

Neatishead, Irstead & Barton Turf Community Heritage Group - Annual Report October 2022

It has been a difficult year for everyone on many fronts but The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations was an occasion to celebrate her 70th year on the throne. Our three villages were no exception with Neatishead Parish Council + Barton Turf & Irstead Parish Council inviting other village groups to work together to organise some appropriate celebrations. NIBCHG were asked to contribute and the subject of '70 Years of Village Events' seemed a good title to start with. It did involve many hours of research, looking through the NIB Archive, our own Archive as well as asking people for their memories and photos. On Sunday 5th June, after a grey start, The Street in Neatishead was filled with tables, chairs, nearly 200 people, music, laughter and picnic hampers filled with food and drinks for the Big Lunch Street Party. This was followed with tea and cakes, the Ukulele Band and our exhibition at the New Victory Hall in the afternoon.

The Platinum Jubilee was a once in a lifetime celebration – we have been privileged to be part of it. The exhibition was extensive and was put together in such a way that small sections of it could be displayed at the following Farmers' Markets (now renamed the Community Market & Café).

Like many others, we were of course, very saddened at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, after a lifetime of service, and paid tribute to her at the Community Market in September where we watched the Proclamation of Charles as our new King, and also at our Jubilee exhibition held last Sunday on 16th October.

Because of our Jubilee Project, the work on our own NIBCHG Archive was put on hold. The plus side of the project is that it is a whole archive on its own. We have now just restarted work on our own Archive and this must be a priority for the coming year as the Community Archive Project organised by the Norfolk Record Office is about to come to a close.

Although our Archive is still very much work in progress, we have all learned a lot through the events and training about the care and cataloguing of archive material, that have been held during very difficult circumstances over the past three years. The Norfolk Record Office will be taking over the provision of some of the support initiated by the Community Archive Project for all Community Heritage Groups across the county.

Following last year's AGM we were very pleased to welcome Monica as our new secretary and would like to thank her for keeping me on track this past year. We would also like to thank Maria who offered to take over the role of Treasurer from Gareth – he was most grateful and so was I. Changing signatories with the bank has

not proved easy and we are still not quite there yet but I must thank both Maria and Gareth for persevering with this.

Earlier this year I approached the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum to ask if they would like to display our copy of John Yaxley's War Time Incidents Map. Sadly the Manager left shortly after I had spoken to her, but I am pleased to say that the map is now on display in the Neatishead Room there with Duncan Hale-Sutton's associated research into Aerial Attacks and Aircraft Crashes during WW2. I am informed that it has proved an interesting addition to the museum.

There have been a number of other changes to some of the displays in the museum and Crumbs Café is now twice the size it used to be. I have met the new Manager and hope perhaps the group might make another visit there next year.

A few years ago Barton Turf & Irstead Parish Council asked if NIBCHG would like to take over the old Telephone Box adjacent to Barton Common in which to put a display. This was put on hold for various reasons, until now. The NIB Wildlife Friendly Villages Group have instigated the Barton Turf Village Pond Restoration Project in partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Barton Turf & Irstead Parish Council. They offered us the opportunity to be put in a quote for an interpretive display in the Telephone Box as part of their bid for funding to undertake the Restoration Project. We are very pleased to say the bid has been successful, work had started on the project and we will be working with a designer on a display about Barton Turf and its history for the phone box.

With the uncertainty surrounding COVID and peoples' attendance at indoor presentations, we decided to take the group outside and organised four walks in search of our Parish Boundaries. Two of these took place on the hottest days of the year but were much enjoyed by everyone and all culminated with tea, cucumber (and marmalade) sandwiches and delicious cakes. Thank you to those committee members who welcomed us to their homes for this.

Last month, finally, after three postponements, our trip to Ypres took place, lead and organised by Gareth. It is difficult to find the most appropriate adjectives to describe the trip when you come so close to the reality of so many lives lost. It was poignant, memorable, fascinating and Gareth's knowledge remarkable. Thank you Gareth for such a brilliant and informative trip.

Finally a huge thank you to all the committee for their support during this year without whom all these events and displays would not have taken place. We now look forward to 2023 and the celebration of our 10th Birthday.

Claire Penstone-Smith, Chair, NIBCHG, October 2022