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Chairman’s Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Another year has passed and it is with great pleasure that I can take a brief look back over the year and mention one or two of the various highlights before passing over to the individual societies to present their more detailed reports.

This time last year we were ‘looking forward’ to the resurfacing of the road through the village and listening to the promises made by Gigaclear to bring ultrafast broadband to the village tout de suite.

Well, one of these has happened at least – you will all recall the disruption and general disturbance, sometimes late into the night – as a result of the road resurfacing, but we now have a much improved surface as a result of a job well done.

Although welcomed by all, particularly cyclists, the new surface has led to an increase in speeding traffic without the potholes to slow motorists down.

As a result, we have embarked upon a speedwatch initiative to improve road safety, with groups of villagers monitoring speeds on a regular basis from a site in the centre of the village. (no doubt you will have spotted the hi-vis clad groups – they may look menacing, but that’s because they’re trying to multi task – operating the speed gun while reading number plates and trying to work out the make and model of the vehicle)

This has proved to be a fruitful exercise with a number of drivers recorded as travelling over the speed limit. Offending drivers are then contacted by the Police.

The promises made by Gigaclear on the other hand have not yet come to fruition. However, following a period of uncertainty, Gigaclear have recently assured us that their service will still be coming to Manuden following a period of problem-solving and administrative issues.

(In the meantime of course, BT have finally activated their Superfast service with much improved speeds – particularly for those who live close to the ‘green cabinet’ located by the school.)

The MVCC has had a successful year with many village events based there (here) and an ever increasing number of lettings for Weddings and Charity events. Everything from the Queen’s 90th birthday party to Scarecrows and the Musical Mayhem events organised by the Open Gardens team. It is proving to be a popular venue for fund-raising activities.

Talking of fund-raising, one of the successes of the year has been the Play park project – the new play area was opened in the summer and has been in constant use since. A great example of fund raising providing new facilities for the village. Congratulations to all those involved.

Thanks to all of those who participate in the clubs, societies and activities on offer in the village. Also to those who support the village in other ways – by monitoring drains, ditches, potholes, bins, trees etc and reporting issues to Uttlesford / Essex.

We saw the well-deserved recognition in the autumn of two of our village residents – Ian Priest and Valerie Bartram – both of whom were presented with Uttlesford Community Achievement awards to reflect their particular contributions to the village over a number of years.

Thanks as ever to Ray and Janice, our County and District councillors for their constant support and tenacity – we have seen on many occasions that approaching issues from all directions is often the best way to achieve results.

It is your energy and enthusiasm which make our village such a lovely place to live . With this in mind, Lizzie Mclean entered Manuden into the Essex Village of the Year competition – an ‘inspection’ took place on May 10th (?) and we eagerly await the outcome . This is not based on who has the best hanging baskets nor tidiest gardens, but more about the community spirit and the contributions made to the village by the various organisations. Thanks once again this year to Frank Bengtsen and Richard Dale-Cooke for the splendid crocus display

We had a very enthusiastic turn out for the village clean up – thanks to all who gave up their time to tidy up our streets. We always manage to uncover some unusual rubbish - I collected around a dozen wine / whisky bottles in Sheepcote Lane.

Last but not least, thanks to Charles, John as Vice Chair and all my fellow councillors for their contributions to the Parish Council, for willingly giving their time and energy to the village and for the passion with which they address the issues that arise throughout the year.

Let’s look forward to another busy and successful year.

Julie Kershaw

Manuden Village Community Centre - Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

It is now three years since the Manuden Village Community Centre first opened for business during which the Centre has continued to develop and become more widely known.

Bookings both inside and out have continued to increase in terms of both volume and use of the Centre. It is now the home of Manuden Football Club, Manuden Cricket Club, the Women’s Institute, the Friendship Club, Owlets, Brownies, Guides, Badminton Club, Karate, Short Mat Bowls, Table Tennis and a range of keep fit classes such as Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, Reshape, Wiggle/Wiggle (movement for pre-school children), Thrive, Flexible Strength and Circuit Classes.

Our unaudited accounts for the year to 31 December 2016 show that hiring income was £52,644 and, after adding donations and interest, our total income was £55,332. The standard recurring costs of running the Centre were £48,334 which meant there was a surplus of £6,998. By the time non-recurring costs were deducted, such as purchase of equipment (£2,913) and legal fees of £2,243 (setting up the Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust [the Charity] and merging the old village hall and playing field association charities),

the surplus was £1,842. We are pleased to have reached this position within the first three years of operation.

A total of £26,068 was donated to the Manuden Playpark Group - £20,000 from the Charity and £6,068 which had been transferred from the former Manuden Playing Fields Association. £13,157 was transferred from the old Village Hall charity and we finished the year with £133,455 in the bank. The final accounts will be available on both the Charity Commission and Companies House websites in due course.

The spacious facilities and well-equipped kitchen have continued to attract a wide range of bookings, including two weddings, five wedding receptions, dinners, ever popular children's parties, fundraising events and a wide range of other functions, including charity tribute nights, the very entertaining singalong evenings and the base for the popular Scarecrow Trail. In conjunction with the Parish Council, a second Christmas party for the village was enjoyed by many and we hope to arrange another one this Christmas. The Centre has also been the polling station for the European Referendum and Council Elections, and will be used for the General Election next month.

We were delighted when the Play Park opened with its wide range of equipment for children to enjoy and congratulate the Manuden Park Group on its achievement.

The Centre is an amenity for the use of Manuden residents and the surrounding areas. Chris Bailey will be happy to help anyone would like to start a club, society or activity, or arrange a one-off event such as a party, dinner, concert or meeting.

I would like to thank our manager Chris Bailey and our caretaker, Chris Hannington, for their invaluable contributions to the success of the Centre. Both regularly go 'above and beyond' to provide an excellent service. I would also like to thank all the voluntary members of the Management Committee for their hard work in the past year. Without all of these people, the Centre would simply not function. If anyone would like to help with the operation of the Centre, we are always looking for assistance so please contact us.

