauled with new cameras with increased capability.
- **Events**

The council have, pre Covid put on a number of events throughout the calendar year and these are in the planning to reintroduce these.

 - Local Market – a proposed market in association with retailers and various sections of the community.
 - Fun on the Field – returned last year with great success and will continue this year.
 - Christmas Lights Festival – this event has gained a very creditable local following and as this has returned for the second time after the pandemic adjustments to timings will be made to allow a greater community attendance.
- **Projects**
 - Jubilee Gardens - has now progressed with a successful bid in to The UK Shared Prosperity Fund added to the earmarked reserves has now allowed the tender to be advertised for the work which will commence this financial year to create a usable space for the community in the town centre.
- **Civic Events**

The council's support to civic events will continue, such as:

 - Remembrance Day – mainly in the production of service sheet and managing logistics running up to the day and during the event.
 - Mayors Civic Service – we liaise with the churches and produce the programme of events.
 - Mayors Civic Dinner – the event will continue to be budgeted for which is the mayor's formal dinner celebrating the achievements for the year which reciprocates with our neighbouring towns and the district and county councils.
- **Community Buses**

The council operates the Sawbobus community bus and a minibus for local groups to be able to hire.

 - **Sawbobus**
 - The service has had all funding removed and as such the Council will assist with funding, sponsorship has been obtained through local companies and passengers making a £1 donation for a days travel make the service achievable.

In summary

Income will be enhanced by:

- The re-introduction of the Market
- Continued Christmas event and fun on the field.
- Obtaining grants wherever possible

Expenditure will be contained by

- Sponsorship for the Sawbobus continues to be sought
- Reducing subcontracted work
- Negotiating lower costs for IT services
- Reducing storage costs

The achievements of the Town council in the past year 2022/23

Your councillors and staff have had a busy year with several major national events impacting us all.

We held celebrations across a weekend in June as Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. We lit the beacon and ran a civic service to mark the occasion and many residents held street parties to relive the previous Jubilees we have all grown up with and celebrated over the years.

Who thought that just three months later we would see her passing, the Council ran a book of condolence and many people attended to send their own messages and thoughts.

On the 11th September The Kings Principal Proclamation was made from the balcony overlooking Friary Court at St James's Palace. This was repeated around the country and our ceremony occurred with the councillors and staff and many members of the public outside these offices.

On the 24th February 2022 Russian troops entered Ukraine starting the war, which unfortunately has seen its 1 year anniversary. Many people in this town have opened their home to house people fleeing the conflict. Local amenities have been made available for English lessons and support. This chamber was a collection point for essential items needed by families, tons of aid was sent back into the country donated by members of this community.

Locally we have seen projects moving forwards such as the Jubilee Gardens, obtained sponsorship for the Sawbobus, completed flood defences at one of the allotment sites and continue to manage our own town cemetery, four allotments sites and made improvements to West Road play area.

Following the Covid restrictions lifting we have manage to hold some great community events such as the new River Day to highlight the eco importance our river holds, Fun on the Field and the popular dog show, Travel Challenge for our school children. We saw the new Community Connections event which highlighted all the local support and community groups that operate in our town. At the end of the calendar year, we held our Annual Christmas Lights Switch On, which has grown over many years into a wonderful family event for all.

This year we have seen many groups submit their reports on the last years success and as such I encourage you to look online or at the packs around the room. We have over 20 groups represented and we should shout about their achievements. The number of groups running successfully in our town is testament to the community cohesion this town holds.

THE HAILEY CENTRE

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

Objects and Powers

The Trust is established for the benefit of older people in the Parish of Sawbridgeworth with the object of improving their quality of life.

This past year has been another rather difficult one in as much as numbers returning after the restrictions imposed by the pandemic plus the rising cost of food has made our users more cautious about coming out again. However, on the bright side we have returned to our normal programme of events and activities as follows: The following numbers are for the whole year.

- The Centre served a total of 3,565 delicious, nutritious and tasty meals during the year which includes special events i.e. Christmas and other celebrations. This service is highly valued by our users and while we had to increase the cost per meal during the year all those recipients felt it was good value for money. Saturday mornings are still popular with an average of 25-30 people per morning.
- Weekly activities included - Chair based Yoga and general fitness sessions attracted 958 users; Bingo 1,151, this is still a popular activity and keeps participants mentally alert listening to the Caller and counting numbers. Whist 158; Tea mornings Monday and Friday 10-12 per morning.
- Monthly activities covered – Shopping bus 66; Cinema 74; Quiz 300; Chiropodist 480; by booked appointments. This is a much valued service for our users. We are also grateful to the Hertfordshire Hearing Aid Charity which provides a Hearing Aid professional to help users with problems with their hearing aid devices. This is not a booked service but managed by Hailey Centre staff on a first come first served basis. People using this service are invited to give a voluntary contribution to the Hearing Aid charity. The Bereavement Café is held fortnightly and was part funded via County Cllr. Eric Buckmaster's Locality budget and again this is a much appreciated service. We are also extremely fortunate in having a professional and colourful monthly Newsletter produced by Mr. Ted Noakes, a long serving Trustee which is a great vehicle for publicising our outreach to the community.
- External users include – Slimming World; Pilates; Sawbridgeworth History Society; Sawbridgeworth Trust, AGM's for Rowney Gardens and Pishiobury Park groups. U3A Gardening Group and U3A Singing Group. Both these groups meet in the daytime and are open to our users to attend. U3A also hold a monthly Leaders' group meeting at the Centre.

The Trustees are looking at exciting plans to refurbish the Centre and to upgrade our current offer to users and hirers going forward. So watch this space!

The Board met on four occasions during the period covered by this report and has dealt with matters relating to the efficient running of the Centre including reviewing all our policies with professional input from Mr. Ross Leary. We also routinely review our financial management arrangements, staffing and rates of pay.

The serving Trustees are:

Councillors – Mrs. Angela Alder – Chairman)

Mr. John Burmicz) four year terms until May 2023

Mr. Greg Rattey) Resigned January 2023

Community – Mr. Eric Buckmaster)

Mr. Colin Gill – Honorary Treasurer)

Mr. Ted Noakes) three year terms until 2024

Mr. Adrian Robinson)

Mrs. Debbie Dyball)

During this year we were delighted to welcome Debbie Dyball as a new Trustee and Nickie Hancock as Honorary Secretary. We were sorry to receive the resignation of Mr. Rattey but thank him for his service and contribution while Sawbridgeworth Mayor.

The Board is grateful to the Town Council for the grant towards the cost of utilities and to Hertfordshire County Council Social Services for its grant towards staffing costs.

The Board gratefully acknowledges the very generous donations during the year from relatives and friends who expressly remember the Centre often through collections made at Funerals and Thanksgiving for the lives of loved ones. Contributions from all sources of financial support are much appreciated and help to keep the running costs down and continue to keep the Centre a welcoming, attractive and vibrant place to visit for the older people of Sawbridgeworth. Two years ago the Board took the decision that major fund raising events should be held on the back of town centre activities. Unfortunately, it was felt by the Manager and volunteers that as all activities are located around Fair Green and the Memorial Hall there was little point to opening the Centre for a fund raising event during this May Day holiday. The Board is very aware of the pressure on local authorities and makes every effort to control expenses as well as raise funds for the benefit of the users of the Centre. The Board is fortunate in having an excellent Honorary Treasurer who keeps a tight control on expenditure.

I am pleased to report our continued good relationship with Sawbridgeworth Town Council officers which has in the recent past enabled the Centre to utilise the Council Chamber for some fund raising events.

