

# Lound Parish Report

## May 2024

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Parish Report for Lound Village for the previous year

<b>Parish Councillors:</b> Miles Thomas Paul Strowlger Gayle Welsh Jenny Ozinel Connor Moore Jill Day Carly Perks-Jones	<b>Parish Clerk :</b> Jill Brown <b>Local District Councillors</b> Paul Ashdown Keith Robinson Edward Back	<b>Village Hall Committee:</b> Garry Smith Linda Smith Bob O'Neill Rita Flatt Stuart Day Louise Austin Peter Larcombe Rose Marie Paige Brian Paige Miles Thomas Wendy Hargadon
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**Parish Annual Meeting at 7.00pm, Monday 20th May**

**Village Hall Committee AGM at 6.30pm Thursday 23rd May**

**Both at Lound Village Hall**

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## **The Heath**

The work to reduce the Heath sycamore trees is progressing as planned, there are now trees being thinned around the fringe of the main wooded area towards the central steps. Many thanks again to Simon of Terra Trees for assistance with some of the taller/ larger trees. Use of a rope and winch has enabled removal of larger trees without causing damage to the some of the oak, ash, beech and hawthorn we are trying to preserve.

Early in 2024 we had a day of thinning some small sycamore with a stem diameter of approx 5-8 cm. More of the same will be required soon as there is some regrowth. They'll be easier to control at their reduced height and identified now in leaf.

We have started to cut the ivy on a number of trees in the Heath. Of course we do not intend to cut all the ivy on every tree. The birds appreciate the shelter and berries, as well as more locations to nest or shelter. The offset of too much ivy however is that it can cause trees to fail in high wind, the ivy foliage acting like a sail. Some will note that a number of trees have blown over in the past year or so due to the dense ivy growth and saturated ground due to prolonged wet.

We'll continue to sympathetically work through some more thinning during the spring, focussing on areas that won't impact any bird nesting activities. Some visitors to the Heath will likely have seen that UK Power Networks contractors have recently attended to maintain the trees near the power lines running through. The team were very helpful, they left the stem of the dead oak tree which should make a useful mount for a proposed replacement owl nest box for 2025 season

Dan Goldsmith

## **Lound Allotments & Garages**

The three Garages that are managed by the Parish Council have continued to have the same tenants.

The allotments continue to have worked effectively. Rents are paid on time apart from one. The annual check last July showed the allotments were in the main well looked after. The annual review will be before the PC meeting Monday 1st July.

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## **Lound Poor's Trust**

### Lound Poor's Trust

The annual meeting of Trustees was held on 1st November 2023 and the Christmas distribution to eligible Lound householders was agreed.

2 students were awarded a discretionary grant.

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

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

It has been a busy year for the Village Hall. There have been several clubs that have used the hall successfully. The Art Group and Craft Group have met alternate Mondays throughout the year and have proved pretty popular with a large number of participants. The Quilting and the Patchwork clubs have met on Wednesday afternoons and evenings and brings in a wide circle of participants all thoroughly engaged in their creations. There has been dancing and it is a real delight to see the hall used in this way. The Warm Welcome Project ended last season successfully by celebrating the Coronation by streaming the event live in the Hall along with a "Shared Lunch" and has maintained its popularity this season. Also we "Rang for the King" which has developed into a regular Band of Ringers who practise weekly. The new season opened at the end of October and rapidly acquired the numbers that we saw last year. We would like to thank East Suffolk Council for their continued support financially and more importantly the goodly numbers of volunteers who have made this happen.

The Hall fabric has improved where the entrance door has been replaced as well as the rear fire doors. This has resulted in making the hall far more draft proof however the Energy Bills, like all users, have rocketed and so we have had to increase the hire charge to cover this. We are, as a committee, trying to look at grant aid to find ways of obtaining cheaper energy and so bring the cost of hiring down again. We also received other grants from East Suffolk Council, to replace the battery in the de-fibrillator that we acquired a few years ago from the proceeds of a fete and another to create a Village Archive. The latter is to house the residual material from Lothingland Middle School along with a larger amount of material donated by Rita Flatt and Frankie Sayer. There is also a photocopier/ scanner so users can copy items as well as make copies to donate.