Barbara Cheney

Chair of the Management Committee

May 2017

MANUDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

I'm pleased to report that the Collaboration with Chrishall School has provided some much-needed stability in the management of Manuden School. This remains a formal but soft federation with both schools sharing one Head Teacher and one Deputy Head but retaining their separate governing bodies, funding and DofE identities. Mrs Bratley has made great progress at the school and we have seen a number of innovations introduced that have already worked well for Chrishall and similarly Manuden's strengths are being shared at Chrishall. One big thing that the children are all being encouraged to adopt is the "Growth Mindset". It is built around the principles of trying and using positive language to encourage them to persevere to overcome difficulties – "I can do this".

As well as the staff of the two schools being in regular contact and there are also plans to start to get the children more involved in each other's schools with shared events and regular digital communication. Watch this space!

It is clear that both schools are benefitting from the collaboration and also from additional local groups such as the School Led Improvement Partnership, the Uttlesford small school consortium and the Family

Sports Partnership. These groups of similarly placed, local schools offer invaluable support networks to the management and staff and help to share best practice and resources to improve education provision.

We welcomed Mr McDonald as the new Class 4 teacher in January and he settled into the Manuden family quickly. Among other things he, along with Mrs Tait, had been preparing the Year 6's for their SATs tests last week. We look forward to seeing their results in due course.

Manuden, like all schools, is facing some financial pressures. Recently, the relocation of a number of families has left our number on roll slightly reduced which does affect our funding and, of course, we have the on-going responsibility for an aging building. However, we have a comfortable cash surplus to draw upon and good insight into our costs and income. So, whilst education generally is facing a major challenge in this area, I believe that Manuden is well placed to weather the storm.

We continue to embrace the local environment with Welly Wednesdays as popular as ever in Class 1 and all the children have a wide range of opportunities both within and outside the normal curriculum to experience the world outside the classroom. Many of the trips and sporting events can only take place thanks to the support of parents, as well as staff, providing regular transport and supervision. Manuden continues to offer a plethora of sports – in just two weeks earlier this year the itinerary read, “swimming gala, an indoor athletics competition, daily ‘mile a day’, dance, golf, netball, gymnastics, tennis, karate, cross country and football clubs”! Thanks goes to everyone who help make it happen.

The school currently has a number of vacancies on the Governing Body and is looking for local individuals to join us. The role of School Governor does require a reasonable time commitment but does not require any special qualifications or experience. In fact, we need a range of different view-points to challenge and support the school effectively. You don't need to be a parent, just have a genuine interest in the school and the education of local children. For more information please contact me or the school office.

And finally I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the school for their resilience and professionalism particularly over the past couple of years. Change is never easy in any environment and Manuden School has had more than its fair share recently. I am delighted to see the Collaboration yielding great results and am looking forward to sharing in the successes over the coming years.

*John Oglesby
Chair of Governors
Manuden Primary School*

OWLETS PLAYGROUP REPORT TO PARISH MEETING

Owlets has continued to thrive this year. September is always a nervous time for any baby and toddler group as children go off to school and pre-school settings, however, we have welcomed lots of new faces, many of whom have become established regulars. Numbers vary but we average around 15 children on a weekly basis which we understand is high for a toddler group. Our move to the early time of 9.30-11am has probably added to our numbers, allowing carers to come straight from school drop off and further allowing children to get home in good time for lunch and afternoon naps. Word of mouth, a strong core of regulars, and a widening of activities has likely further increased numbers.

Over the last year we have started welcoming outside businesses to provide activities at sessions. These have included Phoenix Cards, Usborne Books and Crazy Ceramics. All our outside visitors have been impressed with uptake and have booked or made return visits. In addition, we continue to maintain relations with Spangles Children's Centre in Stansted from whom we borrow play equipment and offer a mechanism of referral for their services. Having now found our feet, we offer a special activity most weeks using arts and crafts, baking and physical movement. We were delighted to be involved in the Village Picnic,

creating our own unique window display. Each week, we continue to offer a healthy sack and drinks for children and adults. We also continue to finish our sessions with music time.

We have worked hard over the past year to build up more financial security for the group through some very welcome donations from other village groups and our own fundraising activities. In order to keep the sessions at an affordable level for carers, these additional sources of funding are essential to the running of our group. We are currently exploring funding options with Waitrose and the Essex Community Association to try and update some of our equipment to include sensory toys for babies.

The last and current terms have seen us overcome logistical issues. Emma (Deputy Chair) has returned to work but continues to assist with set up and behind the scenes preparation and administration despite being unable to actually attend sessions with her daughter. Leni (Chair) and Nerys (Treasurer) have also in the last few weeks had or are imminently expecting babies. We are incredibly lucky to welcome Jo Bass to the group for the summer term who has enthusiastically stepped in to help run the group during this time. We are also grateful to our established regulars who frequently help out with set up and clear up – in particular Hanna, Charlotte and Eileen. Sheila (our “Mother Owl”) continues to attend our sessions every week to provide essential help with snacks and clearing up and a friendly face at the drinks hatch. We remain indebted to her.

Our sessions are designed to meet our aims of providing a stimulating and nurturing environment for children to play in as well as offering a supportive meeting place for carers to come together. We would like to thank all those who attend for making this possible.

Leni, Emma and Nerys (Owlets Team)

MANUDEN GUIDES REPORT TO PARISH MEETING

The Guide unit was formed in 1980.

At the moment our group is small, with only 12 members aged 11 to 15, and we would love to have some more girls join us. We have a new Leader-in-training who was previously a Guide and Ranger in Manuden, and 2 Young Leaders who were Guides, so we have plenty of help to take on more girls.