On the staff side there have been some changes of the catering staff with the Assistant Cook moving to become head Cook and a new Assistant recruited. We are blessed with a really enthusiastic Manager who has developed a well-honed and happy team due to her excellent leadership qualities. Our employees have the option to join the pension scheme if they wish and the Board is grateful for the expertise of our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Colin Gill, who has ensured that we are legally compliant with a properly validated Pension Scheme for Centre employees.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks the valuable contribution of the volunteers who give so much help and support to the Centre. The Board would also wish to place on record their thanks to the staff and especially to the Centre Manager who has provided a welcoming smile and a listening ear to our visitors and users during this particularly difficult period when we have been open for business. It is also my very real pleasure to place on record my thanks to my fellow Trustees for their support and input throughout the year. Their individual contributions are too many to itemise here but very much appreciated by staff, users and myself as Chairman.

Thank you

Angela Alder
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
March 2023

SAWBRIDGEWORTH YOUNG PEOPLE'S RECREATIONAL CENTRE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(CHARITY NUMBER 302466)

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

Objects and Powers

The purpose of the Centre is to help and educate the children and young people of Sawbridgeworth through their leisure time activities. So to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and as members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

The Management Committee meet throughout the year during the period covered by this report and has dealt with matters relating to the efficient running of the Centre as and when they occurred.

The management Committee consists of the following individuals:

Cllr R Buckmaster – Chair

Cllr A Alder – Vice Chair

Mrs G Hawkins – Secretary

Ms G Felstead – Treasurer

Cllr A Furnace

Cllr C Chester

Ms L Rodriguez

Mr A Parsad-Wyatt

Mr D Royle

Plus 2 Leventhorpe students.

Mrs Rebecca Pugh joined us last year as the Centre Manager. She has been an excellent addition to the Centre and has undertaken training in many different areas to fulfil this role.

The Centre is now 25 years old. As with all things they age or wear out and need replacing. Consequently, we have replaced the lighting and are in the process of getting quotes for the heating. The windows are the original ones when built so they will be next year's focus.

The treasurer has wanted to step down for some time and we struggled to find someone to replace her. But thankfully Cllr Reece Smith stepped forward to take on this role for which we are very grateful. He is going to modernise the working and booking system of the Bullfields Centre and bring us into the 21st Century. Due to the change in treasurer, I cannot include a full financial report but the balance is as of 31st March 2023

Community Account £15,089.29

Business Account £50,791.42

The Centre is still the home of High Wych Preschool and many other community groups. The hall is also booked most weekends for parties, quiz nights etc and we also hold the Repair Café.

We had our annual Fire assessment, Health and Safety Audit and PAT testing, which tests all the electrical equipment. A few issues were raised which were then resolved. The Centre Manager has undergone Legionnaire, and ROSPA training to carry out the weekly safety checks.

SYPRC were pleased to start the Cookery Club this year with the aid of a grant from Clarion Futures. It is held weekly for young people from 12-22. This has been a great success with other groups such as Town Twinning taking part. We hope to find funding to continue this.

The film nights for years 7 and 8 pupils are continuing in the coming year. The Youth Club had problems with the behaviour of some of their attendees and so they decided to hold

distance sessions and are looking to see how this affects the behaviour issues before they restart in the Centre.

The Football Club continue to use the field for training and matches each week. It is good to see the field being used by the youth for which it is intended.

With more families moving into Sawbridgeworth and needing the facilities we desperately need to extend the Centre. I am still looking for funds to fulfil this need. However, we have had plans drawn up and costed to help towards this goal.

All these things run alongside the day-to-day upkeep of the centre to ensure it is kept to a good standard.

It all takes time and effort to organise and arrange. Without the hard work and effort that the committee put in to running the centre we would not be in such a decent shape. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee for their contributions and dedication to the cause.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster Chair SYPRC April 2023.

Community Reports

309 (Sawbridgeworth) Squadron Report Sawbridgeworth Annual Town Meeting 2023

When do we meet: Tuesdays & Fridays, 19:15 – 21:45hrs
Where do we meet: 309 Squadron ATC, Cutforth Road, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9EA
Find out more: www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/
How to join: [Complete sign-up form here](#) or email us on oc.309@rafac.mod.gov.uk

Over the last year 309 (Sawbridgeworth) Squadron of the RAF Air Cadets has got back to what we do best. After the challenges of 2020 and 2021 we have been able to restore the full cadet experience and offer the young people of our town an unrivalled pastime.

Many of the achievements of our cadets in 2022 were unprecedented, with several 'firsts' for the Squadron.

One of our senior cadets won the prestigious award for 'Essex Wing Cadet of the Year', meaning she fended off competition from 1,000 other cadets around Essex to be chosen as the best in the Wing. She has subsequently been nominated for the national level competition, so is one of only a few cadets being considered for the award of best cadet in the United Kingdom. A remarkable achievement, and one we are extremely proud of as a Squadron.

Many of our cadets have enjoyed domestic and international camps in places such as RAF Boulmer, RAF Brize Norton, RAF Syerston, the Peak District, and even a trip to Ypres in Belgium to take part in the Remembrance service at the Menin Gate. More camps are planned for this year, including for one very lucky cadet who has been selected for the International Air Cadet Exchange and will enjoy a fully funded 2-week trip to Australia!

Core to what we do in the RAF Air Cadets is flying and we were pleased to be able to return to offering flying and gliding opportunities, with several flights for our cadets over the course of the year. Other aeronautical experiences included a behind-the-scenes trip to Stansted Airport's Air Traffic Control Tower, career talks from aviation professionals, a front-row seat at the Royal International Air Tattoo, and places on the National Air & Space Camp which included an exclusive 'Industry Day' for cadets to find out more about careers in aviation.

For the first time one of our cadets was selected to attend the Qualified Aerospace Instructors Course, an extremely prestigious national course offered to only a small number of cadets from around the country, which provides specialist aerospace training and opportunities. Having also attended the national level Air Cadet Leadership Course and won the 'Best Cadet' award, this cadet has been busy!

It was also a successful year for Duke of Edinburgh Awards in the Squadron, with cadets successfully completing Bronze, Silver and Gold level awards after some especially challenging expeditions across the country.

In summary it has been a fantastic year for the cadets of 309 Squadron, and of course none of that would have been possible without the commitment, professionalism and brilliance of our volunteer staff team. They selflessly volunteer their time to provide the young people of our community with valuable skills and unforgettable experiences, and they deserve the highest of accolades. We love welcoming new members to the team, so do get in touch if you're interested in getting involved.

With even more to look forward to, 2023 is already shaping up to be another great year at 309 Squadron and our cadets will undoubtedly continue to represent the best of our community. Venture Adventure.



Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club

The Bowls club has been in existence for 104 years and during that time there have been many changes, not least changing from an all men's club to a modern mixed club that welcomes all members of the community.

In 2019 the club celebrated its centenary with many great events including games against the Chelsea Pensioners, Bowls England, Disability Bowls England and several other bowling organisations. During 2020 the club made alterations to the clubhouse to make it fully accessible. It is now a bright open clubhouse with a very welcoming feel about it. This was achieved with a grant from Sport England, members contributions and loans, other smaller grants and a loan from Bowls England.

Over the past few years the club has quietly been making a mark on the county in terms of competitions and Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club is now well known throughout the county for its achievements.

