

LOCAL HISTORY REPORT FOR HARTEST PC - APRIL 2017

Clubs and Activities – most take place in the Boxted and Hartest Institute

All information is saved in 2016 year box held by the Recorder

2016 was an important year for the whole Country because the Queen celebrated her 90th Birthday in June and Hartest responded to this amazing piece of history. The whole village plus those who lived in Somerton, Boxted and Fensted End plus Friends and visitors joined together on the 9th June on the suitably decorated Village Green to enjoy a bring and share village picnic and BBQ. The Village pump which was removed in the 1950's when mains water arrived, had been re-instated over the reopened well and was officially unveiled by Terry Waite. Souvenir coins were available to buy as a memento of the day and a celebratory cake, cleverly decorated with the Union flag made out of strawberries, blueberries and cream was cut and distributed to all. In the Church the organ was played to entertain visitors, who also enjoyed a flower festival and art exhibition. After a peal of bells had been rung visitors were invited to look at the bell tower and to try their hand at ringing! Sadly the weather brought the festivities to an abrupt end at 4pm but not after everyone had a good time. However some stalwarts tucked themselves under available shelters and continued enjoying themselves well into the evening!

The Hartest and District Women's Institute Met on the first Thursday of each month through the year. There were approximately 26 members, some from Whepstead who joined after their branch had closed. Activities ranged from interesting speakers to the hosting the High Suffolk Group evening when an auctioneer as the speaker did evaluations on interesting antiques brought to the meeting by each WI group.

Mrs Pat Tebbit a Hartest Member celebrated her 90th birthday with the Queen and was presented with a special cake in May.

Carpet Bowls Club Meet weekly in the Institute with an average of 16 members playing. The year is also enjoyed by the Group and their Partners with lunches, BBQ's and Christmas party.

Children's Club – This group is fairly well supported and meets every two weeks.

Art Club – This club is well supported with active teaching by an Artist. For the cooler days they meet in the Institute and in the summer out of doors. An exhibition was held on Fete day and for the celebration of the Queens 90th Birthday

Friends of Hartest Church. This group continues to raise money to protect the fabric of All Saints Church, a Grade 1 listed building. The fund raising activities included a monthly 50-50 draw, a history lecture by Clive Paine, a musical evening by a visiting Choir, a gig by a Group called The Emergers and a Harvest supper. A library corner has been established where books are available for lending or buying. Arranged by Author, the charge is 50p per book and on average £10 is raised each month for the funds.

Boxted and Hartest Institute Charity Committee Of which there are 13 members are responsible for the good running and letting of the Hall to groups and individuals but also fundraising. Annually the Eastern Angles Theatre Company visit and this year brought the production of "Somewhere in England" to the Village. Another successful fund raising initiative continues to encourage people to donate their small change in specially labelled jam jars! Since February 2015 this scheme has raised over £900. The building was also used as a polling station again this year.

Gardening Club - Meet monthly in the Institute, with interesting speakers. They also have two garden visits in the summer, a vegetable and produce show in the autumn and end the year with a Christmas meal. There is a membership of at least 50 people.

Web Site and Businesses - The village web site www.hartest.com is supported by the Parish Council and offers a free facility for all residents and businesses.

The Crown Public House continues to trade, as does Clarkes the Butchers. Other trades operating are:- The Garage, Organic Vegetable box scheme, Cabinet Maker, Konrath & Goode builders, a Cello/ Violin Bow maker plus other businesses found on the web site. Modece Architects have re-located to Bury St. Edmunds and another Architect Firm have moved in to Fosters Buildings. There are four working Farms locally, plus one who hires out Agricultural Equipment. The information in this section may not be complete.

Hartest Cafe – Which was commenced to raise money for preschool and the School, has sadly discontinued because of the lack of support and the change of circumstance of the organisers.

Farmers Market - A Farmers and Craft Market which is organised by two Friends is held monthly in the Institute on the 1st Saturday. It has increased in popularity during the year with 20 tables being hired and at least 120 people attending each time.