The weekly activities are decided and often planned and organised by the girls, following the Guiding ethos of being a ‘girl-led’ organisation. They include sports such as table tennis, badminton, and rounders; Ready, Steady, Cook type competitions; hiking; water activities; cinema visits; as well as traditional Guiding activities.

We organise residentials in various venues, for example, Guiding properties, camp sites, and our own Community Centre.

Our yearly programme has, for many years, included ice-skating in London at Christmas and the Big Gig pop concert, exclusively for members of Girlguiding, at Wembley. We join with other groups to celebrate Guide Thinking Day and other special occasions, and take part in events in our Manuden community.

If you would like to join us, please register with Girlguiding.org.uk, contact Glynis Prothero on 01279 814145 or glynisprothero@aol.com, or ask any of the girls.

Glynis Prothero

Manuden Brownies Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

The current Brownie unit was registered in 1972 so celebrates 45 years this year.

We have 16 girls, aged 7 to 10, with 3 more due to join in September, a new leader beginning her training, and a Young Leader who hopes to become a leader soon.

Our weekly meetings cover a wide range of activities including walks, crafts, cooking, exploring, games, earning badges, learning and trying new things.

We go on visits, recently to Hatfield Forest for Den-building, take part in events with other Brownies and Guides in the area, and regularly go on Pack Holidays, spending time together cooking and looking after ourselves, but having time to try such things as go-karting, archery, water zorbing and climbing.

We have lots of fun whilst trying to keep our Brownie promise.

In order to join, you need to register with Girlguiding.org.uk; but please ask for further information from Glynis Prothero on 01279 814145 or at glynisprothero@aol.com, or ask one of the Brownies.

Glynis Prothero

REPORT FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH, MANUDEN

SERVICES have had a small change in that the Evensong has reverted to Matins on the third Sunday of each month. This change is so that all the afternoons can be free for either Messy Church or Family service.

Messy Church was introduced in September. It involves a range of craft activities with a short religious story and song on a theme followed by tea. Glynis Prothero leads a team of volunteers who help with the crafts, making cakes and serving tea. This is a whole afternoon and so on alternate months we have the simpler Family Service. By having them on a Sunday afternoon the attendance is very encouraging.

In Lent, Manuden hosted a weekly Compline service and many parishioners attended from around the benefice. The Lent Course at Clavering Christian Centre was poorly attended, Tuesday being a day when many people have other commitments. The Maundy Thursday Supper at Clavering is always popular and the Easter services were well attended.

In June Ken Pratley led a Choral Evensong ably supported by Ian Priest and the Manuden Singers. The Christmas Services were very well attended and the Crib Service was particularly well attended, led by Valerie Bartram. Owing to the pressure on Margaret for Christmas Day, Margaret took a Holy Communion Service at 10pm on Christmas Eve and then Ken Pratley led a Family Christmas Day service. This gave everyone a choice of when to attend and the comments were very favourable.

A new Bible Study group is planned to start in January with parishioners from Manuden and Clavering.

Mums and Chums, held on Monday mornings in term time, continues to thrive with many friendships made by both adults and children.

The Village School has held their Christmas and Easter Services in the church.

This year there have been 2 Weddings, 6 Burials and 6 Baptisms.

Manuden Singers held two concerts in the church in aid of local charities.

PCC – the PCC has been grateful to Matthew Hardy for taking on the role of Treasurer, but was sad that Simon George's new job means that he is out of the country during the week and so less available. We have been very pleased to welcome Leni Croker and Nerys Barrow on the PCC during the year. Their interest is in work with families and they share a place. New members of the PCC are always welcome.

CHURCH – The condition of the roofs of the tower and north chapel are in a serious condition putting the church on the At Risk register. The PCC has started a process of involving the wider community in fundraising the necessary £120 000 for the repairs. The condition of the organ is deteriorating, but a separate project will be required to raise the £50 000 required to restore it and the PCC feels that the roof is a more urgent priority.

CHURCHYARD—both the top churchyard and the lower one have received very favourable comments and this is due to the work done by the Community Service Workers and Ace of Spades. Thanks must go to the Parish Council which continues to help to fund the grass cutting.

A faculty application for the restoration of the war memorial has been sent and we have been granted permission to cut down the large tree that obscures the memorial and for the History Society to have it cleaned and renovated.

THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION – This replaced Manuden in May. As it was a special year a large celebration was held at the Community Centre. It included an Afternoon Tea, games from the fifties and the usual stalls, etc. Although the event was not in the churchyard the profits were divided between activities and the church.

Margaret Davis - Vicar

BELL RINGERS REPORT TO PARISH MEETING

The Tuesday evening bell ringing practise sessions continue to be well attended, attracting ringers from a wide surrounding area. The popularity of the practice evenings is a combination of the high quality of our bells and the experienced ringers who attend. This enables ringers of all levels to develop their skills with excellent guidance and support. It is also an ideal forum for prospective ringers to learn to ring the bells.

Ringling our bells also attracts a number of visiting bands of ringers who come from all over the country and are of varying levels of ability.

Sadly though we do not have sufficient numbers of local ringers to enable the bells to be rung for Sunday services, the object of having bells in Church Towers, and a recent survey showed that while Manuden is in the top 3 towers in the north west area of Essex for the popularity and quality of their practice sessions we are at the bottom of the list for service ringing. Other Church Towers in the area that struggle to hold practice sessions are still managing to ring for their Sunday services.

Each year we appeal for more parishioners to learn to ring the bells with very limited success, currently there are only 4 Manuden parishioners who can be called upon to ring. In the past emphasis has been placed on the high quality of the training available on a Tuesday evening but this might be the problem. Perhaps Tuesday evenings are not a convenient time or there is a shyness about learning in front of skilled ringers. To address this we are prepared to undertake basic, introductory training of new ringers at other times, still with a skilled tutor.

The first time two of the bells in the tower at Manuden were heard ringing in the village was 1620, the year Mayflower set sail for America. Two more were added in 1835 and another in 1866. In 1985 all the bells were taken down, retuned and then remounted in the tower with the addition of a sixth bell.

