

Notes from the Village Groups Meeting of 20 September 2010

Members from the following groups were present at the meeting:- ORAC, Oracle, Pre-school, St Michael's church, Flower Guild, WI, Youth club, Grove church, Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch and Primary School.

Apologies were received from:- 95th Bomb group, Line dancers and Oracle co-editor.

ORAC:

Rob reported that the hall was now one year old. The internal echo was still giving cause for concern and latest costings indicated that between £2000 and £3000 would be needed to rectify this problem. A list of over 40 'defects' had now been presented to the builders and ORAC would not pay any further monies to the builders, until the echo had been sorted out.

Discussions and investigations are still ongoing around the ventilation units. Agreement with MSDC has been reached, in which they will amend the wording of the Noise Abatement Notice, to apply to amplified music from the hall and not, just music in general. Once the amended notice is issued, ORAC will seek to apply for variations to the planning conditions and licensing of the hall.

The hall continues to attract good revenues from regular and casual hirers and the annual running costs are more than covered by these.

ORAC will host an Italian Meal evening on 9th October and the annual Christmas Meal would be on 4th December.

Pre-School:

Linda reported that a very successful year had been completed in the new hall. The children love having their 'own' room and special garden. Holiday club had been held during the Summer which had proved very successful.

Nine new children have enrolled at Pre-school this term and, amongst the usual activities, the children would be participating in Yoga sessions and Belly dancing! The children will also be learning to 'Keep the Beat' in their music sessions, and an appeal was made for large tins, so that the children could practice doing just that!

The children make regular visits to the church and, Linda reported that on one such visit, they had been accidentally locked in the

church, by a well-meaning visitor who had locked the outside doors, when leaving the church! A reminder that we all need to be aware that other people may be in the church and to take care when exiting the building.

A Coffee/Cakes and Crafts morning will be held on 6 November, when the photographer will also be in attendance.

Oracle Magazine:

Di reported that the next issue of Oracle was due to be distributed at the beginning of October.

Primary School:

Kevin reported that there are presently 60 children on the school books, with another 7 due to start in January and at Easter. The limit for the school is 70, so the school is very nearly full!

The children would be participating in Food Fortnight over the next 3 weeks!

Coffee mornings would continue to be held this term with the Macmillan Coffee Morning taking place at the end of September.

Parents evenings and an open evening would also take place and these will be advertised in the Oracle as well as on the school web site.

Liaison is ongoing with all of the local High Schools and a new French teacher and teaching assistant will be commencing shortly.

A Christmas Fayre will be held on 3rd December. The Christmas performance will take place in the village hall on 8 December and Carols in the playground are planned for 15 December.

The children will have a Christmas meal at Thorndon Black Horse and the staff will have theirs at the Beaky.

The school continues to maintain the grass-cutting on the playing field and it was agreed that Rob and Kevin would look at the plans for the field, so that best use could be obtained.

St Michael's Church:

Gill reported that the Harvest Festival would be held on 3rd October at 4.30pm. A Remembrance Day service will be held on 14 November and the Carol Service would be on 24 December at 6.30pm.

The Memorial stone in the cemetery has been cleaned and is looking absolutely wonderful. The next area for repair in the church is the floor.

Flower Guild:

Elly reported that a magnificent £1000.64 had been raised as a result of the Flower Festival this year and gave a reminder that the Guild holds a meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, excluding December and January .

W.I.:

Pam reported that a very successful evening had been held when Freddie from Diss gave a cookery demonstration and, several other good speakers have been booked for future evenings.

The annual Harvest Supper will take place in the village hall on 16th October at a cost of £10 per ticket.

Youth Club:

Dawn reported that attendance by youngsters is up by 30% since the opening of the new village hall. Numbers average at around 30 which is really wonderful. The leaders are now trying to encourage some of the 6th formers who attend, to take up the mantle of leading!

Grove church:

Dawn reported that the annual Carol service would be held on 19 December at 3.00pm, when it is hoped that people from the village would feel able to come along.

The annual darts competition would again take place in January.

She also reported that the church had been encouraged by one of their young people being baptised recently, when over 70 people attended the service.

Parish Council:

Brian reported that the Parish council had received information about de-volement of powers from higher government, to Parish councils.

The hard-standings and bus shelter were still to be erected, and release of monies to fund this from County Council, is awaited.

He reported that agreement had been given for the erection of 2 wind turbines on Eye airfield.

A footpath warden is still needed for Occold and a further advertisement would be placed in the next Oracle.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Two reports have been made recently concerning – the speed of traffic through the village and unsolicited door to door approaches by people asking to clear rubbish from gardens.

A timely reminder for us all to be aware of strangers coming on to our property.

A network system still needs to be set up to advise people of latest updates, however it will be necessary to hold a village open meeting to enable the relevant information from those interested, to be gathered.

Occold Market:

It was reported that more stall holders and visitors were needed, if this event was to carry on. If not, the final market will be held on 16th October.

There being no other reports the meeting closed.

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 21 March 2011.