Houses bought and sold - 11 houses were bought and sold during the year. With planning permission to demolish a small bungalow along Somerton Road, a large house has been built to replace it. The same scenario is also taking place to a property in the Lawshall Road.

Deaths - There were no deaths during the year actually in the Village but two interments took place in the Cemetery of people connected to the Village.

Births - The actual numbers are unknown – possibly three. The population of young people appears to be growing. Actual numbers will be available in the Neighbourhood plan when it is published.

Road works - The local roads were temporarily closed three times for work again this year.

Parish Council - Although there should be 7 members on the Parish Council, currently only 6 people are elected / co-opted and there continues to be a long term vacancy. Through the year the PC maintain the grass cutting of the Green and the Cemetery. Also they have supported a recently formed highways Group of residents from The Row because of increasing concern about Pedestrian Safety in the narrow points of the B1066 where a house on the road edge continues to be damaged by passing traffic. The plan for “shared space” was formulated with SCC and as a result the central white line was removed and white hatched lines placed at the side of the road which guides vehicles away from the road edge and the house that gets damaged. This scheme should make it safer for Pedestrians where there is no footpath.

Planning applications - 7 planning applications were considered through the year. This again was for extensions to small houses and some for alterations to either listed and unlisted buildings. There were two major applications, one for a green field site alongside the Lawshall Road for 6 houses. This was refused because the site was deemed unsuitable. The second site was near Burnt House Farm a listed building, opposite Pear Tree Farm and next to the land with the lake which was reported last year. This application was for four large houses on a site where currently a Bungalow is situated. This application was refused because of the dominance and impact of the development on the site and would not be in keeping with the finalised Neighbourhood plan. A second application was submitted with three four bed roomed houses plus a large cart lodge adjoining one of the properties and that too has been refused on the same grounds.

Hartest Neighbourhood Plan Commenced three years ago the plan continues to be formed and community involvement is encouraged. There was a Public Meeting in March and the plan will be finalised and submitted in early spring 2017 following a further planned Public consultation. The plan will include a complete profile of the Village both historically, currently and plans for the future.

General and District Elections James Cartlidge Remains elected as M.P. for South Suffolk held a constituency surgery at Cockfield in March. James Long remains District Councillor and Richard Kemp as County Councillor. The Election for the Police and Crime Commissioner took place in May and the EU Referendum in June.

Long Melford Horse Charity ride – This will be its last ride to come through the Hartest, stopping at the Crown en route, for refreshment.

All Saints Church - Three Hartest Charities, namely Sparkes Charity, John Corder Charity and Thomas Wrights Charity are administered by three Trustees. Decisions are made to award small donations with a limited income. The Village continue to commemorate those who died in the 1st world war, a tribute is placed in the CONTACT the Glem Valley magazine, in the appropriate month. In conjunction with this a bell is tolled, in the evening on the date and the appropriate year.

The Church with the School, planned and held the annual fete on the Green on August Bank holiday Monday. It was opened by Terry Waite who is a resident in the Village.

The Church is a stopping off point for the Historic Churches Bike ride

Hartest Church of England Primary School - A Fathers day took place again this year.

The Children took an active role by the War memorial on November 11th

Photos of the Children were printed in the EADT on 16th August and on the 8th and 18th October.

Gifford's Hall Vineyard - Received many accolades for their wines and an article was published in the EADT 30th August which included them.

Seniors Christmas Dinner at the Crown Public House.- For many years a free Christmas dinner has been provided for the retired and those who live alone, which was quite pertinent when for many, incomes were poor. Paid for by fund raising through the year, it has been decided that the meal in 2015 would be the last one, however a new committee was formed and a most enjoyable meal was enjoyed by 80 people in December.

Film Club - This well established group meet each month during the winter in the Institute. It is well attended and they enjoy the showing of specialised films.

Singing Group - This takes place once a month on a Saturday morning in the Institute and is led by an invited choir master. Between 15/ 30 people attend each time.

Circle Dancing - This initiative was sponsored by SCC to help people keep fit. It was not well supported and the Tutor had to stop it as it would not have been financial viable once the grant support had been withdrawn.