



Stowupland Parish Council AGM 22nd April 2026

Our archives continue to grow with material supplied by local people and whenever appropriate we continue to share that information with the community. We find Telstar to be a very useful portal for sharing information as well as finding out about what has happened locally over the last decades.

Our monthly meetings continue to be well supported, visitors and new members are always welcomed. We regularly host speakers from across Suffolk to share their research into aspects of Suffolk's history. This year members of the group have given regular talks using material from our archives about aspects of our village history, encouraging members and visitors to share their own memories and knowledge. Our Secretary, Jerry Voden's recordings of his reviews of our talks have proved popular listening on our website.

Our Stowupland Stories have looked at our roads and footpaths, , shops and trades, means by which our poor and sick have been cared for, some local crimes and punishments and our schools and education. Our guest speakers have taken us on a tour of local pubs, Tudor foods and kitchens, medieval battles, the 20th century influx of American soldiers, local orchards and the ongoing care of the River Gipping.

Since our founding our monthly meetings were held in the Village Hall, for 2026 we have moved along the room to the URC Chapel meeting room. Our new Banner Flag has come in useful to remind members of this change of venue. Our membership subscriptions and visitors' fees have remained unchanged.

In the summer some of our members had an outing to the 'Middy' Museum at Brockford to see the MAA 34th Bomb Museum. This was previously housed in Mendlesham, but they have found a new home at the Middy. During WW2 the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway was used to transport service personal and munitions to the Mendlesham Airfield so it seems appropriate that its artifacts can be viewed there. The group have built strong connections with American families whose loved ones were posted over here in WW2

We are extremely grateful to the support of all our members and our committee of volunteers without whom there would be no Local History Group

Sandra Walker (SLHG Chair)

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Sorry, couldn't resist sharing this from 1991 Parish meeting

The Annual Stowupland Parish Meeting was held on the 21st May, in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30p.m.

Mr Ron Bailey from the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service was present and he gave a very interesting and informative talk on the work of the organisation. More and more doctors in the area were now members, supplied with equipment raised with money from donations. He thanked Stowupland Parish Council for support over the years and hoped it would continue.

Present: The Chairman Cllr O Lake, with Cllrs. V Calthorpe, S Scarlett, M Bloom, P Carter, M.S.D.C. M Shave, the Clerk and 20 members of the public.

Apologies - Apologies were received from Cllrs. J Doward & R Studd. S.C.C. D Farthing, S Jackson, M Douglas, C Tricker, S Salmon and A Fairbourne.

Minutes - The minutes of the previous Annual parish Meeting held on 24th May 1990, were circulated, agreed upon and signed as a true copy.

Chairman of the Parish Council - Mr O Lake

Most important activity of the Council in the past year had been within the area of the protection & improvement of the village amenities. This included grants to the Village Hall for the improvements to the toilets & replacement windows, also grants to the Playpark Committee for the surface of the new park for children.

We employ a litter picker - M.S.D.C. help towards the cost of this. The litter problems seemed to have improved during the year.

The High School hope to take the pond on the green by The Retreat as an environment project, so this area will improve.

The footpath from the rear of the Hall to the Primary School has also been discussed, we hope this will be sorted out by next year & will support this. Thanks to Kit Carson, Russell Clarke & Laurie Horton, the 3 councillors who did not seek re-election. We hope to co-opt new members at the next meeting, as there were insufficient candidates for an election.

Thanks to Mr Spencer, Mrs Lewis and the helpers for the production of Telstar.

S.C.C. Mr D Farthing - read by Mr Lake

Gross budget of £458.7m an increase of £35m over 1990 - Suffolk has always been financially prudent and spending is just below the Standard Spending Assessment set by the Government. He then wrote about the Community Charge and local government reorganisation.

Dist Cllr M Shave

He thanked the meeting for returning him as a District Councillor in the recent elections. Please contact him with any problems. The Mid Suffolk levy for the Community Charge would be £94. He praised the Chief Finance Officer at M.S.D.C. £2m would be spent on Environmental Health. Half a million on Biffa and £72,000 on Pest Control. He did not know when the Crest Homes development would commence, there were several problems. The application regarding the Car Sales site at Mill Street had gone to appeal. The Chairman thanked Cllr Shave for attending the parish council meetings, & he was pleased that he had been re-elected.

Cllr Shave was asked what happens about the people who do not pay the Community Charge. He replied that M.S.D.C. would go through the legal process to get the money. There was about 2% who had not paid, about the same as the rates.

