

Lound Parish Report

May 2025

Parish Report for Lound Village for the previous year

Parish Councillors: Miles Thomas Paul Strowlger Gayle Welsh Jenny Ozinel Connor Moore Jill Day Carly Perks-Jones	Parish Clerk : Jill Brown Local District Councillors Paul Ashdown Keith Robinson Edward Back	Village Hall Committee: Garry Smith Linda Smith Rita Flatt Stuart Day Louise Austin Peter Larcombe Rose Marie Page Brian Page Miles Thomas Wendy Hargadon
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Parish Annual Meeting at 7.00pm, Monday 12th May

Village Hall Committee AGM at 7.00 pm Thursday 23rd May

Both at Lound Village Hall

Lound Village Community

When the '23-'24 Warm Room season came to end at the end of March '24', there was a general feeling amongst attendees that they would miss the chance to have a regular get together. With this in mind, an idea was presented to the Village Hall Committee to have a monthly coffee morning on a Saturday so that people who worked could also be involved. The first coffee morning happened in May '24, with no charge for drinks and cakes but people were asked to make a donation to cover the cost of the event - the people who came along were so generous that this was easily achieved, and more, and there were lots of ideas from the community for possible themes for future coffee mornings. And so the Lound Village Community was born!

For the last year we have been running themed coffee mornings, all donation based, with the aim of putting all profits back into events for the community. Themes have included Plant Swap, 'Home Made' Sale, 2 table top sales, Christmas Craft fair, 'Jingle Mingle', and Spring Craft Fair. We also dedicated our September coffee morning to fundraising for Macmillan and raised £230.30, and have also supported a charity much closer to home, our own Village Hall.

The donations from our regular Coffee mornings enabled us to put on our very successful free music event, 'Lound Makes Music', in August '24, and our very popular '50s, 60s, 70s Daylight Disco' in February '25. We have had a lot of requests to repeat these events, so watch this space!

Our upcoming events include our Coffee Morning with Gardeners Swap Shop on May 10th, and our Lound Car Boot Sale on the Village Green on June 14th.

Thank you to the generous folk of Lound, and friends, who continue to support our events. Any ideas for future themes or events will be gratefully received and any volunteers on the day, or help from cake makers, would be very welcome!

Wendy Hargadon.

The Heath

The ongoing work to thin the sycamore trees is continuing. It was unfortunate to have to remove the oak stem intended for the owl box placement, however it was suffering some decay at the base and was of course quite close to a path and adjacent allotment, it had to go.

We are now focusing felling in the area towards the central steps near the upper area of the heath. Again this requires some forward planning as to where felling is best to avoid any damage to trees we aren't wanting to remove. We're conscious to ensure we only remove what is permitted per calendar quarter, being mindful of bird nesting activities during their breeding season.

This spring and summer we will be looking to tackle some of the younger regrown sycamore that again has encroached around the lower grass areas, and amongst the other trees on the edge of the cleared parts. The work to reduce the bias of sycamore will take a number of years, but is already seeing benefits to wildlife, and more light to reach the ground for other flora to thrive.

Dan Goldsmith

Lound Allotments & Garages

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

The allotments have in the main worked effectively however there is one that shows little to no use and will be reviewed in the July Inspection before the PC meeting Monday 7th July.

Lound Poor's Trust

The annual meeting of Trustees was held on 31 st October 2024. Our long standing Trustee Rita Flatt stood down as Chair, and advised her intention to step down from the board and therefore we are inviting those who might be interested in becoming a trustee to contact the Clerk (details below) for further information.

Rita was thanked since the Lound Trust and Lound villagers have benefitted greatly from her long and dedicated contribution.

Neil Austin kindly agreed to stand as Chair.

The Christmas distribution to 27 Lound householders of pension age was agreed and 3 students were recipients of small grants to help with the related costs. Income continues, primarily from the rental of land at Back Lane and Church Lane.

The Trustees are:

Neil Austin – Chair

Paul Strowlger – Clerk (07811 935044)

Sally Popham

Miles Thomas

Rita Flatt

Lound Parish Rector (awaiting arrival of Father David Bailey in July)

Fit, Flex, Fun at Lound Village Hall.