On 30th April the club will have its Open Day when members of the public are welcomed to the club to try their hand at the game of bowls. Bowling is often regarded as an older person's sport but when people try it they are often surprised at what a skilful game it is. It provides exercise and can be played by people of any age and compared with other sports age and gender difference have less of an effect on the game of bowls. It is also a very social activity.

The club would like to attract more members of the community to join and have fun as well as being competitive. Although the club is next to both the tennis and cricket clubs many residents of Sawbridgeworth are unaware of its existence. Signage for the bowls club may help improve this situation.

Our hopes for 2023 are to increase the number of new members. The club is setting up a "buddy" system to help integrate new members. The club also hopes to build on its successes in competitions both at county and national level.

The bowling green is open from the middle of April until the end of September. During the winter season many social events are organised to help keep members together.

Natalie Chalcraft, Hon. Secretary



SAWBRIDGEWORTH CRICKET CLUB

In the heart of the Town: at the heart of the community

Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club

History

The cricket club can trace its formal establishment back to 1862. However it is known that organised cricket took place in the town prior to that, with the earliest surviving reference being two matches played against Saffron Walden in 1823.

The club played its home fixtures at a number of locations around the town for the first 60 years of its existence, this included at Rowney Mead, Town Fields and Pishiobury Park. However, Town Fields became its permanent home in 1924, after Sir Arthur Cutforth donated the land to the town and established the Sawbridgeworth Sports Association.

The club grew in size and strength after the Second World War and began playing senior teams in Hertfordshire and Essex, which ultimately led to it being one of the founder members of the Herts League in 1972. A Saturday 3rd XI was also established in the 1960s and depending upon membership, up to 6 teams have been fielded at times since then. These fixtures were hosted wherever a ground could be found; often this would be at local village clubs but also at Sawbridgeworth Football Club. In 2006 the club entered into a fifteen year partnership with Leventhorpe School, in which the club upgraded and maintained the pitch and was then able to use it for Saturday and junior games. This partnership was renewed, after some difficult negotiations with the school, for a further 5 years in 2022.

Membership

In recent years, the club has grown and now has more than 400 senior, junior and social members. The main driver of that growth has been in junior cricket, where we expect to have around 200 members in 2023. We have also created a girls' section, with 2 teams entered into the Herts Junior league this year.

The growth in Junior members is starting to flow through to senior cricket, to the extent we expect to enter a 4th XI into the Herts & Essex Border League in the 2024 season. We also hope that the creation of the girls teams will ultimately lead to a women's team playing league cricket in the foreseeable future.

With the new developments in the town increasing its size by circa 15%, we also expect demand to only increase from where we are today.

Our facilities

The club's main ground at Town Fields, in the centre of the town, is a very small ground in comparison with similar clubs and is being utilised to its maximum potential. We have, through our partnership, been able to utilise facilities at Leventhorpe School. However, the facilities at Leventhorpe are not capable of meeting the needs of the club going forwards, due to the changing requirements of both the school and the club.



SAWBRIDGEWORTH CRICKET CLUB

In the heart of the Town: at the heart of the community

It has, therefore, been determined that the club needs to secure a second ground for the following reasons:

- The club membership is expected to continue to expand, particularly the junior section;
- The club has setup a separate girls' section due to the rapidly increasing interest in girls and women's cricket. This will require additional facilities for practical and safeguarding reasons;
- The senior section of the club is planned to expand to 4 teams on a Saturday and due to the sheer number of juniors coming through, expects that to increase to 5 in the foreseeable future;
- The club will be looking to establish a women's team in the future to play league cricket;
- The club is already struggling to accommodate all training sessions at Town Fields.

The club has considered all other potential options to meet these needs. Primarily this would mean working with other local clubs to use their facilities. This option has been discounted because:

- The hosting club's needs would always take priority;
- The closest alternative grounds, assuming they would be available, are a minimum of 2.5 miles away (Little Hallingbury Cricket Club), requiring significant car journeys;
- Hosting clubs will always need their grounds at least every other Saturday, which would mean requiring at least 2 grounds to accommodate a 3rd and 4th XI;
- The standard of facilities of these junior clubs will not always be to a standard capable of supporting the club's needs;
- Members would need to transport all training equipment for each session.

What is required

The needs of the Club are outlined below:

- A ground that is ideally at least 10 acres (useable land). This would accommodate one senior ground and associated buildings and parking. It would also provide an option to create a junior ground to enable multiple games and/or training sessions at the same time;
- The location needs to be within reasonable walking distance of the Town, to enable participants to attend training and matches without the need for significant car journeys, particularly for junior players. The ideal location would be to the west or north-west of the town.



People often ask. 'Just what does the Patients' Group at Central Surgery do?' Well, the answer is that we are a group of patients and carers who support the whole team at Central Surgery. We are the link between the patients and the Practice, by ensuring that the Surgery is aware of your views about services provided. We gain that information from our Annual Event, the Patient Survey and now our Patient Group email. This benefits both patients and the Practice. It allows open constructive discussion as well as analysis of service provision and offers an alternative patient view. This in turn, allows the Practice to tailor services to meet the needs of its patient population.

We meet once a month and we have an Annual Meeting in May. This year it will be on Thursday 11th May in the Memorial Hall at 19:00

We hope that we are representative of the local population but we would love to have some younger patients, in the 30 – 50 year age bracket who might have something to bring to the group.

We produce a monthly Newsletter for all patients that is available by SMS Text (for those who have signed up for SMS Texts), on the Surgery's Facebook page, on Twitter and as hard copy in the Surgery.

In the past year we have:

- Always advised the Surgery and Pharmacies' Opening Times at Bank Holidays and Public Holidays.
- Advised about covid and 'flu Vaccinations.
- Promoted the use of the NHS App as well as online services on the Central Surgery website – e.g. online consultation to prescription ordering.
- Updated patients about changes to Booking Services and other services at Central Surgery
- Encouraged family (unpaid) carers to register with the practice for additional support.
- Promoted Men's Health and activities for men.
- Given general health advice in many areas e.g. Diabetes; Respiratory Viruses; Hydration; Common children's illnesses
- Advised on the use of GP and NHS Services during the busy winter months.

Amongst many other things.....

We have recently created a dedicated Patients' Group email address:

patientgroup4sawbosurgery@gmail.com

so that patients can send in their compliments, comments and suggestions. These are monitored by a member of the Patients' Group – not the Surgery - and are discussed at our monthly meeting with members of the Practice. Once discussed, feedback is given via the monthly Newsletter

This is not a forum for complaints. These should be addressed by the Complaints Procedure at the Surgery.

This year, for the first time, your Patients' Group produced a booklet entitled "When the Clocks go Back....." The aim of the booklet was to offer activities within the town that were easy to get to and cost very little in an effort to prevent people being lonely and cold during the winter months. The booklet was available from many outlets in the town and from the Surgery.



Eco-Audit Working Group – report for Sawbridgeworth Town Meeting on 3 April 2023

The Eco-Audit Working Group brings residents and councillors together to discuss, action and promote sustainability across the town. It was formed in January 2020 to follow up recommendations in 3 Acorn's eco-audit and develop new initiatives to involve the whole town.

The Group reports into STC's Amenities Committee and full minutes are available in the Amenities packs <http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/town-council/meetings/agenda-meeting-archive>

3 Acorns eco-audit

The audit recommended 10 top priorities, listed in the Eco Audit Action Plan (links below). Most actions have been completed and STC is scheduling a follow up visit from 3 Acorns now that a full year of non-Covid period data is available.