It would be wonderful if this year we could attract at least two more Manuden parishioners to learn to ring and to reintroduce ringing before Sunday services. If anyone, but particularly anyone living in Manuden, would like to learn to ring church bells, or wants more information about bell ringing please contact the Manuden Tower Captain, Ken Pratley, on 01279 814466 or e-mail kenofman@btinternet.com

Ken Pratley , Tower Captain

The Friendship Club – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

The Club currently has 18 members, aged mostly in their 70s and 80s.

We enjoy one another's company at our monthly meetings in the Club Room at the MVCC, on every third Tuesday of the month, from 2.30 to 4pm.

We also held other activities, such as Tea Parties in members' houses, and Pub Lunches, including our Christmas Lunch. We also have visited shows at the Rhodes Centre, and supported local events such as the Fun Run (thank-you for your financial support) and Manuden-in-May.

Anyone interested in joining the club is invited to come as a guest to try it out, but please phone first, on 01279 814145.

Bill Prothero *Chairman*

Manuden Singers and Players– Report to the Annual Parish Meeting



The year since our report in May 2016 has been shorter for us in that we have performed only two concerts instead of three: our 'Village Glyndebourne' picnic concert fell victim to a number of other commitments over the summer. The year was none the less challenging and interesting for that however. For our autumn term we combined the two great musical festivals of St Cecilia's Day (the patron saint of music, 22 November) and Christmas to perform works appropriate to each. For the Saint herself we performed the Mass in her honour by the mid-19th Century French composer Charles Gounod – well known in Britain for his opera 'Faust' – but for not much else. This full-length liturgical mass, whilst musically relatively straightforward, is characterised by some exceptionally beautiful writing for chorus and soloists and, although previously unknown to our singers, players and audience alike, was immediately appealing to everyone, capturing affections and earning enthusiastic compliments all round; clearly a composer to

return to some time. Our soloists were Sophie Cotton, Soprano, Jeff Phillips, Tenor and James Priest, Bass. The Festive second half of the programme included items from Vaughan Williams's Nativity Pageant 'The First Nowell'; a lovely re-working of traditional English carols into the 'Christmas Day' choral fantasia by Gustav Holst, and two lively carol arrangements by Christopher Brown, capturing in his unique style the joy and sheer fun of Christmas. We were wonderfully supported again by the Manuden Players, who had their moments too in performances of Handel's 'Queen of Sheba' overture, Vaughan Williams's beautiful fantasia on 'Greensleeves', and Brown's Christmas Medley, comprising no fewer than 34 different carol tunes!

April brought us to perhaps our greatest (of many) challenges to date in the magnificent Requiem by Brahms, one of the greatest and best loved works in the choral repertoire – but also one of the most formidable. What made it possible for our limited numbers and performance space was the discovery of a version for small orchestra: the full works would have drowned out everything else! We were again indebted to the Manuden Players for their wonderful support. The work makes exceptional demands on the singers not only for the complexity of the writing but also the sheer stamina required for such long, unbroken choruses. James Priest again gave accomplished accounts of the two bass arias, and we were pleased to welcome Emily Yarrow again for her lovely soprano aria. The performance was very warmly received by a full and enthusiastic House.

Following our practice over many years, the proceeds of both concerts were donated to charities. At Christmas we supported Much Hadham – based World Child Cancer, with its worldwide focus on supporting developing countries' generally under-funded programmes for treating cancer in children, a condition often overlooked by the greater focus on malaria. For this we raised £1150. In April we donated to Saffron Walden charity Support4Sight (see photograph), which does what it says on the label, to the benefit of many sight-impaired people in our district. As you can see on the cheque this organisation benefited to the tune of some £1000. A proud moment came in November last year when our music-making and fundraising were recognised with an Uttlesford Community Award.

We have now started work on our Village Glyndebourne picnic concert programme for this year which as usual will feature the lighter side of the choral repertoire with music from the shows, and this time also featuring the Cambridge-based ensemble Corona Brass. This will take place in the gardens of Wilford House, 70 The Street on Sunday 23rd July at 6.30pm. Bring your picnic baskets and 'clobber' for a relaxed and enjoyable evening's musical fresco (or in the church if wet!). And this time charity will begin at home, with proceeds going to the much needed repair of our beloved church's roof.

We say this every year but this is the right forum for saying it: we are always pleased to hear from people who would like to join us. So many new folk have come to settle in our lovely village and we know there are musicians amongst you: here is where you can join some very challenging but enjoyable music making amongst friends and neighbours. Get in touch with Ian Priest on 01279 647050 or itpriest@outlook.com, whether you would like to join us or would just like information about our performances—we will put you on our mailing list

And finally we would like to thank you all for your continued support, and hope we can continue to count on it for our ventures over the coming years.

Ian Priest. Director of the Manuden Singers

MANUDEN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Manuden Junior Football Club, all round this has been a good season for the Juniors.

The Minis (5 to 8 year olds) have particularly enjoyed themselves during training and the friendly games against local opposition.

All the other age groups have done well, winning many games.

A special mention must be made for the Under 12s, with one game left in the season they faced Stevenage Academy side on Sunday 14th May.

A hard fought game, and the final score was Manuden 6, Stevenage 4. which resulted in Manuden winning the league this year.

My thanks go to all our coaches,for their time and effort both on and off the pitch,and a special thank you to Andy Macmillan for his sterling work as Secretary and Treasurer.

Vaughan Atkinson

Chairman

MANUDEN UNITED FC – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Manuden United 1st Team have had a very successful season. We won 11 games, Drawn 3 and not lost a game all season.

Manuden have won "The North West Essex Premier League" ending 4 points ahead of local rivals Bishop's Stortford Swifts.

On the 13th April we faced Grange United at Bishops Stortford's Woodside Park Ground in front of over 300 spectators.