Fit, Flex, Fun is a low impact, cardio class held on Tuesday mornings at Lound Village from 10.30am – 11.30am, led by Emily Orford from Everyone Active. The first class was held on January 21st, 2025.

In response to local demand for a low impact fitness class suitable for all abilities, Lound Village Hall Committee approached Active Suffolk, to see if they could help.

Active Suffolk is one of 43 Active Partnerships across England dedicated to increasing the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity. One of their initiatives is “Fit Villages” – a community driven initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of people in rural Suffolk. “Fit Villages” is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Tyler Beales from Active Suffolk was able to access funding from the “Fit Villages” programme to conduct a local survey to gather further information on the type of activity required and to source a suitable instructor. The first 8 weeks of classes were then subsidised using this funding with attendees paying a nominal £1 per session. Approximately 18 people attended the first session and class numbers have remained at around 12-14 people per week.

Lound Village Hall Committee also successfully bid for £1000 of funding from the Lowestoft Community Partnership “Try It” fund. This ensured that the group could be subsidised whilst it was getting established after Active Suffolk’s involvement ended. Classes are now £3 per week and it is anticipated this funding should last up to 12 months, if current numbers at the classes continue.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have Emily Orford from Everyone Active leading this class. She has proved to be the ideal instructor, patient, encouraging and with a good understanding of the abilities and limitations

of the class. The emphasis is firmly on fun and the positive feedback has been amazing.

If you have any ideas on possible classes or activities that you would like to see at Lound Village Hall please let us know – info@loundvillagehall.co.uk

For further information on Fit, Flex, Fun please contact the instructor – emilyorford@everyoneactive.com

Jill Day

Lound Village Hall Report 2024-5

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. The Warm Welcome Project has thrived this year with larger numbers using the facility thanks to improved organisation. The formation of the Lound Community led by Wendy has thrived. By putting on an event a month such as coffee mornings and Craft Fairs which have been very popular. The largest event was an all day music festival held in August on The Green, "Lound Makes Music", which was a well attended event with a lovely "vibe". Wendy and Jill applied for a start up grant to provide weekly exercise classes for residents called Fit, Flex, Fun. This started in January on Tuesday Mornings and regularly attracts about 13 participants. It is lovely to see these events and other bookings which have been due to a fair amount of creativity in thinking of different events but also by much improved advertising. 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 again been improved this year. We have replaced the Hob in the kitchen and installed “boost heating controls” on immersion tank and kitchen heater which will prevent these being left on for long periods. Again with the lights Brian has replaced these with LED low energy lights with automatic timers. The fire alarms and electricity circuits have been fully tested this year and updates made where required. The Lound Archive has almost been completed, scanned and stored in the office upstairs and the main area upstairs has been converted into a meeting area with comfortable seating for 12 folk around the main table. We have also been lucky that the Virtual Computer Club donated some of their funds which we have spent on a Display Monitor which makes meetings which would otherwise have needed the projector downstairs much easier to hold. We are in process of constructing a cupboard upstairs to make it easier for regular Hall users to store their “bits and bobs” rather than have to bring them each session.

Outside the Green has been kept by Jonathan Baker and we have also employed Dan Goldsmith to trim the hedges which were in desperate need of attention. The bowling green, which has out of use for about 5 years, was been repurposed. With a Grant from Eat Suffolk Council and Suffolk Council Sam Perks has created a Car park that can be used by allotment holders. This can also be used as an overspill parking for Village Hall and Church Events. The area beyond is envisaged to become a conservation area.

The committee has changed this year with Bob O'Neill standing down and we would like thank for his service. Stuart Day has settled into the role of treasurer and does far beyond this remit. Wendy Hargadon has become

Vice Chair and brings an Organisational Skill that has enhanced our events and advertising. These latter two are working on an online booking system which will make booking the Hall much easier by using an online calendar and email systems. We have submitted two applications in the last year, one unsuccessful, for funding for Solar Panels which we will hope will reduce our energy costs considerably. We would also like to thank our internal and external contractors, Eileen and Jonathan, for making the Hall look clean and welcoming.

April 2025

Footpaths and Highways

There has been one litter pick this year. Thank you to those folk who turn up. We have left Yarmouth Rd this year as we asked for warning signs from East Suffolk Council to use. They responded if we need these then this is too dangerous and they would clear this professionally.