The committee has changed this year in order to focus our attention on securing a grant to enable us to purchase Solar Panels which should making running the Hall much cheaper. We welcomed a new treasurer, Stuart Day and would like to thank Garry and Linda for their service to keep the Hall running. We would also like to thank our internal and external contractors, Eileen and Jonathan, for making the Hall look clean and welcoming.

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## **Footpaths and Highways**

There have been two litter picks over the last year. Thanks go to the stalwarts who turn up each time but it is noticeable that fewer people are responding. Having said that, we seem to have suffered less from waste left by the new fast food facility.

Footpath 11, from Blacksmith's Loke to the Church, was improved in the Summer. The surface of this is vastly improved and much safer to navigate especially after dark. Thanks should go to the willing group of volunteers who worked on this for a week along with Suffolk County Council Locality Budget that funded the project.

The entrance to Footpath 6, running south from the end of Jay Lane, was finally cleared this year. It is hoped that more usage will keep this path form being overgrown.

At present the Parish Council is investigating the inclusion of a Dog Poo bin along with better signage for Footpath 10, Blacksmith's Loke to Cuckoo Green to encourage walkers to keep to the marked path across this field and discourage wandering.

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## **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, LOUND**

### **CHURCHWARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT for 2023/4**

The Somerleyton Group has remained in Interregnum, with services at Lound approximately every six weeks. However, the PCC has decided that we should have more services, and with a very generous offer by Fr. Anthony Long (from Hemsby) to take the 4th Sunday each month, we are now able to plan two services every month, starting with Palm Sunday 2024. The 2nd Sunday will be covered from our pool of retired clergy who have been helping us throughout the interregnum.

We hope that with a regular service pattern and proper advertising our numbers will increase. They have in fact held up fairly well, but we need new and younger members to carry the church forward. With regard to new input and new faces, I should perhaps add here that we now have an enthusiastic group of bell ringers, who ring before each service. This is greatly appreciated, and the village likes to hear the bells as well! Thanks to Miles Thomas, who was instrumental in getting the group started, and organises it as necessary.

At the beginning of February Cindy Baldwin, Churchwarden at Hemsby, and I, had a meeting with Bishop Ian, the new Bishop of Thetford. We felt that he grasped and understood the difficulty of attracting applicants for our post, not least the question of accommodation and the unsuitability of Corton Rectory as the clergy house. He made some very positive and constructive suggestions and although I don't anticipate any speedy developments, within the limits of what he is actually able to do, I felt that he would try and push things along, and will 'think outside the box'.

During the Interregnum we have been, and still are, dependent on retired clergy to take our services. We are very grateful to them all - we could not manage without them. Whilst Rev Leslie Hobbs is still organising the service rota for the whole Somerleyton group, he is trying to step back from active duty as far as possible, only acting as 'back-up' when there is nobody else.

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The most significant event this year has been the refurbishment and re-glazing of the windows in the nave, porch and vestry, and the Henry Holiday stained glass on the south side of the chancel. It was disappointing that the Diocese would not allow Memorial quarries other than two for past churchwardens. The completed quarries are so unobtrusive that the decision defies all logic and caused not a little ill feeling in the village – terrible PR! However, the overall result is stunning and a great improvement. Moreover, the windows are now watertight and weatherproof, inside and out, and hopefully should not need any further attention for many years. We would like to undertake the refurbishment of the remaining stained glass window in the chancel, plus the two plain windows either side of the altar. These are in a less dire state but they are not good, and ought to be done. The Faculty for the restoration of St. Christopher and the armorial shields on the south doors remains in limbo. The matter is still in the hands of Historic England; we await their instructions as to what they want us to do – the mural could well fall off the wall before we hear from them! We are due a Quinquennial Inspection this year; given all the work we have done, it is to be hoped that the architect won't find anything much for us to do.

'Housekeeping' this year included a professional floor wash after the dust from the work to the windows, and a rabbit cull in the churchyard to keep the numbers down and limit the damage they do. New rose bushes have been planted in the War Memorial garden and lavender plants will be added round the edges as soon as the weather is suitable.