It was a great game and Manuden lifted the "Premier League Cup" following a 4 - 0 Win.

It has taken us 4 years but we now have done the double.

The lads have had a really good season and their dedication has paid off.

My thanks go to Chris Rowe who has served us well for 38 years as Player, Manager and Head Coach.

MANUDEN UNITED RESERVES

Our reserve side who play on the Quendon pitch have had a mixed season, winning 9 games, losing 10 and drawing 1.

We have struggled to field a side on a few occasions, but we finished Mid-Table.

Vaughan Atkinson - Chairman

MANUDEN GOLF SOCIETY – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

The Society is open to golfers with a connection to Manuden and in the 2016 Season 33 members (16 ladies and 17 men) played in one or more of the 5 golf events. Handicaps ranged from 10 up to 36 so we are a very open and friendly group.

In 2016 we held 3 individual stableford competitions, which were won by Frank Bengtsen (Spring Cup at Brickendon), Sally Moser (Summer Cup at Toot Hill) and Trevor Downham (Autumn Cup at East Herts). In addition to prizes for the overall winner, there were prizes for best score by a lady and by a man , as well as nearest the pin on each day. The Reed Trophy for the best 2 combined scores was won by Trevor Downham. The other 2 competitions were the annual match against Quendon & Rickling and the Christmas Cracker, which took place on a surprisingly glorious December morning.

Each of these events were organised by a Captain of the Day and our thanks go to Mark Summers, Sally Moser, John Burgess, Trevor Downham and Chris Yates. The last event of the year was the Christmas Party, which included the Society's AGM, and was held at The Bury, Little Barn, with many thanks to Fiona and Frank Bengtsen. At the AGM we agreed to change one venue Brickenden for a return to Gog Magog Golf Club. The new season is already underway with the Spring Cup at Gog Magog, on 8th May. This is to be followed with the match v Quendon & Rickling at Saffron Walden, on Thursday 1st June; the Summer Cup at Toot Hill, on Wednesday 14th June and the Autumn Cup at East Herts, on Monday 18th September. The first tee time for all these matches is 1 pm, followed by supper and prize giving and where guests and non-playing partners are welcome. The Christmas Cracker first tee time is 10 am on Wednesday 29th November at Saffron Walden Golf Club and the Christmas Party and AGM is again at the Bury on Friday 1st December at 7.30 pm.

However the big news is that, for the first time, the Society is to go on tour. Thanks to our negotiator, Steve Lawrence, lately of Manuden, we are off to the Lake Hotel, Killarney, from which base on the 6th, 7th & 8th of October 17 of us will play 3 excellent local courses. There are 4 non-players travelling and they will be looked after by Phil Lawrence. So exciting times ahead and hopefully some decent photographs!

Jeff Attfield

Manuden WI Committee Report June 2016 – May 2017

Founded in 1919, Manuden WI continues to flourish, with 45 members. A number of new members are younger and this brings balance to our Institute. We continue to benefit from our use of the Manuden Village Community Centre, which is a great space for meetings and other events. Bridget Pulyk has set up a Facebook page. It links with other local WIs and is useful for promotion of events and for new potential members to view.

Our meetings covered a wide range of topics, from 'All you have to do is Try' by Mike Daligan, through 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' by Hazel Mander (with puppy Roxy, our cutest guest speaker this year at least) to 'Pole Training Fitness' by Faye Brownjohn. Tracey Mackness's talk 'Queen of Crime to Entrepreneur' was inspiring: from a difficult start and nearly 10 years in prison Tracey picked herself up and now owns and runs the Giggly Pig company. Members queued to buy her bacon and sausages. We had a very creative talk in February, which was 'Willow Weaving in the Landscape' by Deb Hart. Deb demonstrated how to make a willow tepee for climbing plants and we raffled the product. It was the year's best-attended talk.

In September the committee had a break when Lesley Ingham and Glynis Prothero arranged the meeting. The guest speaker was Lesley's quilting and patchwork teacher, Debbie Gair. Debbie told us how she got started on her crafting journey and showed many wonderful examples of items she had made.

The July Garden Meeting was held at Cobbs by kind invitation of The President, Nikki Atkinson. We enjoyed a garden quiz and a cream tea in her beautiful garden. Jo Trueman ran a produce stall and we had a raffle, the proceeds of which went to the Campaign for Denman College (the WI teaching facility in Oxfordshire).

In December we held our Christmas Party in the Community Centre. The event was fun and the Secret Santa raffle raised £78 for the ACWW. It was however marred by poor catering from Small but Perfect, which had changed hands after our booking had been taken. A letter of complaint was sent and 2017's Christmas Party will not be catered by SbP! The WI Carols on Christmas Eve outside the Yew Tree were well-attended and raised (the sum collection was topped up by WI members at the January meeting) £240 for the Herts & Essex Air Ambulance.

Regular fortnightly meetings of our Ramblers and Craft Groups continue, with the Bookworms meeting monthly. The Ramblers went on their usual two-night walking holiday, this time in May, in Norfolk. Weekly Pilates classes have ended due to poor attendance amongst other reasons.

Susan Preston visited a number of other local WIs as part of her role of Resolution Representative at the NFWI Annual Meeting. One idea that we adopted as a result was a monthly competition. We kicked off with 'Best Hat, Decorated or Not' at the Garden Meeting. Other competitions have included 'Best Home-made Easter decorated biscuit', 'Best Hallowe'en Mask' and 'Funniest Christmas Card received by a member'. Points are awarded to winners and to all entrants and a prize will be awarded at the Garden Meeting.

Susan hosted a New Members' meeting in July in her garden. It was a social event with information about the WI from Pat Pratley.

In the wider village, the biggest event of the year for us was again Manuden (usually Manuden in May), but last year the event was in June for the Queen's Birthday Celebrations. We ran a stall at the Community Centre selling produce and lucky dips, making a profit of £212.50, of which £100 was donated to the church. Members again helped marshal the September fun run. Members assisted the St Clare's Charity Lunch (held at the Community Centre in October) by selling tickets.

