

# Lound Parish Council Report 2022

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Parish Report for Lound Village for the previous year

<b>Parish Councillors:</b> Miles Thomas Judith Hobbs Paul Strowlger Gayle Welsh Jenny Ozinel Peter Larcombe Connor Moore	<b>Parish Clerk :</b> Jill Brown <b>Local District Councillors:</b> Paul Ashdown Keith Robinson Edward Back
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Annual General Meeting  
Monday 16th May 7.00pm  
Lound Village Hall.

All welcome!

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## Neighbourhood Plan

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> you will be asked to take part in a referendum to decide whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be adopted.

What the Neighbourhood Plan will do is bring influence to bear on local development with an emphasis on smaller scale housing for young people and families, protecting and enhancing the rural and historic qualities of the parishes, promoting good design compatible with what exists, improving local facilities and encouraging the growth of local businesses.

After extensive public consultation two sites in Somerleyton and one in Lound were allocated in the Waveney Local Plan 2019. It should be noted that these allocations cannot be overturned. The Somerleyton Estate have submitted planning applications on both Somerleyton sites which are currently being consulted on.

Our Neighbourhood Plan was produced by volunteers and the community and will become a standalone Statutory Policy document distinct from initiatives brought forward by the Somerleyton Estate (or any other developer).

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot stop development but will guide proposals to harmonise with and reflect the character of the existing houses in the immediate locality.

You can view the Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning) Paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan will be available.

Further information will be available at the Lound Annual Parish Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May and the Ashby Herringfleet and Somerleyton Annual Parish Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Residents are invited to "Drop in" to Lound Village Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June from 6pm for further information and discussion. There will be another "Drop in" event on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 6pm in Somerleyton Village Hall.

Like to know more? Contact Jenni Livingstone  
01502 730610 / neillivingstone@btinternet.com or  
Miles Thomas 01502 730613 mithomas@talk21.com

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## The Heath

Regular visitors to Lound Heath will notice it is continuing to evolve due to the ongoing habitat restoration and improvements to the access. The wild birds seem to have embraced the clearings created where the dense sycamore once stood, and we have seen a significant increase in the wildlife foraging around this area. The red and fallow deer have also been regular visitors to The Heath over the spring.

Unlike some of the neglect inflicted on some areas of land that is going on in the name of 'Rewilding', we still need to ensure we prevent the newly cleared areas from becoming choked by new growth that would reverse some of the forward steps made. The work to reduce the sycamore encroachment will take a number of years to strike a better balance of tree species diversity in The Heath. Over the last 20 years or more, the sycamore has been overtaking the native tree species development at an accelerated rate.

A resident tree surgeon, Simon, from Terra Trees has assisted recently to help some of the ongoing works that required his input. There were some trees that required skilled dismantling to avoid damage to neighbouring trees that we were trying to preserve, such as beech and oak trees. By next year, the improvement should really be more noticeable, the changes are already showing their benefits to nature there.

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### **Lound Allotments & Garages**

The Garages continue to be occupied by the same tenants. The council would like to thank Peter Larcombe again for keeping the area tidy.

The Parish Council were pleased to meet with all the allotment holders over the year apart from one. The allotments look far tidier than when we reported last year for which we would like to thank the holders. It has been noticed that maybe some allotments are not fully cultivated and as we have a waiting list perhaps those holders who have a larger area than they can use might like to share their space.

Our July 4<sup>th</sup> PC Meeting will be held at the Heath.

### **Lound Poor's Trust**

The annual meeting of Trustees was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and the Christmas distribution to Lound householders of pension age was agreed. Additionally, a special resolution was passed to remove the Lord of the Manor of Lound as an ex-officio Trustee, since the holder of the title is both unknown and has been absent for many decades, and replace with a Co-opted Trustee.

Income continues, primarily from the rental of land at Back Lane and Church Lane.

A new tenant for the paddocks on Church Lane was agreed at a special meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and Neil Austin was accepted and welcomed as a new Trustee at the same meeting.

The Trustees are:

Rita Flatt – Chair

Paul Strowlger – Clerk (07811 935044)

Neil Austin

Sally Popham

Miles Thomas

Lound Parish Rector (currently vacant)

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## **Lound Village Hall**

Firstly I would like to thank everybody for their hard work and commitment given to the hall etc

This past year we have had major problems but we have worked through them as a committee.

But we need younger people to join us and move things forward

We also need further hire/s; there is a slight increase in bookings which is needed to pay for the rising costs

By working with the Parish Council, it makes things much easier and works well so we should continue to do so and prosper

Picnic on the green is coming along nicely with live music, a flower display in church, displays in the hall and donkey rides etc and more. Let's all come together and make this a great day for everybody to enjoy

THANKS GARRY SMITH

## **Picnic on the Green 5th June**

Starting at 12.00 at the Mardle to unveil the new information board followed by activities on the Green with Music, Donkey Rides, Dog Show and Races.