- 3 Acorns report: [http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Sawbridgeworth Council Eco-audit Report 200124.pdf](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Sawbridgeworth_Council_Eco-audit_Report_200124.pdf)
- Eco Audit Action Plan: [http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Eco Audit action plan STC.pdf](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk/uploads/files/Eco_Audit_action_plan_STC.pdf)

Citizen Science Group

There has been continued support for the Citizen Science Group led by Bob Reed. This group has held guided tours of the Marsh Nature Reserve, carried out lichen-based nitrous oxide and river corridor surveys, created 'sound' nature walks, and was central to River Day activities (see below).

River Day on 21 May 2022

Held jointly with the Canal & River Trust, this was a celebration of the river and associated wildlife for the town. The Citizen Science Group ran water testing activities and a fish cam, the Trust gave tours on their dredger boat, free kayaking sessions were available from Whoosh, and the fire brigade demonstrated lifesaving in water techniques to Cubs and other children.

Clean Air

After gathering ideas to produce Sawbridgeworth's Air Quality Action Plan, work is ongoing with HCC, EHDC and Sustainable Sawbridgeworth on local air quality campaigns. This has included facilitating Sustainable Sawbridgeworth's Clean Air Day 2022 stall on Bell Street, coordinating references for EHDC's successful DEFRA air quality application, and helping with HCC's consultation on local needs for its Clear the Air campaign. Other activities and actions include:

- Continuing to push for EV chargers in Bell Street carpark following EHDC's retender
- Organising STC's response to green spaces consultation on Pishiobury Park
- Encouragement for allotment environmental activities on the Southbrook allotment
- Support for Sustainable Sawbridgeworth's Christmas recycled lanterns display and eco decoration workshop at the Christmas Lights 2022.

For further details contact Cllr Annelise Furnace

Friends of Pishiobury Park annual report for 2022.

In order to promote the Local Nature Reserve status declared in July 2021, and in anticipation of new noticeboards and Q code audio trail yet to arrive, the Friends put up two small noticeboards at the main entrances to the Park. The boards point out to people 'What to look out for on the Park in...' an account of any events and work parties and including points of contact. The events have been organised on a monthly basis, initially being run on a Wednesday and repeated on a Saturday to cater for all groups. The first few of these events were well attended including 'Buds and Bark' and 'The geology of the Park-is there any?' Similarly, Wonderful Worms was popular with children as ever and we did a good pond dip in the Old River Stort. Interest in most of the others was disappointing because they included topics such as 'The biodiversity value of Bramble' and 'What the cattle do for the Park'. Publicity for these events was put onto the Friends Facebook page, our website and Walks and More. Several evening events were run for the Scouts and Cubs including a Bug Hunt and a Bat Evening. Response and enthusiasm to both of these was good.

We continue to send in biological records to the iRecord website so that they can be entered onto the National Database.

Work Parties have continued throughout the year on the third Thursday of every month. Last year one of the main tasks was to control Ragwort which can be toxic to cattle.

One of the major disappointments was the non-planting of the Jubilee Hedge with small trees provided by the Woodland Trust. The planting was due to take place along the edge of Springhall Field and was intended to be a community project. Unfortunately, it fell at the last hurdle when Historic England told us it could not be done because of damage to the Causewayed Enclosure site. We find this slightly incongruous because up until the 1960s that field was regularly ploughed to grow cereal crops. Numerous fence posts have been driven in around the field to keep in the cattle. A man hole was dug at the bottom edge to hold the pump to fill the cattle trough now defunct. A large noticeboard and swing gate had been installed adjacent to where we would have planted the hedge and the bank had been lowered at that point as well to create new access to the field. The spin-off was that, because we could not have these tree saplings for this site, we could also not have them for the Springhall Field Hedge Restoration Project on the far side of the field. This project has occupied most of the work parties this and last winter where we have been coppicing old Hazel stools forming the ancient hedge line around the field. We would have inter-planted the spaced-out stumps with new young trees.

The small History Group has been active using our auger which causes minimal damage to the soil. One of the most significant things we have discovered is the line of the old entrance route

which branches off from Oak Walk, travelling at an angle across the grassland towards Pishiobury House.

We participated in Love Parks event in July, putting on a biodiversity display and quiz, sponge painting and the usual But Hunt.

One of the most exciting things that has happened is a detailed Bat Survey by the ecologists employed by East Herts and they have come up with eight different species of bats. In the report there is also a series of recommendations to improve the habitat for bats which if they are carried out will increase the wildlife and biodiversity on the Park as a whole.

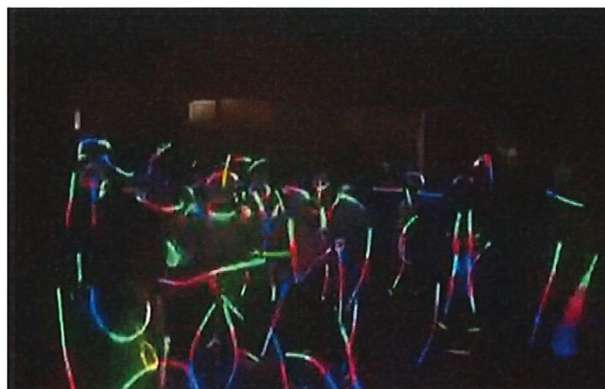
Bob Reed(Chairman).



Girlguiding Sawbridgeworth and High Wych District Summary 2022

Hertfordshire in Girlguiding is now the second largest county in terms of numbers in the country. We continue to have a strong presence in Sawbridgeworth with over 150 members, unfortunately despite a large recruitment drive for leaders, this year has seen the closure of last group in High Wych and one of our Rainbow units in Sawbridgeworth. On the positive side though we managed to recruit leaders to keep on Rainbow unit open and restart the Ranger unit.

Guiding continues throughout our weekly meetings following the Guiding programme with over 20 girls obtaining GOLD badges in their various sections. Activities such as food science, craft, cooking have taken place alongside bicycle maintenance, water sports, maypole dancing, tag Rugby, zoo visits and Glow stick dancers.



In February 2022, we welcomed a number of Ukrainian refugee girls; we adapted our programmes and resources, to be inclusive of these brave young girls and their families. We were exceedingly proud to see the girls carry their own flag at Remembrance Day Parade in November, a photo of which was in the local paper and internet, and shared with two very proud fathers fighting back in Ukraine.

Sadly, this year Dr Maddy Kelly an exGuider and long-term Girlguiding supporter lost her battle with Cancer. Sawbridgeworth leaders, past and present, were honoured to form a colour party to escort Maddy at her funeral.



In the community Guiding has taken part in St Georges and Remembrance parades, attended services for the Jubilee and the Memorial of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Litter picks with Tidy Up Sawbridgeworth and joined with Sustainable Sawbridgeworth for wild flower planting. Every section provided recycled lanterns for the Festival of Light at Gt St Mary's church including the chandelier. We also held two successful stalls at Town events, a pop up café at the May Fair and the Mulled Wine stall at Switching on of the Lights.

Going away with Guiding is a tradition that we are proud to uphold and this year saw a Hogwarts themed Brownie Pack Holiday in June, Guide camp in July and our newly formed Ranger Unit attended Sparkle and Ice in November. Together these camps mean that 80 children have stayed away with Guiding.

We have two representatives who won spaces in 2022 to the International Guiding service trip to The Azores and units and have helped these girls fundraise.



2023 promises to be a year full of more adventures but our funds are at an all-time low so an additional focus will be on fundraising.