Freeman County Primary School Governors - Mrs J Jones

173 pupils on roll, same as last year. Six classes plus the nursery, no teaching changes, but the school cook for the past 29 years, Mrs Forsdyke had retired. A party & presentation was held to mark this. From Sept. 1990 children will transfer to Bacton Middle School, this will mean free transport. Any problems with transport should be reported to the Governors. Have written to the Area Education Officer concerning the condition of the nursery classrooms. They are now a priority of minor building works for 1991/92

The meeting was adjourned at this point for refreshments. The Chairman thanked Mrs Sapsed for these.

Boys Brigade - Mr Waller

A very detailed and sometimes humorous report on the activities that had taken place, including their annual camps.

Badminton Club - Mr Fairbourne, read by A Douglas

Now in its 11th year, meet Wednesday evenings during term time at the High School. 2 mixed doubles teams in the Bury & District League, the 'A' team winning promotion to Div. 3. Social events included Christmas Buffet and a Dinner.

Stowupland Under Fives - Mrs Jackson, read by Mr Lake

Going well, changed the toddlers from a Thursday to Wednesday, which was a good move as more parents attend. Many successful outings, having raised the money to pay for the trips. Not going to Easton Park Farm again though, due to a swarm of bees.

Stowupland Brownies - Mrs J Doward

The hot summer enhanced our activities, especially the pack holiday held in East Bergholt. Took part in District Carol singing, Mystery Challenge and the Annual Thinking Day celebrations. Pleased with the daffodils planted around the Village Sign, which we planted 18 months ago. Have a full pack of 24 girls. Meet on Mondays, during term time at the High School.

Over 60 Club - Mrs S Salmon, read by Mr Lake

Meet every second Tuesday of the month, new members always welcome. Celebrated the Clubs 40th Anniversary last June. Have been entertained by Stowupland High School and the Mother's Union. Outing to Gorleston in July.

Girls Brigade - Mrs Trevorrow

Successful year, have 38 members. Summer camp held in Walesby Forrest near Nottingham, good weather. Other activities included Beetle drives, jumble sales, and a sponsored silence. Some had met HRH Prince Edward in Chantry Park in connection with our Duke of Edinburgh award work. Also attended 8 Church parades.

Friends of Freeman County Primary School - Mr F Hollis

Have a very active Committee. Our main objective being the path from the rear of the Hall to the Primary School. We would be able to fund this project if it were agreed to.

Table Tennis Mr Pryke

A detailed account of the activities of the Club, also their positions in the league. New members would always be welcome. Meet in the Hall on Monday nights.

Stowupland W.I. - Mrs Tricker, read by Mr Lake

Would like to have more members, as there are only 27 and have had to cancel bus trips. Local events still supported, assisting the disabled, litter picking, collecting for cancer. Peggy Cole attended the open meeting to answer gardeners questions. Also had a slide show of National Trust properties.

Stowupland Bowls Club - Mrs Spencer

Very successful year. Membership of 76 - purchases the Tennis Club pavilion which has given much improved changing facilities. However the roof has sprung a leak, so increased effort to be made in fundraising events to replace the roof.

Playpark - Mr Aitchison

He was the Chairman of the recently formed group. He thanked the Parish Council for the grant for the base of the park. They had also been given some equipment from 'Kelly's Kitchen'. Just raised enough money for another piece of equipment. More members on the Committee would be welcome. Activities included Discos, Dances, Car Boot Sale, and cake stall in Stowmarket.

Stowupland Village Hall Committee - Mr Douglas, read by O Lake

Thanks to the Parish Council for grants towards new toilets & replacement windows. Hall has also been decorated. For the first time in 2 years now have a full compliment of officers on committee. Bookings have been higher than the previous year.

The Calthorpe Charity - Mr Carter

Receipts

Balance at Bank 1990	£	35.86
Capital Int. June		106.07
" Dec		106.07

£ 248.00

Payments

Cheques paid Dec 1990		
Single 29 @ £5	£	145.00
Double 5 @ £6		30.00
Over 60 Club		30.00
Balance at Bank 1991		43.00

£ 248.00

Stowupland Town lands Trust - Mr Scarlett

Receipts

Balance from 88/89	£	302.59
Interest Feb		74.79
" May		74.78
" Aug		76.95
" Nov		78.03
Non presented cheques 2 @ £5		10.00

£ 617.14

Payments

Cheques paid Dec 1990		
8 @ £6	£	48.00
31 @ £5		155.00
To P P C		69.35
Safe custody fee		10.00
Balance at Bank		334.79

£ 617.14

Stowupland Youth Club - Mrs Brace

The Youth Club had disbanded. No one had been found to take over. There was £300 available for Club.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.