There will be stalls in the village hall including tea and cakes and an exhibition of Old Lound upstairs.

There will be Flowers in the Church and a Songs of Praise starting at 6.30.

All Welcome!

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## **Footpaths, Highways and Planning**

We again held two litter licks this last year, which was easier to organise now we have a complete set of kit. The “haul” seems to be diminishing which was worrying until someone explained we had collected all the “historical” rubbish and we were now getting on top of the problem.

We now have the right footpath signs in right places and visible, apart from one in Dorking Road, which has greatly helped our problem of footpath misuse and straying in recent years.

Connor Moore organised a tree cutting in Dorking Road which has made it much easier to park in this area. Many thanks to Suffolk Wildlife Trust for providing the tools and expertise.

Our local councillors have also provided funding to enable a dropped kerb to be constructed in Earth Lane which will make wheelchair access easier. This work should be completed soon.

Two sites have been approved for the use of Speed Indicator Devices. One of which will be at the Yarmouth Road approach to the Mardle and the second along Church Lane near Lound Hall. The device will be shared with Somerleyton and will hopefully curb speeding in both parishes.

There was a consultation in July about a possible development near the Village Maid. All the responses were recorded and sent on to Evolution Planning. All new building projects should be overseen by East Suffolk Council. If you have an issue you can register a comment at this website.

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications-and-enforcement/planning-enforcement/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications-and-enforcement/planning-enforcement/).

The Parish Council has the same weighting as a single individual so it is recommended that parishioners enter their own responses as this will probably be more effective with differing folk commenting.

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## **St. John the Baptist Church**

With the easing of Covid restrictions, the Somerleyton Group has continued a pattern of one Group service each week, rotating in turn between the six churches in the benefice, with a few special occasions as well. The Harvest Festival service took place in October, when as ever, we were generously supported with gifts of produce from our local farmers. We were delighted to hold Midnight Mass for the Group on Christmas Eve, and Candlemas at the end of January. For the first time in two years, we were able to hold our Lent Lunch in March, which was very well attended. We raised £200 in support of the Bishop's Lent Appeal, and we all appreciated being able to gather together again 'as normal'. The Easter Day service was at Somerleyton this year, but Lound hosted Palm Sunday and the Maundy Mass and Gethsemane Watch.

Group services are generally fairly well attended with an average congregation of about 30. We are now permitted to hold as many services as we wish, and we are also now allowed to sing! However, our Rector, Fr. Glen Brooks left at the end of October last year, moving back to Lancashire in order to be nearer to his elderly parents. Without a priest in post, it was deemed sensible and practical to continue the pattern of only one service a week. Whilst there is a small number of retired clergy who are happy to step in and help by taking services for us, there is a limit to how much we can ask of them.

Continuing from last year, there has been more repair work to the church building. The plasterers who carried out the re-rendering of the inside of the tower have done a fantastic job in very difficult circumstances; the tower now feels warm and dry for the first time that we can remember. The refurbishment of the organ is finally complete and the instrument sounds fantastic; there is more work planned to improve the drainage around the building and to alleviate the damp in the walls. Work is also needed on the windows and some conservation required to the wall painting of St. Christopher, which is beginning to flake.

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In the Autumn, our tree surgeons carried out some routine, but long overdue maintenance in the old churchyard, happily before the winter gales, or we could well have lost some trees. One of the results is a more open view right across the churchyard, and the uncovering of a number of ancient gravestones which were completely hidden by overgrown holly.

The new churchyard continues to develop well; we have been given, and planted, one or two additional new young trees, and the hedge is growing sturdily. There has also been one more new burial there. It is, of course, still a work in progress, but it is becoming a beautiful and peaceful place for people to walk and sit, with views out across the adjacent fields.

We have still not been able to hold regular fund raising events, though some of our number took part in the national Sponsored Cycle Ride in September. We hope we will soon be able to arrange other events to help raise money towards the 'parish share' which we have to pay to the Diocese - this year again it is over £18,000 which the congregation somehow has to raise.

Although we only have a service here every six weeks, I nevertheless greatly appreciate the contributions of all the helpers who undertake flower-arranging, catering, cleaning, gardening etc. and my thanks go to them - we couldn't manage without them! It is good that we can begin to resume activities that also involve the village. Whether you are a church-goer or not, we are always pleased to welcome you, and visitors from elsewhere, and of course, any financial or practical contribution is always a bonus, wherever it comes from!

*JH - 16.05.2022*

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## Lound Lakes Report

Another busy year on the Reserve and a repeat with three crucial conservation months volunteering lost due to lockdown rules.