Away from Manuden we have visited the Quaker Tapestry in August, went to the V&A exhibition 'Undressed, a Brief History of Underwear' and went punting on the Cam. Various theatre trips were organised, including Guys and Dolls. Several members attended the Essex County Annual Meeting in March. We continue to subscribe to the Uttlesford Community Bus Service. As above, Susan attended the NFWI Annual Meeting, which was held in Brighton in June.

In August several members attended the Ugley Group Meeting, along with members of Elsenham, Ugley, Stansted and Berden WIs. The entertainment was the Pulsatillas. We ran the stall and the competition.

Essex Federation of Women's Institutes, and Denman College, hold many classes and demonstrations. Denman courses attended by members in the last year include Watercolour painting, Silver Clay, beading and Jacobean Crewel Embroidery. At FEWI members attended Getting to know your Sewing Machine, Patchwork Book Cover, Xmas Table Decoration, Ikebana, Creative Accessories and Rag Rugging.

As we move into the new WI year of 2017/2018 we have a strong membership. Very sadly our previous President, Joanna McKee, passed away in the Summer after a battle with cancer. The then Vice-Presidents, Nikki Atkinson and Mary Bevan, had taken over from Joanna during that year and Nikki continued as President for 2016/2017. In memory of Joanna we collected money for the St Clare Hospice at her request.

Susan Preston, Secretary

Footpaths – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Our Manuden footpaths continue to be in good order. There have been one or two highlighted over the past year that have needed attention, but these have been, or will shortly be attended to. A local landowner and myself have been making our way across all of the local footpaths on a regular basis which has been very enjoyable as well as productive! Many thanks to the landowners for their continued support.

We have liaised with Berden regarding cross village boundary footpaths and they are keen to add one or two that are nearer to them onto their P3 cutting scheme, as they are mainly used by Berden folk. We are happy with this. I hope to make my way over to the Berden footpath areas soon.

Please feel free to email or telephone me with any queries or concerns.

Katrina Hardy May 2017

Manuden & Berden History Society – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Our meetings recently have been rather disrupted by our desire to complete the application for our HLF Grant to renovate and restore the WW1 War Memorial in the churchyard and arranging the subsequent other activities involved in the project.

January 2016. There was no meeting in January due inclement weather and illness.

February was a talk by Paul Winspear the Editor the Herts & Essex Observer, called a Window on the World, 150 years of this Newspaper. What we didn't know at the time was that it was the end of an era, and the paper is now published in Hertford with a whole new team.

March 2016 our speaker was Ben Copsey, Conscientious Objection, and the view from Essex, which covered the subject from the point of view of the Objectors – and included those from religious groups such as the Friends (Quakers) in Saffron Walden and Stansted. Those who agreed to work behind the lines were allowed to do so, delivering items and handling casualties or driving ambulances. Those who refused point-blank were set to work on the land, or put in jail if they even refused.

April 2016 We met in Berden Church room to hear Michael Rimmer the expert on Angel Roofs explain the history and significance of these beautiful church roofs.

May 2016. Our outing this month was a tour of the Angel Roofs in the area. This included Newport, Clavering and Furneux Pelham Churches. 'Roofs' in this instance means the interior of the church, where the angels appear on the joists supporting the roof. Binoculars were in order to see some of them.

We then closed down until September. But -.....

In July 2016 I was given the opportunity to look around Broom Farm before it was sold and took some photographs of the building inside and out, for the records.

There was no dig in the village this year as we have now completed the project for Cambridge Archaeology and all the reports are in.

In September 2016 our first meeting of the new programme took place in Berden Church Room, and was taken by Mark Trapmore, when we had a visit from Leah from Saffron Walden Museum who brought some of the items held for Manuden in their collection. Richard also brought in a couple of items he had found in the fields around Manuden which we could examine.

In October our activity was Field Walking on the field behind the old Methodist Chapel, and alongside the houses in Mailers Lane and Stewarts Way. We knew that there had been a large brick structure on this site – known as Nailey Hall.

In November Fiona Bengtsen gave a talk on Understanding Place-Names, explaining how all these peculiar names have arisen and explaining how to de-code them.

Our Christmas outing in 2016 was to Bishop's Stortford Museum, which is now under the direction of a new Museum Director Chris Lydamore who has ideas to revamp the exhibits so a further visit may be necessary in the future. This was followed by a meal at Cote, in Bishops Stortford.

Our outing this May 2017 – which is the last event in our September to May Calendar – will be to Hadstock to view the Church there and hear about its connection to the famous battle of Assendon . and also a quick trip over to Bartlow Hills to see the 45 ft Roman Graves and Medieval Church with newly restored wall paintings.

Fiona Bengtsen - Chair

Manuden Open Gardens and Musical Mayhem

Manuden Open Gardens has become a popular biannual event and next year's is set for the 8th of July 2018. Gardeners are encouraged to open their gardens whether large or small, formal or cottage style. We have more recently had a display from bee keepers, we nearly always have a local art exhibition and naturally great teas and refreshments!

Funds are raised in aid of the village organisations. Last year raised over £1740 to distribute.

The Open Gardens Committee decided to try a different sort of activity in the year when we don't open the gardens. We started **Manuden Musical Mayhem**.

This has organised "Singalong-a-Musical" events in the Community Centre. So far we have had two events The Sound of Music and Grease. These have raised some £3000 for the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK and also to provide equipment for the MVCC. The next scheduled event is "Sing-a-along Mamma Mia" on 11th November 2017 - book early!

The idea for those of you who haven't attended involves the audience entering in to the fun of the evening by collecting a goody bag containing inexpensive items to enhance the viewing pleasure of watching a film on the big screen as well as singing along! For me the highlight of the past year was seeing the MVCC packed with over 120 people all with paper bags on their heads!