Great St Mary's Church

2022 was a year in which, in most areas of our church life, we've been able to worship, live, and play far more freely again at Great St Mary's following the Covid-19 pandemic.



Highlights have included the newly-established monthly Mustard Seed gathering and tea for younger members of our community, the St George's Parade and service, a civic service in honour of our town's mayor, a parish lunch and service to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, our patronal service and lunch to which we welcomed Bev Jullien - Chief Executive of Mothers' Union - as our guest speaker, and the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service.



These were joyful services and events. However, 2022 also saw the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The church played a key role in marking the moment: tolling its bells at the appropriate times, ensuring the community had an appropriate space to mourn The Queen's death (hundreds of candles were lit in prayer), and holding a civic service of remembrance and thanksgiving for Her Late Majesty.



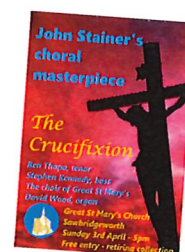
More widely than our worship, the church's life and fellowship increased dramatically through 2022 from the situation during the pandemic. This included the revival of our monthly Mothers' Union talks and a wonderful flower, bridal, and natural sculpture festival in early July which saw hundreds pass through the church and its grounds.

This was also the moment when the new Rainbow Garden was coming into full bloom. Planted by the Mustard Seed children, the bow-shaped bed in the churchyard brought joy to so many passing by.

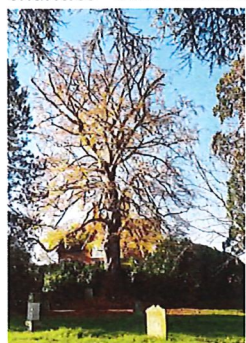


On the day of the town's switching on of the Christmas lights, the church was filled with candlelight for our Festival of Light. Around 1,300 people passed through the doors to take in the magical scene, including hundreds of children who, through their schools and uniformed organisations, had creatively-crafted beautiful lanterns for the event.

Meanwhile, highlights for our choir this past year have included their performance, in the run up to Easter, of John Stainer's oratorio 'The Crucifixion', and their singing during our Christmas carol service.



Volunteers from the church continue to support Harlow Foodbank through fundraising and food collections, enhanced at their harvest service with donations from our local church school in Spellbrook. In addition, as well as spontaneous collections for specific causes such as natural disasters, it is PCC policy to give 10% of regular committed stewardship (plus tax recoverable) to other charitable causes. Therefore, during 2022, we gave over £10,000 to other charities - both domestic and international.



Meanwhile, in the churchyard, a magnificent mature beech tree was rescued from being felled following ultrasound scans. The tree has been judiciously re-shaped which should allow more years of life. Sadly though, a large weeping willow seems to have succumbed to the summer drought, and a small cedar was badly damaged by a gale and had to be felled and replaced. Finally, four fine hardwood memorial benches, donated by families, were installed, and are enjoyed by many passers-by.



SAWBRIDGEWORTH HOMES FOR UKRAINE SUPPORT GROUP

REPORT FOR SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 3 APRIL 2023

We started our support for Ukraine with a vigil in March 2022, on the initiative of the Sawbridgeworth Evangelical Congregational Church (SECC, Gary Hanson) and Gt St Mary's (Father Simon). We then formed a host group and supported each other in tackling the forms to bring Ukrainian guests here, under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We set up English lessons for Ukrainians at SECC in May, coordinated by Ruth Armistead, who put together a team of highly experienced local teachers. Materials were donated or purchased with the help of our County Councillor (Cllr Eric Buckmaster).

We are continuing to provide lessons: the aim is to enable them to function in British society and get a job if they so wish but the lessons also provide an opportunity to build their own support networks with other Ukrainian families. We have held informal get-togethers with our guests in Church House and SECC to mark significant dates in the Ukrainian calendar, including another vigil to mark the war's first anniversary on 24 February this year. BBC Look East covered some of our events at SECC.

By the time of the annual meeting, we will have passed 400 days in this conflict, which, according to OHCHR has resulted in at least 21,793 civilian casualties (8,173 killed and 13,620 injured) since the beginning of the war, including 589 in February 2023 alone. There were 8,113,170 (UNHCR) refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe as at 14 March, plus 5.3m internally displaced. Since the beginning of 2023, there have been some 2.2 million border crossings from Ukraine to neighbouring countries and some 1.7 million border crossings back to Ukraine. The exits continue to exceed the returns, a reflection of the rising number of refugees fleeing the shelling and missiles targeting civilian infrastructure, as well as resulting power outages and water shortages.

Visas: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities data as of 14 March 2023:

- **Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme applications: 187,000**
- **Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visas: 155,30.**

By way of contrast, Poland has taken in 1.6m, Germany 1.1m and Czech Republic 500,000 Ukrainians.

Applications/visas/arrivals in Hertfordshire as of 14 March: 911/754/630; in East Herts: 455/390/338. In Sawbridgeworth we have about 20 families, usually mothers and children. We know that a number of our guests have rented flats here or in Bishop's Stortford. There are ongoing issues with accessing benefits, finding the rent and council tax etc. Many have jobs or plan to work; typical jobs involve cleaning or work as catering assistants in schools. We could maybe do more to make them aware of local job opportunities.

There is a continuing need to support both our guests in Sawbridgeworth and the Ukrainians fighting for their survival in Ukraine. There are many fund-raising sources: Nick Hill's Ukraine Humanitarian Hub appeal on Facebook and the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain Help Ukraine Emergency Appeal (AUGB is based in Waltham Cross).

- **AICM Ukraine Foundation (Association International de Cooperation Medicale)**
- **The Ukrainian Red Cross Society**
- **Caritas Ukraine**

https://www.gofundme.com/f/helpukraine?utm_medium=email&utm_source=product&utm_campaign=p_email_m_pd-5332-donation-receipt-adyen&utm_content=internal

DAVID ROYLE 230323



REPORT FOR SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING 3 APRIL 2023

The Sawbridgeworth Local History Society was formed in April 2016; our aim is to research, collect, record and preserve the heritage of our town and the surrounding area, including High Wych.

It has been a sad year with the passing of our President, Wally Wright in June 2022. We were able to organise the (first) Freedom of the Town award we had planned with the Town Council, albeit posthumously, and gave the framed scroll to his sons, Ivan and Peter, at a ceremony in the Hailey Centre following his cremation. Wally had amassed a huge number of books and photographs; the Bishop's Stortford Museum is arranging to digitise the photos and we expect to get the ones most relevant to us back soon for our archives and use. We are also planning to keep Wally's memory alive by organising a wooden bench with a plaque in the soon to be redeveloped Jubilee Gardens. Theo van de Bilt wrote a tribute on our behalf for the *Bishop's Stortford Independent* etc.

We had an excellent and generally well-attended programme of talks, thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth Waugh. Mark Smith from the *Antiques Road Show* was a great hit and his two talks at the Memorial Hall on the history of the Victoria Cross and VC winners were especially popular.

- January: Peter Reed, *Sir Arthur Cutforth*
- March: Mark Smith, *For Valour, the Story of the Victoria Cross*
- May: Nik Pringle, *Two Murders that Changed the Course of Policing in Herts*
- June: Jubilee event at the Memorial Hall; the *Decibelles*
- July: Guy Thomas, *110 Years of Aviation History in Herts*
- September: Bob Reed, *the Old Days in Sawbridgeworth*
- November: Mark Smith, *Hearts of Oak*

Elizabeth Waugh also organised two very successful airfield walks, one in conjunction with the Bishop's Stortford Museum. Our planned town walk, in conjunction with the Museum, was cancelled because it was too hot! We rescheduled it for 19 March this year, led by John Rider.