Most work we do on site is for wildlife and how we can impact on habitats to increase or make better, this in turn reflects on the species present. This started spectacularly with 8 great white egrets feeding and roosting throughout January. We found 4 soprano pipistrelle bats whilst cleaning out the bat boxes and during a night of bat trapping 7 species of bat were caught, weighed, measured, sexed and released. Other surveys undertaken were Wetland Bird, Breeding Bird and a night of moth trapping. On the botanically rich fen that we cut and clear every autumn, there was a fantastic show of common spotted and heath spotted orchids and our wasp spiders continue to head northwards. A pair of kestrels fledged 2 chicks and we were lucky to ring them. One of our badgers found a large wasp nest on Hoblands footpath, so naturally it dug it out to eat the protein rich grubs.

The saw, axe and billhooks were busy over the winter with the laying of 82 metres of old hedge along Hall Road and some smaller sections to help fill gaps. Coppicing of Hazel was undertaken and all usable stakes, sharpened and used to support the new hedge. In August, once the last of the breeding birds fledged, Lound volunteers, a few Parish Council members, myself and some of the residents, worked together to cut back overhanging branches and raise the roadside canopy on Dorking Road. The night of October 1<sup>st</sup> was very windy, and we lost a huge old ash tree from Rolfs Wood, with it falling into the 'Dog off Lead' Field, blocking the footpath. A diversion route was cut to continue access until the timber was cleared.

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Much of the Reserves soil is acidic and this doesn't help the life of our fence and gate posts. Most of the fencing was installed in 2013 and is starting to decay at ground level. During the year we have knocked in over 200 posts to bolster the stock fencing and replaced 8 gate posts. When I started in 2019, the volunteers expressed they wanted to replace the decking by the pond in Fen Barn Garden. This year when social distancing rules relaxed, they did and used recycled plastic wood, so there should be no rot there in the next decade.

With all the positives, we also get a few lows. A visitor with political views decided the Reserve would be a good place to fly-post propaganda stickers about Covid, removing such litter took the volunteers and myself away from our daily duties. We've had several fly-tipping instances, but the APP of 'Fix My Street' has helped in getting it removed by the respective Council. We have lost 4 swans that hit the electricity wires which cross the Reserve and a badger drowned, when it thought the invasive weed of crassula was a solid mass.

The volunteers again have been brilliant, undertaking maintenance and habitat work, wardening and surveying. In total they have given the Reserve 1342.5 hours of service, which equates to 224 days of work.

This is only a very short report, if anyone would like more detailed information, please contact me at [andrew.hickinbotham@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:andrew.hickinbotham@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

Andrew Hickinbotham - Lound Lakes Warden

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## **Northern Parishes and Councillor Support**

The Northern Parishes Group has continued to meet using Zoom although new meetings are to be held face to face. This has been a useful group to meet with. As the effects of the pandemic diminish the group has continued to address common issues within the area. Current projects are encouraging healthy eating, tackling social isolation and recycling.

Our three district councillors Paul Ashdown, Edward Back and Keith Robinson have again given valuable support and advice and we would like to thank them for their unstinting efforts to help the Parish.

### **Buses**

The Lowestoft Rugby Club continues to do an excellent job delivering their Friday service which is well used. We must really thank the volunteers who definitely go above and beyond by providing lifts in their own cars if the bus is full!! Thanks to Jenny Ozinel for coordinating this service in the village.

### **Lound Mardle**

The previous work on the Mardle has been built on this year. The focus has been placing a presentation board, provided by the Northern parishes project funds and designed by Mark Reynolds. This is a map that shows the routes around Lound. Along with the footpath signs visitors will be encouraged to explore more of the area around Lound. There is also a new sign encouraging visitors towards more sensible feeding of the ducks and other wildlife. Essex and Suffolk Water have also offered to help work on the Mardle.

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## **Parish Council Chair's Report**

As we leave the effects of the Covid Pandemic behind it is good to see the village return to normal. The improvement in signage will help visitors from straying by using both the footpath signs and the new presentation board. The installation of speed indicator devices in Church Lane and Yarmouth Road should help improve the speeding issue and the new dropped kerb in Earth Lane should make access easier.

There are other areas in the village that could be tidied up and the Parish Council is in the process of contacting the landlords to encourage a tidying up. It is worth mentioning that as a village we seem to be getting on top of littering and it is really pleasing to see so many volunteers attending the two litter pick days.

The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum is due on the 23rd of June. This will be run as a formal election by East Suffolk Council at the Village Hall during normal voting hours.

I do hope you can come to our AGM at the Village Hall on 7.00pm on Monday 16th May and I am also looking forward to "The Picnic on the Green" to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June starting at 12.00.

Miles Thomas

May 2022