Richard Dale-Cooke

Manuden Men's Dining Club – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

The Manuden Men's Dining Club has continued its programme of events during the past year.

In July 2016, we held a wine tasting presented by Majestic Wine. The theme was Old World vs New World and the event was attended by some 20 members. Our sincere thanks to Frank and Fiona Bengtsen for lending us Bury Barn for this event.

In November 2016, we held a dinner at the Yew Tree. This was attended by 16 members and the food, wine and company were very enjoyable.

For a change of scene in April 2017, we went to the Cricketers in Rickling Green and again had a most enjoyable evening.

The Dining Club provides an opportunity for Manuden male residents to meet for an evening of food and wine. We normally meet three times a year in different surroundings and would warmly welcome new members.

My thanks to Matthew Hardy for his help in organising the events.

Peter Heap

willowbeech82@btinternet.com

Manuden Cricket Club – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

The Manuden Cricket Club had another enjoyable season in 2016. It continues to offer proper village cricket at the wonderful surroundings of the MVCC to a wide range of ages and talents. In terms of results we won four, lost five and drew one. We also held a hugely successful President's Day T20 fundraiser at the end of the season which involved teams from the MCC and Arkesden as well as the Archer Invitational XI. Our teas continue to be amongst the best, if not the best, on the circuit. T

he 2017 season is underway, with our first victory already secured. There are 10 fixtures against other village sides such as Stocking Pelham, Little Hadham and Sandon as well as 'wandering' sides such as the Woodcutters. The President's Day will again be held in September. We are always on the lookout for new players so do make yourself available.

Phil Hout

Manuden 10K – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

As usual the 2016 run was a great success. Some 200 runners took part. The event raised and distributed £2000 from the run entries - £1000 to Pancreatic Cancer UK and a £1000 to village organisations. We also set up a "just giving" page for Pancreatic Cancer UK and this raised £290 - and donation buckets on the day raised a further £115 for PCUK. In addition individual sponsorship by runners raised nearly £1000 for PCUK. This was a great result.

Thanks should go to the organisations who supply us with marshalls and to all the other helpers and of course to all our sponsors. We are always looking for volunteers on the day and for sponsors for financial help to set up the event.

The run for 2017 is to be on 17th September and we hope the village will continue to support this popular event.

Pauline Burnard

Manuden Fun Run Committee (funrun@manuden.org.uk)

Badminton Club – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

The Wednesday Badminton club at MVCC continues to enjoy its evening sessions and has attracted a few more members this year, including Nicola and Lisa Dunn who are a great addition and enjoy an entertaining sibling rivalry when on opposing sides! Their parents have also been attendees too occasionally, so we sometimes have the complete Dunn family.

As numbers have crept up (and our fitness has improved, dare I suggest) we have increased our time slot to a full 90 minutes so that we can enjoy more games. So we are now Wednesdays at 7.00-8.30 and, as ever, welcome more recruits if anyone fancies a go. We are a friendly bunch (and not too serious), so do come and enjoy some time on court with us if you can (there are even spare rackets at MVCC if you don't have your own).

Adam Wilder

Short Mat Bowls Club – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Since the Short Mat Bowls Club was started some 18 months ago it has proved very popular and we now have 26 members, whose ages range from 12 to 80+!

Members come from Stansted, Bishop's Stortford, Berden and Manuden and meet twice a week for 3 hours of fun, socialising and to play a very challenging and interesting game.

By summer 2016 the membership had already grown to a point where it was obvious that an additional mat was needed, so we started investigating the possibility of obtaining a second mat and additional equipment. A car boot sale was held in July and an indoor Table Top Sale in November, both of which were successful and the profits were put into a fund for new equipment. In September an ad hoc committee was formed to investigate outside funding and an application was made to Stansted Airport Community Trust for a grant.

Our application was successful and by the end of 2016 we had taken delivery of a second mat and a double roller storage stand. So far this year we have bought two more sets of bowls and various other small items of equipment.

As well as the bowling, the club's emphasis is on having fun and socialising and we have enjoyed two club lunches at The Yew Tree, with another planned in the near future. Various outings and events are planned for this summer and an AGM will be held in September to elect an official committee to take the club forward into 2018.

Manuden Park Group – Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Over the last year, we have continued to fundraise to improve and extend the children's play area on Manuden Playing Fields and we are delighted that the project is very nearly complete and so this will be the last report from the Manuden Park Group.

We wish to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us in any way at all over the last couple of years. We have been overwhelmed by the support from our fantastic local community and we couldn't have done it without you all. It has been wonderful to see how popular the improved play area has been and we hope that it continues to be loved for many years to come.

Manuden Scarecrow Trail

The Manuden Scarecrow Trail was held for the second time in April 2016 and raised just over £4400 and proved to be incredibly popular. It is returning once more, on 2nd – 4th June 2017 with the theme of "Songs – from nursery rhymes to musicals and everything in between".

Lizzie Mclean

District Councillor's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

BUDGET: The District Council's budget proposals were approved by full council on February 23rd

Key budget items include:

Funding for 2 Police Community Support Officers for the district plus funding to support a recruitment drive for more special constables.

An extensive programme of improvements on sheltered accommodation schemes.

Disabled facilities grants

Additional funds for street services, ground maintenance and litter picking.

Support for the roll out of superfast broadband.

Investment for improvements at Saffron Walden Museum

Continued commitment to the voluntary sector including grants made available in the Community Projects Grants scheme every year for the next 5 years.

COUNCIL TAX has been increased by 2%. This means that Band D properties will have an increase of £2.80 per year. Uttlesford remains the lowest cost district in Essex.

THE CORPORATE PLAN: This is prepared alongside the budget and was also approved by full council on 23rd February. The 4 priorities are: To promote thriving, safe and healthy communities and to protect and enhance the heritage and character of our district. It also seeks to support sustainable business growth and maintain a financially sound and effective council.

