**Dunwich Town Trust Report to Dunwich Parish Meeting April 2022**

Bi-monthly meetings have now resumed in the Reading Room but no Open Meeting was possible during 2021 because of Covid restrictions. It is hoped to have the 2022 Open Meeting on 4 July, on the beach. Details will be circulated nearer the time.

Maintenance on all properties has been ongoing throughout the year, including electrical and other safety work and considerable fencing repair work needed because of weather damage. A change of tenants was effected for Town House 1. Apart from a short period between lettings there, all properties have remained occupied except Barne Cottage 2, which was vacated on 31 December 2021 and required work before re-letting. A new tenant should be installed very soon.

Eighteen winter grants were awarded; grants were given to MacMillan Cancer Support, Headway, Queen Elizabeth Hospice and the Disability Advice Service; and another grant was made to a group providing a Christmas lunch for senior citizens in the area. An educational grant was given to Middleton Primary School to purchase tablets for children’s use during the pandemic. Payment for care alarms continued to be made for vulnerable parishioners. To benefit the village as a whole, grants were awarded to Dunwich Reading Room and Museum Charity for repairs to the steps into the archive room, to enable purchase of the historically important map of the town and to allow Dunwich organisations to continue to use the Reading Room free of charge.

Maintenance of Gallows Field has been achieved with the help of Suffolk Wildlife Trust and care and maintenance of the orchard has been ongoing. Efforts continue to improve diversity of wildlife in the Wilderness area of land, in consultation with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Solutions continue to be sought to address the unauthorised overnight parking on the beach car park. Repairs to the car park surface have been made with appropriate contributions made by Flora Tea Rooms.

Nick Mayo, Chair, DTT

**Dunwich WI Annual Report for the Parish Meeting April 2022**

This time last year we were still social distancing and conducting meetings by Zoom. However, by July, we were able to enjoy a garden meeting at the Reading Room to coincide with the National NHS and Key Workers celebrations.

Since September we have returned to a normal programme of speakers, outings and social events. The weather was kind for an outing to Bedfield Hall where the owner proved an excellent guide and took us on a fascinating tour of both the church and his lovely home. It was hot and sunny for our guided tour of Ipswich Waterfront, learning about the old working docks and glimpsing some of the oldest streets and houses in Ipswich.

We enjoyed a Christmas meal in the Reading Room provided by outside caterers and celebrated our 103rd birthday in March at The Ship.

Recently a group of members attended a pizza masterclass at the bakery school in Darsham. We enjoyed the results of our morning’s work for lunch with a few extras added by our tutor.

After a two year gap we were able to assist Suffolk Wildlife Trust once again with the beach clean.

We have kept in touch with our members and arranged meetings in various forms during difficult circumstances and now look forward to a normal year with a full programme. We are delighted that two new members have joined. All ladies are welcome, do come along.

Maureen Williams, President, Dunwich WI

**Dunwich Greyfriars Trust – Chairman’s Report for 2021/22**

The pandemic has been a fact of life for two years now, and has impacted, for better or worse, on activities at Greyfriars just like everywhere else. One benefit has been the continuing trend for staycations and this brought thousands of extra visitors to Dunwich many of whom will have visited and enjoyed the monastery and the adjacent woodland that we care for. It is a national treasure, but also a much loved local amenity greatly enjoyed by the people of our village and the surrounding areas.

Within the precinct we have been planning since early 2020 to have major works done on the stable block but the work has had to be twice deferred as a direct result of coronavirus. The work is now scheduled for this summer. We have to date rather ignored the stable block – it’s early Victorian, not that old at all, but still an integral part of the site. There are cracks in the walls, particularly of the yard, and it has become unsafe. A range of work needs to be carried out on a building that has been untouched for decades; hopefully this will all be remedied in the next few months.

In the woodland, all 133 of our mature oak trees have been mapped and checked for condition, leading to a decision to fell a diseased and dying handful that were deemed a potential danger either to the public or to healthy trees around them. This work was carried out over 3 days in the winter along with more work to thin and remove many of the dead elms on the slope between the ruins and The Ship. Many young elms are growing on the cleared land where more light can now enter. Working parties have continued throughout the year doing a variety of tasks, in precinct and woodland and my thanks are due to those members who turn out regularly, sometimes in foul weather, to keep the site in top condition. One of our working party mornings was devoted to erecting a Barn Owl nesting box high in a large pine on the edge of the wood overlooking the open and vole-filled meadow of the precinct.

We joined with Dunwich Museum and the arts organisation Art Branches to create a series of public events, mainly in summer 2021, under the umbrella title Chronicles of Greyfriars. These were enjoyed by a large number of individuals and families and raised the level of our public engagement; we contributed to the costs and are grateful to the AAF of Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB for grant funding for the bulk of the activity. The project is ongoing, now funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Greyfriars will continue to be a location for many of the activities but we are not involved this time in any of the management or funding.

My personal thanks are due to the team of Trustees who give freely of their time to help manage our organisation. We all owe great thanks to our membership without whose financial support and volunteering Greyfriars would be a much diminished place.

Geoffrey Abell

Chairman

**St James PCC annual report for DPM**

There are now 24 members on the church electoral roll with an average of 14 attending the regular services.

We have communion services at St James on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, a morning worship on the 3rd Sunday and a joint benefice communion service on the first Sunday of each month, which rotates around the 8 churches of the benefice.

In addition:

* there was a special thanksgiving service celebrating the life of
Katharine Riches which was attended by well over one hundred;
* Dunwich PCC hosted an Harvest Fish and Chip Lunch, generously provided by the Elsley family with desserts produced by members of the PCC;
* we enjoyed a socially distanced Christmas Celebration of lessons, carols and readings;
* over 30 watched a spectacular sun rise at the recent service on the beach on Easter Sunday.

Katharine Riches, who had been a member of the church in Dunwich since the 1950s and Lay Chair of the PCC for many years, is much missed for her practical wisdom and for all she had done for St James*.*

In June the obligatory five yearly inspection, The Quinquennial, was carried out; the report described St James as ‘exceptionally well cared for and maintained’. Most of the works noted as requiring attention are minor and in hand; the more major work includes some localised repointing of flint work which will be arranged.

Unfortunately we have problems with the flagpole. The side pole is now unsafe to use and the central pole needs refurbishing with rope and pulley, for which we have so far received a quote of £1,500 just to come and assess the work, which will involve steeple jacks – any suggestions?.

Our church has registered with a national Church of England eco initiative and has achieved a Bronze Award.

The church porch was open as a ride station for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored annual Ride and Stride in September; with Joan Godfrey cycling to raise funds for the Trust and St James.

In 2002 the roof of the Barne Family vault which lies within the ruins of the chapel of the leper hospital which had become dangerous was removed and the vault filled in with the coffins left in situ. It had always been the intention that those buried would be acknowledged with some form of plaque and with this in mind Miles Barne, of Sotterley Hall, was approached. He was supportive of the idea and has designed a simple brass plaque which will be erected in the chancel. This is at the public consultation stage with notices displayed on the church boards.

Our Flower Festival which was held in August, a different time of year than usual, brought in £3,200. Thanks to all who helped make this such a successful and enjoyable weekend. So finally, please make a note in your diaries that this year’s flower festival will be the equivalent weekend - 6th to 8th August.

Angela Abell

Secretary, PCC St James Church