There have been several visits by various groups during the year – U3A, two organ clubs and the bells recorder. Articles on these, with photos, have been put on the website ([www.loundchurch.uk](http://www.loundchurch.uk)) as items of interest. We have managed a number of social and fund-raising events. The Lent Lunch in March was held jointly with Blundeston and the Annual Ride & Stride took place at the beginning of September - thanks to our cyclists. Lots of people from the church and the village helped decorate for our Harvest Evensong. Very many thanks to them, and as ever, to our local farmers who once again supplied us with a magnificent array of fresh produce. As in previous years, this was distributed to local nursing and care homes, which are always most grateful. In 2022 'Tea & Tinsel' was so successful that in November we held 'Tea & Tinsel II', which went very well. Huge thanks to our fund-raising committee and to all those who worked so hard to supply cakes, and to run the raffle and other stalls. We will

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probably try and make this an annual event, as well as other ventures which are already in the pipeline for the 2024 Patronal Festival and beyond. Perhaps the highlight of the year for me was our special candlelit Advent Service with the Advent Prose. This was very well received, and with a bit of fine tuning, we shall aim to repeat it this year, possibly at a slightly earlier time to encourage people to turn out, but still dark enough to create the right atmosphere.

Bishop Norman retired at Easter; we wish him well, and have been very grateful for his support and encouragement over the years. Bishop Ian is booked to take the Rogation service at Ashby, so everyone will have a chance to meet him.

As ever, I am enormously grateful to the helpers who undertake fund-raising, flower-arranging, catering, cleaning, gardening etc. We are also grateful to various people from the village who are always willing to support and help when asked.

We remain hopeful and pray that this year will bring significant progress in resolving the present situation.

JH - 24.04.2024

## **Bell Ringing**

May 6th 2023 The King's Coronation "Ring For The King" - Lound Church gave everyone the opportunity to have a try at ringing the bells. Haha! We really didn't have a clue, there was much noise and a lot of fun and laughter - those poor bells! That was enough for a few of us to think how nice it would be to have a practice night once a week. Miles arranged for Hillary to meet a few of us and give us some very helpful advice - thanks Hillary. Franky then joined us another evening and gave a demonstration - Wow Franky could ring all three bells at once!

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We started practising every week to try and perfect the technique of bell ringing. Our timing was a little off and a clash of the bells is not the best sound, but we persevered and sometimes managed a nice rhythm.

Last July, Miles arranged for us to visit St Michael's Church, Oulton. We watched the bell ringers on their practice night. This church has eight bells located in the centre of the church. There we met Tony who gave us a talk about the history of the church and its bells. Tony also gave us a demonstration of a bell being rang using a model he made. Tony very kindly agreed to teach us how to ring the bells correctly, but because there was already a group of learners attending Oulton Church, Tony decided it would be better to practise at Somerleyton Church instead.

The bell tower at Somerleyton Church is located on the first floor, here there are six bells. We all practise one at a time. We have learnt how to pull and catch the Sally correctly. This has not been easy at times with quite a few wrong judgments. Tony is always on hand to put things right and get us out of trouble, his patience is very much appreciated and I'm sure has been tested as times!

As we gradually improved we were joined by some very accomplished bell ringers; Laurence, Maria, and Vanessa. We are now practising to ring in rounds and change timings, with four of the bells being rang in turn. Because of the differences in the set up of the bells between Lound and Somerleyton churches, the bells ring in very distinct ways.

We have had some very challenging moments but still manage to laugh along the way. We all really appreciate the support Tony and everyone involved have offered to us. We now ring for the start of the service on a Sunday every two weeks.

Vanessa Larcombe

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## **Lound Warm Welcome**

The 'Warm Rooms' scheme was rolled out nationally in the winter of 2022 in response to the energy crisis. The aim was to provide somewhere warm for people to go and have a hot drink and time with other people, enabling them to turn the heating off at home for that time. The Lound Warm Room was set up in Feb '23, so only ran for a couple of months last season but it gave us chance to establish that a film afternoon in the village hall would go down well.

This season, Lound Warm Welcome ran from the end of Oct to the end of March on a Tuesday afternoon. There was an average of 10-12 people attending each week from Lound and also from nearby villages. Members enjoyed a hot drink, biscuits and a piece of cake, and a catch up with people they knew. The films were brought in by members of the group and often led to lively debate, some being more of a 'box office hit' than others!

We also had regular visits from Tracy Cotterall from East Suffolk Council's Private Sector Housing Centres for Warmth. She was able to offer members advice on energy saving, getting better deals and tariffs and reducing bills, as well as help with other issues they were having.

Lound Warm Welcome was made possible through funding from the UK government, East Suffolk Council and 'Levelling Up'. We are hopeful that this funding will be made available again in the autumn so the scheme can continue for another season.