The budget and the Corporate plan can be viewed on the Council's website.

COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT: This fund is open to community and voluntary organisations in Uttlesford. It is open to applications for grants from a minimum of £100 upto a maximum of £3,500. Grant awards can be made to properly-constituted voluntary organisations such as village hall committees, community shops, town and parish councils community associations, play and recreation clubs and groups.

Some examples are: Children's play areas including equipment and safety surfacing. Development of land for recreational purposes including environmental improvements. Car parks and access roads to car parks directly associated with a community use building.

Eligible projects must be completed after 1st April 2017 and before 20th March 2018. If an application is for more than £1,000 the amount raised by the applicant must represent at least 50% of the total cost. For projects less than £999 the applicant must have raised 25%. Sports and Cultural groups are not eligible. The closing date for applications is midday - 15th June 2017.

If you would like more information please contact Sue Hayden on 01799-510563.

THE LOCAL PLAN: As you know the council must produce a local plan. We will be asked to decide where development will take place in Uttlesford. We have no choice as this is what Central Government demands.

The last local plan was found unsound by the Planning Inspectorate who said that the plan was not evidence led. It was perceived to be political so it is vital that this time we get it right. If we don't the Government could step in which would give us little or no control over where development will take place. A document called the **STRATEGIC HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT (SHMA)** helps the council work out how many houses are needed and what type. It suggests that Uttlesford needs to provide 14,100 homes upto the year 2033. This equates to 641 per year

The emerging plan is assessed throughout its journey to a decision by Officers, The Planning Policy Working Group, the Planning Inspectorate and a QC experienced in local plans. It is due to go out to consultation in July this year. Ultimately, the decision will be made by full council.

At a meeting of the full council in July 2016 councillors approved a hybrid distribution strategy to identify additional new homes in a settlement or settlements and the main towns and villages. More evidence on whether this is achievable will be collected before any decision on a precise number is included as part of the draft local plan.

The Council will be working with key stakeholders such as the NHS, education and highways to ensure that vital facilities such as schools, GP surgeries, roads and public transport links are in place to support existing residents as well as new communities.

The Council is working with other local authorities as part of the required 'Duty to Co-operate' to ensure that cross-boundary issues are dealt with and to ensure that growth across all authorities can be delivered effectively with any necessary infrastructure improvements. The plan was paused last year in order for council officers to gather more evidence to give to councillors so that when the final decision is made it will be very firmly evidence led.

The Local Plan is the biggest and most difficult decision that councillors will have to make. We are very aware that it is bound to affect many peoples lives and where they live but it's a decision we can't avoid. Nobody wants the Government to take control of development in our lovely district. The Government has set a national housing target and we are a very small cog in a very large wheel. We have no choice. We HAVE to provide a local plan.

Officers and members of the Planning Policy Working Group are working hard, putting in countless hours reading hundreds of pages of documents, attending meetings and workshops in order to provide the best solution for Uttlesford. PPWG members cannot make decisions but they can make recommendations. As I said before the ultimate decision will be made by full council.

It must be stressed that no decisions have yet been made on where any large development will take place. At the time of this report there are no plans to build in Stort Valley as part of the local plan.

This does not apply to normal planning applications.

This year I have again served on the Planning Committee and, at full council on 16th May, I was elected Vice Chair of the committee. I am also still a member of the Planning Policy Working Group, - (the Local Plan), the Housing Board, the Standards Committee and during this civic year I chaired the Community Achievements Award Committee.

If I can be of any help please contact me (in confidence) on 01279 812346 or e-mail:

clrloughlin@uttlesford.gov.uk

Janice Loughlin.

Appendix – Financial Report

See below:-

MANUDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31st. March 2017

		£	11,685.58
Opening balance c/f 31/03/16		£	11,685.58
Receipts year ended 31/03/17		£	49,447.43
Precept	£	8,760.00	
LCTS Grant	£	236.00	
VAT reclaimed	£	1,136.18	
Manuden Church donation grass cutting	£	600.00	
New Homes Bonus	£	750.00	
Parish News	£	1,000.00	
Loans and donations from Parish Council Sub Committees			
MPFA (repayment of invoices paid grass cutting)			
Play Park Sub Committee	£	36,040.14	
Manuden Fun Run (repayment of invoices paid)	£	498.96	
Musical Mayhem	£	425.00	
Bank Interest	£	1.15	
Total Receipts		£ 49,447.43	
		£	61,133.01

Payments year ended 31/03/17

Administration Expenses

Hire of Village Hall & Community Centre 2015 and 2016	£	120.00
Insurance	£	251.85
Grass Cutting Carter's Hill & Play Area	£	666.00
Audit	£	100.00
UDC C/A Green Waste Skip	£	1,188.00
Village Christmas Party	£	248.68
Queens Tea Party	£	443.47
Transfer to petty Cash	£	56.53
Manuden Church grass cutting	£	2,146.66
Web Hosting	£	60.00

Affiliation Fees

Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC)	£	186.39
Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)	£	36.00
Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)	£	66.00
Friends of Historic Essex	£	10.00

Payments on behalf of Parish Council Sub Committees

Play Area	£	36,040.14
Musical Mayhem	£	425.00
Manuden Fun Run	£	498.96
Playground Inspection	£	66.50
MPFA Ace of Spades Grasscutting Cricket Field	£	150.00

EALC Training Cllr Hardy £ 45.00

Clerk's Salary C Bartram £ 2,560.00
 HMSC PAYE £ 640.00

Donations

British Legion	£	50.00	
Manuden Owlets	£	300.00	
VAT PAID this financial year	£	7,935.55	
Total Payments			£ <u>54,290.73</u>
Balance at 31/03/16			£ 6,842.28

Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2017

Lloyds TSB

Treasurer's Account	£	4,553.71
Business Account	£	<u>2,288.57</u>
Closing Balance	£	6,842.28