Footpath 11 which was replaced in the Summer 2023 by volunteers has a vast improvement and although it has slightly narrowed it still is a much better surface to walk on, The hardstanding area on the old Bowling Green has improved parking for allotment holders as well as Church goers and thanks go to our local councillors who provided the funding and to Sam Perks for making a super job!

The entrance to Footpath 6, running south from the end of Jay Lane is much better this year and thank you to the parishioner who is keeping Suffolk Highways on their toes by reporting blockages!

Speed Indicator Device

We have had a speed camera now for almost a year. From the two sites we have gathered useful data. The site by the Mardle facing North has registered some speeding but it is noticeable that drivers are paying attention to the warning. However on Church Lane the camera has been sited facing traffic coming into and then traffic going away from the village. The statistics for this section of road are not good!

These stats are sent off monthly to Suffolk Police who identify trends and then will send out their enforcement team with the right equipment.

Many thanks to the team who are administering this project

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, LOUND

CHURCHWARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT for 2024/5

Maintenance:-

2024 has been a relatively quiet year without any major ongoing maintenance work.

It was necessary to call in Pest Control experts last autumn, to treat an infestation of cluster flies. This seems so far to have been largely successful. If the problem persists, the treatment can be repeated to keep matters under control.

The **St. Christopher restoration** and the repainting of the armorial shields is scheduled to begin on 1st May 2025. Scaffolding will be erected in the week beforehand, but should only affect the pews immediately adjacent to the mural, so there shouldn't be any significant disruption to services. The work should take 3 – 4 weeks.

The 2024 Quinquennial inspection listed a great many issues, many of which were deemed unnecessarily picky by the PCC. It was decided that we would tackle those items listed as urgent and then look again at the remainder, and at the funds available.

Jeff Attoe of Norwich has been instructed in connection with the making and installation of a **new cross on the porch**; the cost will be between £1800 and £2200 plus VAT. Jeff has taken templates and photos, and we have obtained List B Permission from the Diocese for the work. Jeff has offered to mortar in the Fisher memorial in the chancel, free of charge, so that we can monitor for possible movement., as per the QIR.

Minor problems such as plants growing in the gutter have been tackled by your churchwarden who, in the absence of any other offers of help, also continues to look after the War Memorial garden. I still hope somebody else will eventually take it on.

Services:-

We have established a regular pattern of 2 services a month, with Fr.

Anthony Long regularly officiating on each 4th Sunday, which he greatly enjoys. I hope we may still continue to see him after we have our new priest – he does so like coming here. We are mostly managing to cover the 2nd Sunday with help from our existing pool of retired clergy with LRH as backstop.

After our first Candlelit Advent Service in 2023, the general response was very positive, so we repeated this in 2024, with the singing of the Advent Prose. I hope this will now be an annual event.

We are of course delighted with the **appointment in February of Fr. David Bailey** as our new part time house-for-duty priest. I understand negotiations are ongoing on a house in Hemsby; the date of Fr. David's installation will depend on when that purchase is completed.

On the subject of new appointments, we are also now have a new **Bishop of Richborough**, Fr. Luke Capel who was consecrated at Canterbury at the end of February. I very much hope we shall be able to meet him soon.

Occasional Offices:-

We have had 4 funerals followed by burial, and 2 interments of ashes. The funerals included two longtime supporters of the church, Alec James and Coral Jermy (Phillips). We also had two baptisms. .

Events:-

As usual we held the Lent Lunch, jointly with Blundeston, in March, which was quite successful Harvest Evensong was well attended. As ever, huge thanks to our local farmers for their generous contributions of fruit and vegetables, to all who helped decorate the church and to those who helped with the distribution of produce afterwards. The staff at Lound Hall and Bond's Meadow are always so grateful.

Fundraising events included the Patronal Festival weekend and strawberry tea, a popular concert by the Shantymen, the Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride and Tea & Tinsel 3 in the Autumn. Altogether these events raised £1239, so enormous thanks to everyone who helped or contributed in any way. In particular the Festival theme of 'Remembering' proved to be so successful that many people asked if we could do the same again this

year. We have set this in motion with the first invitation in the March *Hexagon*. If it is as good this year we could make it an annual event; if not, we'll have to think of another theme for 2026!