We had stalls at the May Fayre, Allotments Show, Scarecrow Festival and Nostalgia Day. We helped organise the latter, together with the Memorial Hall, as before, with Hazel and Dave Mead heavily involved. In November, we laid wreaths at the airfield memorial, at the churchyard memorial and in High Wych. We remembered the October 1940 Cambridge Road bomb victims by putting poppies on their graves in St Mary's churchyard; we did the same for the Commonwealth war graves during Remembrance week. We were represented at the unveiling of the plaque on the wall of the Council offices in July to recognise the major contribution of Sir Arthur Cutforth to the life of the town and at the Sports' Association's 100th

anniversary lunch.

Our programme for 2023 again offers a very interesting and varied series of talks. We are working on two photo books, one each for High Wych and Sawbridgeworth and to further develop the content of our World War 2 book. You can find our publications and articles on www.sbwhistory.com.

DAVID ROYLE

SMHT – 2022 Chair Review



All figures are rounded

Trading account, £50k surplus, an outstanding result considering covid implications

Income £89k, an increase on 2021 but considering we were still suffering from covid this a much better result than we expected at the start of 2022, there are no government grants in this income.

On 31st Dec 21 we had £196k cash in bank, on 31st Dec 22 we had £242k.

Financially we are well set for the future.

Expenditure

Minimal capital was spent this year, but annual painting of the hall was carried out and more xmas lights were purchased

Regular activities

Post Covid our classes have all restarted and now look very healthy.

One off and yearly activities in the hall

We ran all our regular events to support the community. The largest event was Uncle Funk which raised approx £5k on one night and planned to be done again in 2023

May Fayre

The May fayre was very successful, we are planning to continue the event for 2023, this is an ad hoc arrangement reviewed each year. It is an event that we lose money and this needs to be addressed.

Expansion

Herts County council have removed themselves from having a joint building extension, so we are looking to expand our facility by ourselves. Development of this concept will be carried out in 2023 with building work in late 2023 / 2024 if we decide to go ahead.

Overview

The Trust is doing very well financially and in its support of the town. If we expand the hall, we will be looking to give the town more facilities and activities, catering for an even more diverse range of residents.

Police report for annual town meeting

This year has seen a small increase collectively across all crime types however, we continue to work very closely with our Crime Prevention Officer to give out crime prevention advice to all victims of crime. We are currently in the process of offering security surveys to households and we have prevention goodies such as light timers, padlocks and alarms.

The new priority will be set on 20th April 2023.

The Mini Police scheme has been taken to Reedings and Spellbrook schools with High Wych taking part in May/June. This scheme is a firm favourite with year 5 students. Last week, we were lucky enough to have a session with JPS Herts Police Dog Luther and his handler Phil. They reconstructed a few scenarios in the playground showing Luther at his finest.

We have successfully worked with our partner agencies EHDC, Clarion Housing Association, Sage Housing Association with regards to neighbour disputes and continue to manage several long-term issues with the agencies.

We continue to support local events when we are operationally available such as Fun on the Field, May Fayre and Christmas lights switch on and are looking forward to our first River Day which fits in well with our Water Safety Initiative, working with our Crime Prevention Officer and that we are taking into all schools.



Annual Town Meeting

This year, the school has enjoyed participating in local events. The children actively participated in the local schools' 'walk to school week', which culminated in the town walk and raised awareness with the children about the importance of sustainable travel. The children had fun making recycled lanterns which were shown at Great St Mary's Church at the Christmas switching on of the lights as part of the 'Oasis of Calm' which was organised by Sustainable Sawbridgeworth.

Within school, our Junior Leadership Team have visited the Houses of Parliament, run fundraising events to buy nature cams which have been set up around the school allowing the children to see the wildlife around them. Our gardening club is busy growing herbs and hope to have raised beds this year to grow fruit and vegetables which our school kitchen will be able to use.

Our students have been participating in a range of sporting events. Our Year 4 team won the Football Tournament at Leventhorpe, our Girls Football Team came 3rd in the Football League and we came 2nd overall in the Cross Country Competition at Leventhorpe which was great.

We currently have an issue with the parking outside of the school. The parking on the road is busy throughout the day, but during pick up and drop off times there is extra traffic and as the parking spaces fill up, cars are being parked on the curb, meaning the pavement is being narrowed. Cars are being parked on the private road, and we are getting complaints from our neighbours. There is also parking on the double yellow lines. This is also meaning that the road is only passable by a single row of traffic, but cars are traveling both ways along it, causing queues. We are concerned about the safety of the pedestrians as at these times the pavements are also busier with children and adults coming too and from school. We have a zebra crossing outside the school to help children cross safely but some cars are stopping at the zebra crossing to allow passengers out, which is causing congestion.

We have tried to improve the situation. We have a member of the senior leadership team on the school gate during these times, written to parents through our newsletter and had the PCSOs at school during drop off and pick up times. We have advertised for a lollipop person, but unfortunately have not had any applications. We would appreciate the town council's support with this matter as we do not have capacity to improve the situation beyond what we have already put in place.

Rotary

District 1240

Essex & East Herts



Sawbridgeworth & District Rotary Club is part of an international movement whose motto is "Service Above Self". It is best known in Sawbridgeworth for organising and running the very popular Carols on Fair Green on Christmas Eve each year. It has done so for over thirty years, in the hope that it makes "Christmas in Sawbridgeworth a little bit special". Last Christmas, the half hour event broke all records for fund raising with £1,000 raised for Herts Vision Loss, another £1,000 going to the Herts Hearing Advisory Service, and a further £500 to the Sawbridgeworth Rotary Trust Fund Registered Charity. It wouldn't be possible without enormous help from the Choir of Great Str Mary's, the Epping Forest band and a group of volunteer stewards and technicians.

Rotary also supports the Town Council's Selfie Walk by having a 1960's Mini Moke classic car for children to climb into and all over as part of a photo opportunity for them opposite Dorrington's.

It's a very small group of caring individuals who meet a couple of times a month for tea or a meal and use this time to plan what they can do to help the community and the wider world in their own small way. Its current President is District Councillor Norma Symonds, who is dedicated to helping homeless and people with problems in this area.

If you would like to find out more, please call the Club Secretary Peter Clark on 07770 978256
clarkpf@hydehall.co.uk

Carols on Fair Green



Selfie Walk



SECC - Report

As a local Church we believe in putting our faith into practice and for us at SECC we have done this in a number of ways.

Over last couple of years we have run successful youth work that has seen many of the town's children and young people having somewhere safe and fun to hang out and make friends, we have continued doing this every Friday over the last year.

Our social action projects (Community pop up shop, Make Lunch, parenting courses and Life skills course) have helped various local people in ways that are increasingly and sadly necessary as the cost of living crisis increases and life becomes harder.

As a Church we have done a lot more: such as giving people the chance to explore the Christian faith and ask deep questions through our yearly 'Alpha course' and through our Church services every Sunday enable all ages to worship together. We do this with a special service aimed at older people, based at the Hailey centre twice a month.

This last year we have been touched and saddened by the war in Ukraine and have tried to do our bit to show support to hosts and solidarity with our Ukrainian friends. We have run weekly English lessons and helped organise two town vigils.

For the coming year, it will be more of the same. We regularly review and consider where we can help and support the local area, as well as live our faith in Jesus Christ as Christians. We will be continuing our current work and doing our best to invest in it so that we can reach and support more and more people.