Wendy Hargadon

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## The Lound Exchange

The old red phone box on Back Lane had become quite dilapidated and a bit of an eyesore. Early in 2023 the Parish Council was approached with the idea of converting it into a book exchange for benefit of the village and after an initial assessment by a small working party, funding for the project was secured from the East Suffolk councillor's Locality budget.

Work on the box commenced in April, as and when the weather permitted. Sanding back the flaking paintwork was a laborious task, especially inside the box which was like working inside a snow globe! The paintwork was very time consuming - all the panes of glass needed to be masked up individually, and each side needed a primer and two coats of red, both outside and inside the box. Four broken panes of glass were replaced, new 'Telephone' signs were fitted at the top, holes in the back wall inside the box were repaired and the floor was painted with doorstep paint. The paintwork was finally completed in October, and the shelving fitted just before Christmas - many thanks to Stuart James who also painted the crowns gold.

The Lound Exchange finally opened for business in the New Year. A number of books had already been donated and the shelves quickly began filling up. Plastic tubs stacked on the floor created additional room for magazines, DVDs and CDs, and games and jigsaws. The content and layout can be adapted, depending on the nature of contributions made by users. Initially it was very much trial and error to see what would work, and as time has gone by a well used children's section has developed, with the 'games and jigsaws' tub giving way to a children's DVDs section, which proved very popular in the recent Easter holidays.

The Lound Exchange is a free facility for local people to swap items they no longer want. Unlike a library, users are able to keep their selections, or return them to the exchange for another user to select. The success of the scheme is dependant on users donating quality items as well as taking items from the box. Currently the exchange is being well used and hopefully will continue to be so as a convenient resource for Lound residents.

Wendy Hargadon

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## **Rugby Club Bus**

The Rugby Club has been providing a mini bus service for over 5 years to Tesco's, which has provided a well rounded service for passengers, allowing them to meet up with others, they wouldn't otherwise be able to see & spend time with.

we have bonded as a group, it's a good to hear the friendly chatter and laughter from them, a great atmosphere and passengers eagerly looking forward to their Friday shopping trips and get together.

The Volunteers are friendly, kind, patient and very helpful people, who goes an extra mile for us. An excellent team and service.

By Jenny Ozinel and Contributions from other passengers.

## **Craft Group Wednesday PM**

The craft group celebrated 20 years since it was formed at Lound Village Hall. In this we have covered a variety of crafts, patchwork, basketwork, beading, leather work, raffia , crocheting, knitting weaving and many more. The group consists of about 12-14 members on a regular basis ranging from 60 to 96 years old! They bring a fantastic atmosphere and all gel together sharing their stashes of ideas.The hall is very adaptable for all craft facilities and kitchen enjoyed by all.

Rosemarie Paige

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## Lound Lakes Reserve Report - 2023-4

Winter tree work of hazel coppicing, lakeside margin scrub (willow, sycamore and birch) bashing and felling in Dorking Plantation to create open rides for butterflies was undertaken by other Wardens from the NE Team with me watching, as I had a broken arm and chain sawing was out.

Spring into summer is the time to watch and monitor and enjoy what's growing, flowering, feeding, and nesting in the areas worked from last autumn and winter. Breeding bird numbers were good, nothing rare, but great to see fledged treecreeper, greater spotted woodpecker, linnet, greenfinch, and yellow hammer. 26 species of butterfly recorded, with highlights of white admiral, silver-washed fritillary, and wall brown. The flowering heads of the common spotted and spotted-heath orchids were amazing. In a 900m<sup>2</sup> of the Dog off Lead Field, 2,223 were counted and the water margin of Triangle Field produced over 7000, and that was just two areas. A bat survey produced species of noctule, brown long eared, soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle, nathusius pipistrelle and daubenton's. Bird highlights were 2 black-crowned night herons on 24<sup>th</sup> April, long-eared owl on 9<sup>th</sup> May, osprey on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 4 green sandpipers on 15<sup>th</sup> August. January, February, November, and December brought roosting great egrets to Lound Run Pond and Hopton 1, with the highest number being 24 on one evening.

Two schools have visited the reserve bringing 4 classes. They learnt about bugs and how to classify species, the water cycle and how the lakes are managed to support wildlife as well as supplying their homes together with Plant identification and seed dispersal. I led a walk and talk to Happy Paws dog group, some of whose members are Suffolk Wildlife Trust Dog Ambassadors, who wear a badge and talk about responsible dog ownership whilst visiting a nature reserve.