As ever, I am immensely grateful to my fellow churchwarden, the 'events committee' for their fundraising efforts, cyclists, and everyone who undertakes all the tasks involved in running a church - readers, intercessions, flower-arranging, gardening, catering, cleaning etc. Thank you all; I couldn't manage without you!

Judith Hobbs

Lound Warm Welcome Room

The Lound Warm Welcome Room has been run over the last Winter again. It is pleasing to note that it has become more popular this year either because of the change in planning films in advance or because of the improvement in cake quality! Numbers have held high over the season with about 14 folk attending. We have also had useful talks on energy matters, water metering and other helpful agencies. The standard of cake has improved as well!

The willing volunteers who turn up each week to make this happen are to be gratefully thanked as is East Suffolk Council for generously providing the funding for this project.

Hopefully we will be back in November this year!

Rugby Club Bus

The Rugby club mini bus service, is a welcome sight on a Friday, to help people to get their shopping, it's run by Volunteers, who go up and beyond their normal duties, without prompting, even by making an additional step, to help the less able.

We are eagerly waiting for our annual day trip, a place of our choice, for the passengers who would otherwise be unable to get to these places, the volunteers, make it a fun day and we all have a good time.

They take a keen interest in everyone's health and wellbeing, asking after people, when they not on the bus, they also give up their free time to help run the bus, a smooth rounded service, well prepared every week, which we all appreciate.

By Jenny Ozinel

Northern Community Partnership and Councillor Support

Again another year of superb support from our Local Councillors, both from Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk District Council. Without their help we would not be able to be as effective. In the last year they have provided funding to create a hard standing area that can be used for car parking to the East of the Church, paid for the Hall Hire for the Warm Room Project, supported the Lound Archive Project, supported Fit, Flex, Fun classes and funded a Speed Indicator Device. This support is invaluable to enable the Council to provide a better environment for residents

Lound Mardle

I've tidied the tubs and pots , and intend to plant some flowers soon which Louise has grown from seed.

There are some gaps between the joints of paving stones next to the bench, so if a diy-er could fill them with mortar that would be great, and perhaps reset the uneven slabs.

As to wildlife, at the moment there are fewer ducks than normal, but no doubt we'll have new arrivals at some point. Sadly, we're still getting regular casualties, so any further measures to slow vehicles would be welcome.

Also, 1 of the 2 remaining golden Koi carp has died. Maybe a reminder in the next newsletter that the Mardle is not suitable.

We've had visits from a Heron, beautiful Egyptian geese and a fox recently.

Neil Austin

Lound Archive

The Lound Archive Project has progressed well this year. Rita Flatt has donated almost eighty lever arch folders containing lots of history of Lound to go alongside the material gained from Lothingland Middle School. These have been re-bound and placed in the now bulging shelving unit within the archive. Preliminary scanning is almost complete so that the archive may be digitally searched.

The area around the archive has been repurposed as a meeting area so as to allow less clashing with the use of the hall downstairs. To help this the Village Hall Committee used a gift from the computer club to purchase a display monitor. The archive has drawn attention and the latest display is showing Lound at War to coincide with VE Day celebrations.

Parish Council Chair's Report

Another year gone by and again a busy one! Several projects have been or almost been completed. The Lound Exchange in Back Lane is thriving and well used. The Warm Welcome Room has thrived with consistently higher numbers in previous years. The creation of the Lound Community has delivered some really popular events such as the coffee mornings and especially the "Lound Makes Music" festival and the "Daylight Disco". This has also enabled the Fit, Flex and Fun project to start and it is gratifying to see a regular number of residents enjoying their weekly exercise. Our thanks should go to the dedicated team for enabling these.

The areas that the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee manage have again been maintained well by our willing and unsung groups of volunteers who bring their professional skills to help the village. The new hard standing area to the East of the Church, provided by funding from ESC and SCC, will make access to these allotments far easier for tenants whilst also providing extra parking for the Church Parishioners. The area behind the bund will be developed as a conservation area and green space soon.

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 12th May and the Village Hall Committee Meeting at 7.00 Thursday 22 May.