Times:

- Zone youth club (every Friday 6:15-7:30pm Primary school aged children, 7:45-9pm Secondary school aged children)
- Hailey service (Sunday's twice a month, 3pm)
- Pop up shop (Wednesday 1-3pm, Saturday 10-12pm)
- Make Lunch (Every Wednesday in school holidays)
- Sunday Church service (10am)



1st Sawbridgeworth Scout group was established in 1908 – less than one year after Lord Baden-Powell first established the Scouting Movement.

In the past 115 years countless people in Sawbridgeworth and the surrounding area have been involved with scouting in one way or another. The 1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group is part of the Bishops Stortford Scouting district covering Sawbridgeworth and Much Hadham.

Sawbridgeworth Scouting provides adventurous activities and personal development opportunities for young people. The Group presently totals over 200 members consisting of young people (girls & boys) from the ages of 6 to 14 who make up the sections – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. In addition, we also have a Explorer section for the 14 to 18 age group.

1st Sawbridgeworth Scout sections meet every night of the week and regularly run weekend activities. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday we host 3 Beaver colonies meeting between 5.15pm to 6.15pm and 3 Cub packs meeting between 6.30pm and 8.00pm. We have 2 Scout Troops on a Tuesday from 7.00pm until 8.45pm and Thursday from 7.30pm until 9.15pm. Providing young people with a programme that is both balanced and exciting is one of the most rewarding challenges for our leaders. In the year 2022 we awarded 2266 badges to young people in a wide range of activities and challenges.

The volunteer leadership team consists of approximately 25 Adults and overseen by a Trustees Board of volunteers.

Volunteering for Scouting is one of the most fun, rewarding and positive things you can ever do. You can give as much or a little time you like and we will match opportunities that fit your skills and time available. If you would like to have fun, form friendships and make a real difference to the lives of young people please contact us.

To become a helper/ leader or to find out more about 1st Sawbridgeworth Scout Group contact Nick Jones, Group Scout Leader – nick.1stsawbo@gmail.com or visit our website for more details - www.1stsawbridgeworthscouts.org.uk

Over 100 years ago Sir Arthur E Cutforth, an enlightened resident of Sawbridgeworth and mindful of the need identified by the National Playing Fields Association, for more playing fields across the country, acquired two sites for the playing of sport in Sawbridgeworth. He sought donations from the residents and formed the Sawbridgeworth Sports Association (SSA) in order that there would be no burden on local rates or the national exchequer.

It was determined that the object of the SSA would be 'to foster the organised playing of indoor and outdoor sporting activities in the town and to improve the facilities under its control whenever possible'. However, it was not intended that the SSA should take any active part in the management of the clubs.

It is testament to Sir Arthur Cutforth and his successors that the SSA continues to function in the form that he envisaged all those years ago.

The SSA acts in effect as an umbrella organisation for the Bowls, Cricket, Football and Tennis Clubs and the United Services Club by administering and maintaining Crofters and Town Fields and levying an annual payment from each club based on the expenditure incurred by the SSA. The land is held on Trust by named Trustees and the affairs of the SSA are managed by an Executive Committee comprised of SSA officers, two members of each club and seven independent members meeting four times a year.

To celebrate our Centenary and the work of Sir Arthur Cutforth the Town Council kindly arranged a reception to which his descendants were invited and unveiled a blue plaque at the Town Council offices. The SSA subsequently arranged a lunch in his honour at the Cricket Club to which the Mayor and representatives of the sports clubs were invited.

The provision of sport continues to flourish in the town but in common with other services and activities the cost of living is having an impact and the recent reduction in income from the mobile phone masts at Crofters was unwelcome.

We shall also face a challenge in the future which the Planning Authority recognised in 2018 in the District Plan as a consequence of the new housing developments namely:

The Approved District Plan (October 2018 8.5.1) noted that 'It is important that developments in Sawbridgeworth enhance existing, and provide new community facilities in order to ensure existing and new communities can access vital services without the need to travel to neighbouring settlements.' SAWB5, which would have provided additional playing field space, was withdrawn from District Plan by the Inspector as non-viable; the land owner's hearing statement noted that the Council had not approached it for use of the land for sports facilities and thus there was 'no realistic prospect of delivery for sports provision within this plan period'. No alternative to this lost provision has been offered to the Sports Association. SSA proposes that, five years on, there should be an urgent review by the District Council of current sports and community facilities in Sawbridgeworth and the response to increasing demand for them, sources of support and funding etc.

In conclusion the author of this report wishes to thank and pay tribute to everybody too numerous to mention involved in the Sports Association since its formation and all the participants and administrators of sport in the town.

Philip Copland, Chairman

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TENNIS CLUB

APRIL 2023

Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club is situated in the heart of the Town, at Town Fields and adjacent to the cricket field and Bowls club. It is a delightful location to play tennis.

We are a friendly club that provides play to those of all standards. We have 6 courts, 3 astro. and 3 carpet clay. We provide during the week sessions for social play : players of all standards are welcome. There are also periods in the week set aside for Men's and Ladies' team players or equivalent standard.

For those who wish to play matches, the club enters teams in The Herts Leagues as well as the Essex Small Clubs Leagues.

Coaching , group coaching and individual coaching is also available for those who wish to improve their game. We are very conscious that we want children to be introduced to the game and group coaching for children and teenagers is also available during the week. We want all players to enjoy the sport of tennis but if any young players harbour hopes of being the next Andy Murray or Emma Radacanu, our coaches will do their best to send them on their way !

Social events are organised throughout the year and very often members enjoy ad hoc visits to a restaurant or just to the pub.

Above all else, we endeavour to promote an environment where the tennis needs of all members are met in a positive and friendly manner.

We have a dedicated committee that looks after the interests of the Club. If you do wish to become part of this lively tennis centre, you can just google Sawbridgeworth Tennis and all the information that you require will be made available for you to join the Club.

Relevant contact details are set out below

Please do get in touch for a free trial or for any queries.

General Queries:

(info@sawbridgeworthtennis.org.uk)

Club Secretary: Nick Heslop

(nick.heslop@hotmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Robyn Bond

(STCmembership@casey-bond.co.uk)

Head Coach: Ian Zellner

(Zellnertennis58@icloud.com or [07798 754 642](tel:07798754642))

SUSTAINABLE SAWBRIDGEWORTH

REPORT FOR THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING ON 3 APRIL 2023

Sustainable Sawbridgeworth started life in June 2019 as a plastic-free group, inspired by Gilly Squire's Brownies who, pre-Covid, tried to set up refill stations in Sawbridgeworth to reduce the use of plastic bottles. We have since then widened our remit to cover a broad range of sustainability issues, wherever possible working with our town, district and county councils as part of their sustainability agendas.

Events: we have an established set of activities, for example 'eco cafes' linked to international climate change events; a Repair Café at Bullfields (five so far) and 'Tidy Up Sawbridgeworth' litter picks, in addition to stalls on Bell Street and at the May Fayre.

Air quality and anti-idling: we are working with Herts County Council (HCC) to customise their Let's Clear the Air campaign, monitor air quality using their sensors and with schools to minimise car idling. We helped East Herts District Council (EHDC) obtain a grant worth over £126,000 from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for a major new initiative to improve information, raise awareness, promote alternatives to car travel and install real-time air quality monitoring sensors.

Cycling and walking: we await the East Herts Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP) (2024?); we asked question at both EHDC and HCC about progress. Sawbridgeworth Town Council funded its own LCWIP report in 2018.