Summer into autumn brought bracken bruising. Bracken is an ongoing issue on the reserve, as it spreads and smothers other flora. When the last of the ground breeding birds had fledged, I spent days towing a bruiser over it, to break the fibres in the stems. The plant doesn't like this action, it

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weakens it and lays it flat, enabling the sun to dry it out before it returns sap to the root.

The reserve volunteers continue to make a positive difference across the reserve in tasks such as patrolling, general maintenance, habitat improvements and species surveying. This year they have totalled 1022.75 hours which equates to 171 days of work. I honestly can't thank them enough.

We still have an issue with fly tipping on the roads that border the reserve. These have always been reported via an App and cleared away within a few days, for that I thank the relevant councils. A small area of Japanese knot weed has been identified, and this is being treated by a contractor.

It was identified that the Norfolk portion of the reserve was not designated, so I have been working with Norfolk Wildlife Trust to get it County Wildlife Site designation, as it is in Suffolk.

This is only a short report, if anyone would like more detailed information, or want to talk about volunteering, please contact me [andrew.hickinbotham@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:andrew.hickinbotham@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

Andrew Hickinbotham

## **Northern Community Partnership and Councillor Support**

Again another year of superb support from our Local Councillors, both Suffolk and East Suffolk. Without their help we would not be able to be as effective. In the last year they have provided funding to improve Footpath 11, Supported the Lound Exchange Project, Replaced the battery in the Defibrillator, paid for the Hall Hire for the Warm Room Project, supported the Lound Archive Project, Funded a Speed Indicator Device. This has enabled us to provide a better environment for residents.

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## **Lound Mardle**

A team of volunteers tackled the Mardle in early March and have made considerable in-roads by clearing unnecessary vegetation. This was partly prompted by an increase in sightings of Rats in the area. This has been diminished however there is still a re-education programme needed for visitors who leave bread and duck food scattered on the bank.

Particular thanks to Terra-Trees, Andrew Doidge, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Robert Beresford from ESC for their skilled help as well as the volunteers who helped. This work will be continued in the Autumn as well as looking at the ponds on the Eastern side.

## **LOUND ARCHIVE**

Having discovered the archive for Lothingland Middle School in December hiding in the cupboard upstairs in the Village Hall the idea of a permanent archive of material that show the history of Lound seemed possible. Rita Flatt donated her wealth of material along with some other material by Frankie Sayer. To enable this to happen a bid was made to East Suffolk Council for locality funding and this has allowed the upstairs area to be set up to view these items. It also funded a Printer/Photocopier such that material could be copied to take away but also folk who might have archives of their own to donate copies of this material.

## **Speed Indicator Device**

Suffolk County Council have provided the funding for a fulltime SID for Lound. This will be installed soon and will not only give advice to drivers when they are speeding but also provide statistics to help request a Police Speed Enforcement Team to monitor the Traffic.

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## Parish Council Chair's Report

I had not realised how many things had gone on in the last year until compiling this report and how much participation. There had been from Local Councillors, Parish Councillors, Village Hall Committee Members and Fellow Residents. Also our Volunteer Professionals who donate their skills so freely! Thank you to all those folk! You may not be mentioned here but you know who you are! With the grants we have received and willingness to help over the last year we have made great strides forwards and I hope will continue to do so.

At the Parish Council meetings we have seen an upsurge in planning applications. The completion of the Manor Farm project and the conversion on Border lane gives a fresh perspective on entering the village from the North whilst there is a great deal of work being done on existing properties. I mentioned last year the completion of the Neighbourhood plan and it is gratifying to see it in use. The Village Hall thrives although there was a set back through increased energy charges. It is pleasing to see the usage returning to pre-Covid levels and New Events being planned along with ways of improving the Energy Footprint.

On a sour note we have some reports of petty thieving in the village so it would be prudent to ensure property is kept safely. We now have a Police Constable allocated to our area which is a comfort after a gap of several years.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to helping Lound be a safe and welcoming place to live. You are very welcome to attend the Parish Council Annual General Meeting at 7.00 Monday 20th May and the Village Hall Committee Meeting at 6.30 Thursday 23 May.

Miles Thomas