Energy: we have a thermal imaging camera funded from Cllr Eric Buckmaster's locality budget and have developed a loan scheme to help people identify heat loss issues.

Waste management: we have worked with our primary schools to connect them to HCC's Waste Partnership team and to set up a possible joint waste management contract. We also sent a survey to businesses/shops in Bell Street to research how they deal with waste and the number of waste disposal collections. We plan to work with HCC on their forthcoming food waste campaign and with East Herts Council on maximising recycling .

Other areas of activity:

- **Water quality and saving water.** We are working with the Town Council's Eco Audit working group on the phosphate testing planned for River Day in June. We will fund testing kits.
- **Community gardening:** Community allotment ongoing and Town Council has extended plot use free of charge. No progress on community gardening so far, but sites identified. No dig presentation at Eco café.
- **Farming:** we are in contact John Haynes of MJ and SC Collins at Matching Green to better understand local farming issues and the impact of climate change and the war in Ukraine, as well as to better understand the latest funding announcements, neonics etc. A farm visit is planned.

LINKS

- We liaise with the Bishop's Stortford Climate Group and share updates on common issues.
- Sustainability group forum. We initiated connections to like-minded groups across Hertfordshire and a meeting with HCC officers has been arrange in April to discuss improving engagement with community/sustainability groups.

PUBLICITY: our new website is being developed, incorporating the thermal camera loan scheme. We have a Facebook page.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Sawbridgeworth Evening WI are a group of friendly, welcoming ladies who meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7.30, at the Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall. After a short business section, we listen to a speaker for about ¾ hour, then time for tea and a chance to chat.

This past year, we have had speakers on a varied range of subjects. History gave us talks by local experts on the POW camp at Hatfield Heath, The History of Eastern Lodge, and Sworders 200 years and Counting. Talks about personal lives were, How I Turned my Life Around (Tracy Mackness), A Day in the Life of a Train Driver and David Royal's view of Ukraine. Gardening was covered by a trip to Copped Hall and a talk by a fellow member about Interesting and Amusing Things Seen in Various Gardens. Music gave us a talk and demonstration by Welwyn Harmony - a ladies Capella group. (Historically, the WI are known as singing their theme of Jerusalem at their meetings. We may sing at our AGM but not every month!) At our AGM in May, the members voted for the National WI to back a campaign for supporting Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD.

Every group of ladies need time to socialise!

We do have time after the speaker, but other occasions were programmed in. Last year, in September, we had a popular social evening, where the ladies were speed dating..... not to meet a partner but to get to know each other better. At the end of July, we had a catered lunch at the Cricket Club, and our December meeting was a Christmas Meal in the Memorial Hall. Monthly, a group met at the Queens Head for lunch, and a Saturday morning walk was planned, depending on weather. If inclement, a walk to the local coffee shop was deemed necessary!

Our Dorothy Riding Cup baking competition was in February. A chance for the cooks amongst us to show their skills. This year the popular recipe was a Blueberry, Lemon and Almond Bake, which was judged on presentation, colour, texture, and taste.

A love of gardening was demonstrated with the planting of the flower beds by Bell Street Car Park. This had been problematic with the disappearance of plants, and the battle with extreme heat and dry conditions.

During the hot summer, we started knitting winter adults hats for the homeless. Together with members of the public, and support by Greg Ratty, the mayor, we produced over 160 hats. These were mainly distributed to local homeless charities.

At the Great St. Mary's Sculpture Festival, a group built a lady out of grasses and plants, though she did keep falling over! September brought the Community days at the Hailey Centre where we were represented, and supported the Walk to School week.

This coming year we hope to have more fascinating speakers to educate and entertain. Visitors to our meetings are always welcome. (£4) If you would like to find out more about your local WI, please email sawbridgeworth.evening.wi@gmail.com

Sawbridgeworth Town Twinning Association

REPORT FOR THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 3 APRIL 2023

Sawbridgeworth has had town twinning links with Bry-sur-Marne for the last 50 years, starting on 29 September 1973 through the good offices of Tony Dodd, so we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2023. We are sending a delegation to visit Bry-sur Marne in May to coincide with the visit from Moosburg to celebrate the 50th anniversary. Bry is also twinned with the German town of Moosburg an der Isar, near Munich. We will welcome our friends from Bry-sur-Marne from 15 to 18 September and visit Moosburg from 19 to 22 October.

In March 2018 the Mayor of Moosburg and our then mayor, Cllr. Ruth Buckmaster, signed a declaration to establish a formal link with Moosburg. The various oaths and declarations hang in the hallway leading to the Council Chamber and we have two updated town twinning signs on the roads into Sawbridgeworth.

2022 was a good, more 'normal' year post-Covid. Thanks are due to the committee, and especially to Sally Pribul, for combining secretarial and treasurer roles. We had two successful and enjoyable visits, one to Bry and one from Moosburg and a full programme of social events. We had a successful fund-raising quiz in March (and again this year), a well-attended stall at the May Fayre, a less well-attended Pétanque 'court', as part of the East Herts 'Love Parks' event in July and a very enjoyable garden party kindly hosted by the Avontuurs in the same month. Tim Pribul organised a Wine Challenge fund raiser in November.

A group of 30 travelled to Bry-sur-Marne for the weekend of 16-19 September, our first visit for four years. We received a group from Moosburg between Thursday 20 and Sunday 23 October; their first post-Covid visit.

I was invited to visit Reedings School once again and gave a short presentation on Town Twinning in November to Year 4 children who had been learning about Europe. They are still hoping to establish a link with a school in Bry. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at the Town Remembrance Day Service on 13 November.

We continued our French and German monthly conversation groups, usually with representatives from each twin town. We have also been contacted by the organisers of a new initiative to boost town twinning activity between Hertfordshire towns and their partners in Germany, spearheaded by the British-German Association (BGA).

We have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/537455026663868/> and a fine new website, courtesy of Andrew Armistead, which has coverage of our twinning history, and the history of Bry and Moosburg, plus a photo gallery etc: <https://www.sawbridgeworthtowntwinning.co.uk/>

Twinning is open to all who live in Sawbridgeworth and its environs. It is non-political and based on an interest in experiencing a different culture and in building and maintaining friendships. Contacts:

David Royle: david.royle1@gmail.com or Sally Pribul: sally@pribul.co.uk.

David Royle, Chairman STTA

FOR SCHOOLS REPORT

Sawbo Travel Challenge & Town Walk – 26 September to 1 October 2022

The town's primary schools and STC held a very successful Town Walk at the end of the Sawbo Travel Challenge week:

- Four local primary schools took part in the week and all five schools were invited to the Town Walk – many thanks to parents/carers, staff and pupils for helping to increase sustainable journeys
- Statistics show Reedings' sustainable journeys increased by 17%, High Wych's and Spellbrook's by 12% and Mandeville's by 8%
- Local police/PCSOs helped walk children to Spellbrook school
- An estimated 120 children and their families took part in the Town Walk – feedback was excellent, and the weather cooperated!
- The Town's sustainable Sawbosaurus mascot, named Sunny by school pupils, enjoyed meeting families – and was superbly managed by three Leventhorpe students
- Community stops on the walk were managed by the WI, Gt St Mary's, the Evangelical Church and Sustainable Sawbridgeworth
- A presentation took place for the schools at the STC chambers hosted by Mayor Cllr Rattey and Sunny, the Sawbosaurus.

For further details contact Cllr Annelise Furnace